



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11365/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Cygnnet Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	26 November 2025
Application area:	388 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 77/534 Mining Lease 77/677
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Yilgarn
Colloquial name:	Corinthia Gold Mine

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Cygnnet Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 388 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 498.19 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 15 kilometres north-west of Southern Cross, within the Shire of Yilgarn.

The application is to allow for the development of an open pit gold mining operation including a tailings storage facility, process plant and supporting infrastructure (Cygnnet Gold Pty Ltd, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	28 July 2026
Decision area:	388 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard to the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of biological survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

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 fauna including *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), *Idiosoma castellum* (tree-stem trapdoor spider), *Idiosoma intermedium* (Coolgardie shieldbacked trapdoor spider) and *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly); and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

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

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

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- no clearing should occur within 50 metres of any inactive identified *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds and where active (in-use) malleefowl mounds are identified, no clearing within 200 metres of the mound between September and January;
- areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and ensure no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the active (in use) nesting tree, during the months of July through to October;
- survey areas proposed to be cleared to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing is to occur within 100 metres of ant colonies;
- areas to be cleared are to be surveyed to identify *Idiosoma castellum* and *Idiosoma intermedium* burrows;
- undertake slow, progressive, one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- a fauna spotter shall be present during clearing.

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)
- *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, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Native Vegetation Clearing Permit supporting information (CDM Smith, 2025) includes, among others, the following measures that will assist in mitigating impacts from clearing:

- minimise clearing through implementation of internal clearing permit procedures, which include:
 - prior and post construction inspections
 - use of spatial data of significant flora and vegetation location in planning areas
 - surveying and demarcation of clearing areas
- maintain traffic management rules to minimise the likelihood of fauna injury or mortality
- implement good hygiene practices when vehicles and mine equipment enter or depart the site
- maximise the use of existing cleared areas for roads and infrastructure corridors
- clearing along one front to allow fauna to escape

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B) and biological survey information (Appendix E) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values.

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

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

Assessment

As per Appendices B.1 (Site Characteristics), B.3 (Flora analysis) and Appendix E (biological survey information), several conservation significant flora occur or have the potential to occur within the application area (AECOM, 2025; GIS Database) with key taxa discussed below.

Priority Flora

Acacia crenulata (P3) inhabits clay, sandy clay or sandy soils on rocky slopes (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record is over 20 kilometres away (GIS Database) however, AECOM (2025) considers that it has a 'moderate' likelihood of occurring in the application area based on the habitat present. *Acacia crenulata* is known in other IBRA regions (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-) and based on this, and the presence of this species in other bioregions, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at species level.

Acacia cylindrica (P3) is a spreading shrub between 1.5 and three metres high that occurs in the Merredin and Southern Cross IBRA subregions (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). A record in the Western Australian Herbarium database from 1971 plots in the north-eastern part of the application area (GIS Database), however AECOM (2025) lists records that are, approximately 1 and 3 kilometres respectively, from the application area as the closest records. While the AECOM (2025) survey was completed outside the flowering period for this species, given the age of the record, the plant may no longer be present. A flora survey in support of clearing permit CPS 10586/1, which is also within the Coolgardie bioregion, found an estimated population within the survey area of nearly 350,000 individuals (CPS 10586/1, April 2024). Based on this, and the presence of this species in other bioregions, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be regionally significant.

Acacia desertorum var. *nudipes* (P3) is a dense or open shrub or (rarely) tree, known to occur on yellow sand, lateritic gravel, sandplains and flats (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record is approximately 13 kilometres away (GIS Database). While the flora survey was conducted outside the flowering period for this species, which may affect identification, AECOM (2025) assessed the post-survey likelihood as 'low'. This species has only been recorded within the Southern Cross IBRA subregion and where recorded, frequency ranges from 'isolated plants' to 'common' in the Western Australian Herbarium species records (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Given the lack of habitat and limited chance of being present, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be regionally significant.

Acacia haematites (P1) is only known from the Southern Cross IBRA subregion (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), however it has been only recorded in areas of banded iron formation which are not present in the application area (AECOM, 2025; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Given the lack of habitat and limited chance of being present, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at species level.

Acacia sp. Moorine Rock (B.R. Maslin 4474) (P1) is a dense, rounded multi-stemmed shrub, to 1.7 metres high, known to occur on dark brown hard clay-loam, granite and clay flats at the base of rock outcrops (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record is approximately 19 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). While the flora survey was conducted outside the flowering period, which may affect identification, AECOM (2025) assessed the post-survey likelihood as 'negligible', with no habitat present. This species has only been recorded within the Southern Cross IBRA subregion (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), however given the lack of habitat and limited chance of being present, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at species level.

Lissanthe scabra (P2) is a rigid, erect, fairly densely branched shrub of around one metre high (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Records for two populations in the DBCA threatened and priority flora databases are located within the north-eastern most corner of the application area. AECOM (2025) did not find any *Lissanthe scabra* in this location during their field survey, however, they did find up to at least 192 individuals outside the south-eastern boundary of the application area. This population was found within vegetation association described by AECOM (2025) as associated eucalypt woodland vegetation community 'EcAcXd' on calcrete/granite outcrop and breakaway which is consistent with the habitat described in Western Australian Herbarium records for this species. AECOM (2025) also surveyed the north-eastern most corner of the application area, which matches the database records, so there is the potential for this species to be present within the application area, however, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at species level.

Rinzia fimbriolata (P1) is a low shrub (0.4 to 0.7 metres high and 0.5 to 1.8 metres wide) recorded from sandy soil in mallee shrubland or woodland with one record from 'clay soil with quartz pieces' (Rye, 2017). The nearest record is immediately adjacent (approximately 400 metres) to the application area (GIS Database). AECOM (2025) considers the species is unlikely to be present given the date and manual entry in the dataset. One *Rinzia* species was recorded in field surveys but identified as *Rinzia carnosa* which is not conservation significant species (AECOM, 2025). Given this species was not identified and the record is outside the application area, any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at the species level.

Styphelia saxicola (P3) is an erect shrub to one metre high and one metre wide (Hislop, 2020). The nearest record is approximately 19 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). All records are from shallow soils on rocky sites with a lateritic, granitic or ironstone geology and associated vegetation is usually open shrubland (Hislop, 2020). This species can be hard to identify from *Styphelia subulata* (a non-conservation significant species) when not flowering (Hislop, 2020), however *Styphelia subulata* was also not identified by AECOM (2025). The potential likelihood of *Styphelia saxicola* occurring in the application area was not assessed as part of the flora survey by AECOM (2025). The survey did note presence of habitat that may be suitable for this species however, most Western Australian Herbarium records appear to be more associated with ironstone than granite. No other species of *Styphelia* were identified and *Styphelia saxicola* is known from other IBRA regions so any potential impact to this species from clearing is not likely to be significant at a species level.

Unconfirmed Taxa

As noted in Appendix B.1, several flora taxa in AECOM (2025) were not fully identified. These are listed in Appendix B.3 – Table 2, along with a summary of their potential to be conservation significant species. None of these unconfirmed taxa appear likely to be a conservation significant species.

Weeds

A total of five weed species (*Arctotheca calendula*, *Hypochaeris glabra*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Romulea* sp., and *Aira caryophyllea*) were recorded overall, with only *Aira caryophyllea* being mapped in the application area (AECOM, 2025). None of these species are listed as Declared Pest species under the BAM Act or as a Weed of National Environmental Significance (AECOM, 2025).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in an increased potential for the spread of weed species.

It is considered that the impacts from the proposed clearing on potential habitat of native species and from weed spread can be managed through standard conditions requiring minimisation of native vegetation clearing and implementation of weed management protocols.

Conditions

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

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

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

Assessment

As per Appendices B.1 (Site Characteristics), B.4 (fauna analysis) and Appendix E (biological survey information), several conservation significant or unique fauna occur or have the potential to occur within the application area (AECOM, 2025; GIS Database) with key species discussed below.

Avian species

Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl – Vulnerable) is a large ground-dwelling bird that occurs in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as *Melaleuca uncinata* (broombush) and *Callitris* sp. (native pine) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nests are constructed in sandy soils and leaf litter by building a large mound for egg incubation, and the species favours mallee that has been long unburnt and ungrazed (DCCEEW, 2024). AECOM (2025) identified an old nesting mound within 'shrubland' fauna habitat outside the south-eastern boundary of the application area. A review of available datasets identified numerous records for this species around the application area, with one record from 2007, showing on the eastern boundary of the application area. This record plots on a cleared, unsealed road (GIS Database), however is near an area mapped by AECOM (2025) as 'shrubland', which matches the habitat where the mound was found. It is considered that a fauna management condition requiring pre-clearance surveys and avoidance of both inactive and active mounds in areas of suitable habitat is required to minimise potential impact to this species.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface - Vulnerable) occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs, or both (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). These areas are usually dominated by acacias or eucalypts on ranges, foothills, lowlands, and plains (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). *Aphelocephala leucopsis* forages in areas with low tree density and an herbaceous understorey with litter cover, and roosts and nests in living and dead trees that contain suitable hollows or crevices (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species nests in large, bulky, domed-shaped nests made of grass, bark, and roots within hollows or crevices in trees, and low bushes (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). While DBCA (2026) notes that the application area is located within the mapped 'species or species habitat known or likely to occur' range for this species (DAWE, 2022), this species may occur within the application area, and a targeted pre-clearance survey is warranted to manage potential impacts to this species.

Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys (western rosella – Priority 4) is found in eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (*E. wandoo*), flooded gum, salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*), tall mallee and rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) (DEC, 2009). This species nests in tree hollows and has a widespread distribution across the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions (DEC, 2009) and shows an association with granite outcrops (Fox et al., 2016). This species has not been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area. However, AECOM (2025) assessed the likelihood of occurrence as moderate, given this species was not recorded during the fauna survey, and the habitat is available in the surrounding bioregion, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact.

Several migratory and aerial bird species were identified in database searches by both AECOM (2025) as potentially or possibly occurring in the application area (refer to Appendix B.4 and E.4). Species include, amongst others, *Calidris acuminata* (sharp-tailed sandpiper), *Calidris ferruginea* (curlew sandpiper), *Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift), *Actitis hypoleucos* (common sandpiper), *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon), *Falco hypoleucos* (grey falcon), and *Tringa nebularia* (common greenshank). None of these species were sighted by AECOM (2025) and while some have been recorded within 20 kilometres (for example *Tringa nebularia*) or have habitat present (for example, *Falco hypoleucos*), it is likely that these species would only be occasional visitors and therefore these species are unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Mammal species

Dasyurus geoffroyi (Chuditch – Vulnerable) has disappeared from approximately 95 per cent of its former range where it previously occurred across all mainland Australian States (DEC, 2012a). Remaining populations of *Dasyurus geoffroyi* are now found in varying densities throughout the jarrah forest, south coast Western Australia and at lower densities in the goldfields and

wheatbelt (DEC, 2012). This species utilises a variety of habitats including forests, mallee shrublands, woodland and deserts where adequate den and refuge sites in the form of horizontal hollow logs or earth burrows and sufficient prey biomass are present (DEC 2012). Despite being known to travel long distances, they require habitats of suitable size that are not heavily fragmented (DEC, 2012). There are records of *Dasyurus geoffroii* within 20 kilometres, however, these are from 1989 and more contemporaneous records within 50 to 100 kilometres from the site are associated with larger areas of remnant vegetation, such as Jilbadji Nature Reserve and Yellowdine Nature Reserve (GIS Database). Noting the relatively isolated nature and small size of the application area, AECOM (2025) assessed the likelihood of *Dasyurus geoffroii* occurring as low. While likelihood is low, to minimise potential impacts to this species and other terrestrial fauna, it is considered that a condition requiring the presence of a fauna spotter during clearing is warranted to avoid or minimise mortality.

Notamacropus irma (western brush wallaby – P4) inhabits open forest or woodland, particularly favouring open, seasonally wet flats with low grasses and open scrubby thickets (CALM, n.d.). There are no seasonally wet areas within the application area and, like *Dasyurus geoffroii*, most nearby occurrences (none are within 20 kilometres) are associated with unfragmented remnant native vegetation (AECOM, 2025). AECOM (2025) concluded that there is a 'moderate' likelihood of this species occurring, however while individuals may occasionally visit, the application area is unlikely to represent significant habitat for the species. To minimise potential impacts to this species and other terrestrial fauna, it is considered that a condition requiring the presence of a fauna spotter during clearing is warranted to avoid or minimise mortality.

Nyctophilus major tor (central long-eared bat, P3), inhabits dry woodland and shrubland communities in arid and semi-arid regions (Menkhorst & Knight, 2011). AECOM (2025) referenced a record from 1981 of this species occurring approximately 70 kilometres from the application area, however this record (or at least another record) shows as being approximately 13 kilometres from the application area. Based on AECOM's likelihood matrix, this would increase the score for this species to two and change the likelihood from negligible to low. It is noted that this species is considered cryptic and is likely more common than records suggest (DBCA, 2024; McKenzie & Parnaby, 2008).

Invertebrate species

Idiosoma castellum (tree-stem trapdoor spider – P4) is a medium sized, dark brown spider with large anterior lateral eyes that project beyond the edge of the carapace (Burbidge, 2004, as cited in Avon Catchment Council, 2007) that is only known in the south-west of Western Australia (ALA, n.d.). *Idiosoma castellum* builds burrows that extend above ground against stems and/or trunks of shrubs and trees (Freegard, 2003). Review of available datasets returned 522 records for this species with the closest being approximately 16 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). AECOM (2025) assessed the likelihood of *Idiosoma castellum* occurring in the application area as 'high', and DBCA advice was that targeted surveys should be undertaken for this species and *Idiosoma intermedium* (DBCA, 2026).

Idiosoma intermedium (Coolgardie shield backed trapdoor spider – P3) is a recently (2018) described member of the Idiopidae family with a relatively widespread albeit poorly defined distribution in the eastern Wheatbelt and north-western Coolgardie bioregions (Rix et al., 2018). Review of available datasets returned 35 records for this species with the closest being approximately 43 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). AECOM (2025) assessed the likelihood of *Idiosoma intermedium* occurring in the application area as 'high' and DBCA advice was that targeted surveys should be undertaken for this species and *Idiosoma castellum* (DBCA, 2026).

Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB); CR) populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands, on soil ranging from loamy to sandy, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020; WABSI, 2022). ABAB has an obligate association with sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebians*, associated with smooth-barked eucalypt woodlands (DBCA, 2020). ABAB larvae live entirely within the nest of the sugar ant species during their development (WABSI, 2022). The most critical factor for habitat occupancy by ABAB is the presence of large colonies of the host ant (WAM, 2026). Eucalypt woodland vegetation communities comprising smooth-bark species was mapped in the application area by AECOM (2026); however, AECOM (2025) did not identify this as an issue that the removal of these would adversely impact either the ABAB or the IHB (inland hairstreak butterfly) (CDM Smith, 2026). However, there is potential for the species to be present and it is recommended that targeted surveys be undertaken for ABAB (DBCA, 2026).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, it is considered that the potential direct impacts of the proposed clearing to significant fauna and/or on potentially suitable conservation significant fauna habitat can be managed by implementing fauna management conditions for, *Leipoa ocellata*, *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, *Idiosoma castellum*, *Idiosoma intermedium* and *Ogyris petrina*. To minimise impacts to native fauna generally, implementation of conditions requiring the presence of a fauna spotter during clearing and directional clearing is also considered as being warranted.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to *Leipoa ocellata*, and *Aphelocephala leucopsis* and their habitats, as set out in the appropriate EPBC Act National Recovery Plans. 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 applied as clearing permit conditions:

- no clearing should occur within 50 metres of any inactive identified *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds and where active (in-use) malleefowl mounds are identified and no clearing within 200 metres of the mound between September and January;
- areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests or hollows, and ensure no clearing occurs within 10 m of the active (in use) nesting tree, during the months of July through to October;

- areas proposed to be cleared are to be surveyed to identify critical habitat, ant colonies, and ABAB individuals and no clearing is to occur within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- areas to be cleared are to be surveyed to identify *Idiosoma* sp. burrows.

3.2.3. Significant remnant vegetation - Clearing principle (e)

Assessment

The application area is within one of the larger areas of uncleared native vegetation in the local area. The extent of native vegetation in the local area (in a 10 kilometre radius) is less than 30 per cent, with the application area surrounded by land cleared for agriculture. However, as per Appendix B.2, at an IBRA level, both Beard associations mapped within the application area are greater than 30 per cent.

It is noted that one of these Beard vegetation associations (1068) is included in the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt threatened ecological community (TEC). Pockets of native vegetation approximately four kilometres to the west of the application area are mapped as this TEC which is critically endangered under the EPBC Act and listed as a Priority Ecological Community in Western Australia. While intergradation occurs along the eastern margin of the wheatbelt, the TEC does not extend into the Coolgardie bioregion (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008) so the Beard association 1068 within the application area is not considered part of this TEC. Including both IBRA subregions, there is 27 per cent of this vegetation association remaining within 10 kilometres.

Based on aerial imagery, local road corridors form limited, informal linkages between the application area and other remnant native vegetation in the area including around nearby salt lakes, which in turn are connected to nature reserves to the north-east and south-east (GIS Database).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, clearing will reduce the amount of native vegetation in the local area and some of this vegetation shares similar composition with that of a TEC. The condition to avoid, minimise and reduce the extent of clearing helps reduce impacts and it is recommended that the proponent look to maintain and protect areas of native vegetation outside the application area, particularly at the points where road corridors create informal linkages with other areas of remnant native vegetation.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 13 February 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 (WC2017/007– Marlinyu Ghoorlie) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The application area is within a larger area mapped as being on the Contaminated Sites Database (GIS Database) as 'awaiting classification'. DMPE sought advice from Contaminated Sites at the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) regarding this listing which recommended that a suitable management plan including an unexpected finds procedure is prepared for the proposed clearance works in mining tenement M77/534. The management plan should also include mitigation measures to address potential risks to workers undertaking clearing works if any unexpected finds occur. Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

Mining Lease 77/534 has the following conditions relating to planning matters:

- No mining on the Corinthia Townsite, Water Supply Pipeline Reserve 30764 without the prior written consent of the Minister for Mines.
- No mining on Cemetery Reserve No. 15811 and mining within a distance of 140 metres laterally from the Reserve being confined to below a depth of 50 metres from the lowest part of the surface of the land with rights of ingress to and egress from the said Reserve being at all times preserved to the public.

It is noted that the cemetery reserve referenced above is outside the application area, while the water supply pipeline is within the application area.

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.

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Habitat is present for arid bronze azure butterfly and inland hairstreak butterfly, but these species weren't contemplated in the fauna survey provided in support of the application. DMPE requested further information about the potential impacts on this species.	The applicant advised that during the preparation of the NVCP application it was not raised as an issue from their ecology consultants that the removal of vegetation would adversely impact either the arid bronze azure butterfly or the inland hairstreak butterfly. Further consideration of impacts is considered in the assessment in section 3.2.2.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of a 2,600 hectare isolated patch of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia and is surrounded by cleared agricultural land, along with some pockets of native vegetation. The proposed clearing area contributes to informal linkages with these pockets of native vegetation including those around a series of ephemeral salt lakes and wide drainage lines to the east and south-east, such as around Lake Koorkoordine which is approximately eight kilometres from the application area. Review of available datasets indicates the local area (based on a 10 kilometre radius from the centre of the application area retains approximately 27 per cent of the original native vegetation cover, including the application area (GIS Database). This is across two Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) regions, as the application area is within four kilometres of eastern margin of the Avon-Wheatbelt bioregion. The amount of original native vegetation within 10 kilometres increases slightly to 29 per cent when only looking at the Southern Cross subregion. Review of the available datasets indicates that the application area is within a larger area mapped as being listed in the Contaminated Sites Database, this is discussed in section 3.3.
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database). However, as noted above an informal link exists between the application area and other areas of native vegetation, the linkages mainly formed by road corridors (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	According to available databases, the nearest conservation area is an unnamed nature reserve, approximately five kilometres to the south-east of the application area. This reserve is part of the native vegetation around the salt lakes noted above and has limited, informal linkages to the application area by remnant vegetation along road corridors and other patches of uncleared native vegetation. The nearest environmentally sensitive area is the Yellowdine Proposed Reserve, 35 kilometres to the east of the application area. This reserve is listed on the Register of the National Estate (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The application area occurs on the western margin of the Southern Cross subregion of the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database), approximately five kilometres from the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion. The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database): - Yilgan 1413: Wattle, casuarina and teatree acacia-allocauarina-melaleuca alliance (covering approximately 19 hectares of the application area); and - Yilgan 1068: 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 (covering approximately 478 hectares of the application area). A flora and fauna assessment was conducted over the application area by AECOM during June 2025. This survey identified seven vegetation communities (two mixed shrubland, one Allocasuarina shrubland, one Melaleuca shrubland, and three eucalypt woodlands) within the application area. These communities are presented in Appendix E.1. Much of the application area is mapped as having moderate potential to be a terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystem, described as 'undulating plains with some sandplains, ferruginous breakaways; ridges of metamorphic rocks and granitic hills and rises; calcretes, large salt lakes and dunes along valleys' (GIS Database). Additionally, mapping of aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems shows two areas within the site, however aerial photography shows these to be the existing mining pit lake and a previously cleared area which may be an unlined dam (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Vegetation condition	AECOM (2025) reported that where not cleared, vegetation condition within the application area was in excellent to good condition (Keighery, 1994). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Review of spatial data for the AECOM survey provided within ISA-0001089 showed the following extents of vegetation condition within the application area: • Excellent: approximately 246 hectares • Very good: approximately 138 hectares • Good: approximately 2 hectares Additionally, approximately 110 hectares of the application area is mapped as being cleared.
Climate and landform	The climate of the application area is described as semi-arid Warm Mediterranean (Cowan et al., 2001) with the Southern Cross Airfield (Station Number: 12320) weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 302.6 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026). The relief of the Southern Cross subregion is described as subdued relief, comprising gently undulating uplands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone hills (Cowan et al., 2001). Valleys can include chains of salt lakes (McKenzie et al., n.d.).
Soil description	The application area overlays a total of five soil landform units, with three of these being subunits of the Greenmount unit (GIS Database). The soil units are described as: • <u>Greenmount 3l phase</u> (map unit symbol: 260Gr_3l): Rolling low hills in the eastern Zone of Ancient Drainage. Loamy lateritic earths. • <u>Greenmount, Perilya subsystem</u> (map unit symbol: 260Gr_3l): Tributary valley floors on greenstone, in the Southern Cross Zone. Calcareous loamy earths and shallow duplex. • <u>Greenmount 3 subsystem</u> (map unit symbol: 260Gr_3l): Rolling low hills in the eastern Zone of Ancient Drainage. Loamy earth (mostly calcareous) and clay. • <u>Buladagie 3 with mafic or schist influence phase</u> (map unit symbol: 260Bd_3ge): Areas of rocky heavy soils associating with mafic schist and phyllite geology. • <u>Garratt 1Qa phase</u> (map unit symbol: 260Gt_1Qa): Alluvial flats adjacent to salt lakes in the eastern zone of Ancient Drainage. Loamy earth (mostly calcareous), hard cracking clay and alkaline shallow duplex. The main units are the Greenmount Perilya and Greenmount 3 subsystems, which jointly make up approximately 469 hectares of the application area.
Land degradation risk	A summary of the land degradation risks for the soil units taken from GIS datasets is provided in Appendix B.5. Overall, it is considered that there is a low risk of water erosion and moderate risk of wind erosion for most of the application area, with only 0.05 hectares mapped as having a high risk of wind erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no drainage lines or watercourses are mapped within the application area (GIS Database). There is no Wetland of National or International Importance within 100 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). As noted above, a series of salt lakes are present to the east and south-east. These, including Lake Koorkoordinate which is approximately five kilometres from application area are mapped in the 'Wetlands of the Wheatbelt and other prioritised areas' dataset maintained by DBCA. This describes Lake Koorkoordinate as having peripheral vegetation and high vegetation connectivity (Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is over 100 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The application area is in the Lake Julia sub-catchment within the Swan-Avon catchment. Swan-Avon catchment (CDM Smith, 2025; GIS Database). 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), while CDM Smith (2025) cited the Corinthia Gold Mine PFS Tailings Storage Facility - Design Report prepared by Tetra Tech Coffey in 2025 on behalf of Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd that reported total dissolved solids in groundwater of 100,000 milligrams per litre, which is hypersaline. This report also noted that groundwater depth was approximately 45 metres below ground level.
Flora	Interrogation of available datasets identified 16 species of conservation significant flora, including two threatened species, within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database) as presented in Appendix B.3 - Table 1, with two, <i>Acacia cylindrica</i> (P3) and <i>Lissanthe scabra</i> (P2), mapped within the application area (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
	AECOM (2025) applied a 50 kilometre search radius which identified a further 36 species of conservation significant flora. Findings of AECOM assessment on the likelihood of these occurring in the application area is provided in Appendix E.2. Species with a pre-survey likelihood of known or a post-survey likelihood of moderate (the highest post-survey rating) have also been included in Appendix B.3 - Table 1. Review of AECOM (2025) report indicates that the identity nine native taxa found within the application area (with a total of 11 overall in the survey area) could not be confirmed. These taxa are listed in Appendix B.3 – Table 2 and discussed in Section 3.2.1.
Ecological communities	No priority ecological communities or threatened priority ecological (TEC) communities are mapped within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest TEC is approximately four kilometres from the application area; this is discussed further in section 3.2.3.
Fauna	Interrogation of available datasets identified 16 records (comprised of seven species) of conservation significant fauna within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database) as presented in Appendix B.4. One record of <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl – VU) plots within the application area (GIS Database). AECOM (2025) observed an old malleefowl mound within the application area during their survey. AECOM (2025) applied a 50 kilometre search radius which identified a further 24 species of conservation significant fauna. Findings of AECOM assessment on the likelihood of these occurring in the application area is provided in Appendix E.4. Species with a pre-survey likelihood of known or a post-survey likelihood of moderate and high have also been included in Appendix B.4. Advice was sought from DBCA (2026) regarding the two invertebrate species (<i>Idiosoma castellum</i> and <i>Idiosoma intermedium</i>) identified as having a 'high' likelihood of occurring. As part of their advice, DBCA also advised that potential impacts to <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface – VU) and <i>Ogyris subterrestris petrina</i> (arid bronze azure butterfly – CR) are of relevance when assessing the application. These species are also discussed in section 3.2.2.
Fauna habitat	AECOM (2025) mapped the following fauna habitats within the application area: - Shrublands: dominated largely by <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i>, <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i>, <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> and <i>Acacia rigens</i> on sandy soils - Eucalypt woodlands: dominated by various eucalypt trees, gimlets and mallees over sclerophyllous shrubs on orange to red clay loam soils - Eucalypt woodlands on Breakaway/Rock: <i>Eucalyptus capillosa</i> and <i>Callitris columellaris</i> over sparse shrubs, herbs and grasses on very hard rock surface. Further detail on these habitats is presented in Appendix E.3

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion Yilgarn	12,912,204	12,648,491.39	97.96	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
1068	268,900.45	142,088.42	52.84	16,761.06	6.23
1413	1,679,916.32	1,286,855.48	76.60	222,015.35	13.22
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
1068	193,988.20	104,804.17	54.03	14,153.99	7.30
1413	1,061,212.28	1,042,553.77	98.24	192,883.70	18.18

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis tables

Table 1 – Potential conservation significant flora

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix F.1), and biological survey information impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Flowering period ¹	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Known in other IBRA subregions	AECOM likelihood assessment (pre survey)	AECOM likelihood assessment (post survey)
<i>Acacia crenulata</i>	P3	Sept-Oct	28	25	Yes	moderate	moderate
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i>	P3	NR	Recorded within	33	Yes	high	moderate
<i>Acacia desertorum</i> var. <i>nudipes</i>	P3	Aug - Oct	13	25	No	high	low
<i>Acacia filifolia</i>	P3	May-Nov	13	54	Yes	moderate	low
<i>Acacia formidabilis</i>	P3	NR	2	15	Yes	high	low
<i>Acacia haematites</i>	P1	Aug-Sep	11	7	No	negligible	negligible
<i>Acacia</i> sp. Moorine Rock (B.R. Maslin 4474)	P1	Sep	19	3	No	negligible	negligible
<i>Balaustion grandibracteatum</i> subsp. <i>grandibracteatum</i>	P3	Oct	13	41	Yes	moderate	negligible
<i>Daviesia microcarpa</i>	T / VU	Aug-Sep	14	10	Yes	moderate	negligible
<i>Eucalyptus crucis</i> subsp. <i>crucis</i>	T / VU	Dec-Mar	13	45	Yes	negligible	negligible
<i>Hakea pendens</i>	P3	Sep	13	24	Yes	negligible	negligible
<i>Lissanthe scabra</i>	P2	Aug-Sep	Recorded within	18	Yes	known	known
<i>Myriophyllum petraeum</i>	P4	Aug-Sep	19	58	Yes	negligible	negligible
<i>Rinzia fimbriolata</i>	P1	Sep	0.4	4	Yes	known	low
<i>Stylidium choreanthum</i>	P3	Sep-Oct	3	30	Yes	high	low
<i>Styphelia saxicola</i>	P3	Apr-May	19	18	Yes	not assessed	not assessed
<i>Verticordia elizabethiae</i>	P1	Oct-Dec	15	11	Yes	negligible	negligible

1 – taken from DBCA threatened and priority flora species list.

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority, NR: not recorded

Table 2 – Unconfirmed flora taxa within application area

Unconfirmed Taxa AECOM	Comment on potential conservation significance
<i>Acacia</i> sp.	As per Table 1 above, six species of conservation significant <i>Acacia</i> identified within 20 kilometres of the application area, with a further two identified by AECOM as occurring within 50 kilometres. One species (<i>Acacia cylindrica</i> – P3) is shown as occurring within the application area, however the unconfirmed <i>Acacia</i> sp. was in another portion of the site. AECOM (2026) assessed that <i>Acacia cylindrica</i> , along with <i>Acacia crenulata</i> as having a 'moderate' likelihood of occurring in the application area, with the remaining conservation significant <i>Acacia</i> species having likelihoods of 'low' to 'negligible'.
<i>Arthropodium</i> sp.	Two species of the <i>Arthropodium</i> genus are listed as priority flora in Western Australia. None have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area, with the nearest (<i>Arthropodium</i> sp. Yenyaning (G.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 2957) being approximately

Unconfirmed Taxa AECOM	Comment on potential conservation significance
	74 kilometres away and noted as occurring on saline alluvial plain, this habitat is not present within the application area.
Cyperaceae	A total of 122 species from <i>Cyperaceae</i> family are listed as conservation significant flora in Western Australia. The nearest species is <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. Pigeon Rocks (H. Pringle 30237)), as discussed below.
<i>Erodium</i> sp.	No species from the <i>Erodium</i> genus are listed as conservation significant flora in Western Australia.
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	As per Table 1 above, review of datasets identified one record of a conservation significant eucalypt species within 20 kilometres of the application area. Datasets show a record for <i>Eucalyptus crucis</i> subsp. <i>crucis</i> from 1922 approximately 13.5 kilometres to the south-east of the application area. AECOM (2025) considered that this species along with a further three species of eucalypts (found within 50 kilometres) had a 'negligible' likelihood of occurring, while a fourth (<i>Eucalyptus calycogona</i> subsp. <i>miraculum</i>) had a low likelihood.
Goodeniaceae	A total of 118 species from <i>Goodeniaceae</i> genus are listed as conservation significant flora in Western Australia. The closest record to the application area was for <i>Goodenia heatheriana</i> which is listed as being 28 kilometres away. This species is also the only one of the list of potentially occurring conservation significant species developed by AECOM (2025), who assessed the likelihood of <i>Goodenia heatheriana</i> occurring as 'negligible'.
<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp.	No conservation significant species from the <i>Lepidosperma</i> genus were identified within 20 kilometres of the application area, with the nearest (<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. Pigeon Rocks (H. Pringle 30237)) being approximately 25 kilometres away. This species appears to be associated with granite hills, while other species of <i>Lepidosperma</i> within 50 kilometres are associated with banded iron formations.
<i>Stylidium</i> ? <i>dielsianum</i>	<i>Stylidium dielsianum</i> is not listed as a conservation significant species in Western Australia. There are 108 species of <i>Stylidium</i> listed as conservation significant, including <i>Stylidium choreanthum</i> which has been recorded approximately three kilometres from the application area. AECOM (2025) assessed the likelihood of <i>Stylidium choreanthum</i> being present in the application area as 'low'. This species is the only conservation significant <i>Stylidium</i> sp. within 20 kilometres.
? <i>Threlkeldia</i> sp.	No species from <i>Threlkeldia</i> are listed as conservation significant flora in Western Australia. <i>Threlkeldia</i> is a member of the <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> family, while there are nine other genera with conservation significant species, review of species list indicates that these generally comprise halophytes associated with saline lake systems and surrounds.

(AECOM, 2025; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database)

B.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix F.1), and biological survey information impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status		Distance of closest record to application area (km)	AECOM likelihood assessment (pre survey)	AECOM likelihood assessment (post survey)
	BC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	VU	VU	14	high	low
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	OS	-	14	low	low
<i>Idiosoma castellum</i>	P4	-	16	high	high
<i>Idiosoma intermedium</i>	P3	-	-	high	high
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	VU	VU	within	known	high
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	P3		13	negligible	negligible
<i>Notamacropus ima</i>	P4	-	34	high	moderate
<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>	P4	-	54	moderate	moderate
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	MI	MI	14	moderate	low

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

B.5. Land degradation risk table

Risk categories	Greenmount 3I phase	Greenmount, Perilya subsystem	Greenmount 3 subsystem	Buladagie 3	Garratt 1Qa phase
Wind erosion	H2: >70% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk
Water erosion	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk
Salinity	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline	L2: 3-10% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline
Extent within application area (ha)	0.05	307.88	167.22	5.13	17.73

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> AECOM (2025) noted that the vegetation within the application area can be considered diverse, representing elements of the Coolgardie and Avon Wheatbelt bioregions. Database records and field surveys indicate priority flora and fauna species in and adjacent to the application area (AECOM, 2025; GIS Database).	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
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> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat for conservation significant fauna (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) and potential habitat for other conservation significant vertebrate and invertebrate species (AECOM, 2025; GIS Database).	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
Principle (c): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No threatened flora was identified the flora survey submitted in support of the application (AECOM, 2025). The nearest record of threatened flora is approximately 15 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
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> <u>Assessment:</u> While the Beard vegetation association 1068 forms part of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt threatened ecological community (priority 3 / critically endangered), this TEC does not extend into the Coolgardie bioregion (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). As such, there are no threatened or priority ecological communities within the application area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area is on the eastern edge of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, an area that has been subject to extensive clearing.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i>
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> <u>Assessment:</u> The proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): <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> <u>Assessment:</u> The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no drainage lines or watercourses are mapped within the application area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (g):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation." <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils are not highly susceptible to wind / water erosion, except for a very small portion of the application area (refer to Appendix B.5). The proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> "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." <u>Assessment:</u> The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface water quality. While surface water runoff from the application area will flow towards Lake Koorkoordine, there are no formal or mapped drainage lines and surrounding areas are modified by agriculture (CDM Smith, 2025; GIS Database) so it is unlikely that there will be any change relative to existing quality. Groundwater is up to 45 metres below ground level and is saline to hypersaline (CDM Smith, 2025) so is unlikely to be impacted by clearing.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." <u>Assessment:</u> Clearing activities are unlikely to directly result in exacerbation of flooding or waterlogging outside the application area.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

AECOM (2025) used the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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

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

Appendix E. Biological survey information excerpts**E.1. Vegetation communities**

Vegetation communities within the application area as mapped by AECOM (2025)) are presented in the extracts below.

Vegetation Description	Details	Photographs
ArAcc Mixed Shrubland <i>Acacia rigens</i>, <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i> mid to tall open shrubland over <i>Amphipogon carcinus</i> var. <i>carcinus</i>, <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. and <i>Dianella revoluta</i> low mixed herb and grassland. Recorded on orange to grey sand on flat terrain. Isolated to one occurrence in the survey area.	Survey effort: Q01, Q02 Species richness: 13 native species Extent: 9.81 ha	
EcMpfApb Eucalypt Woodland <i>Eucalyptus celastroides</i> and <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> mid woodland over <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiata</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> subsp. <i>baudinii</i>, <i>Olearia muelleri</i> and <i>Eremophila interstans</i> low shrubland. Recorded on undulating terrain with red loam clay soils.	Survey effort: Q14, Q22, Q23, R24 Species richness: 29 native and one weed species Extent: 242.40 ha	

Vegetation Description	Details	Photographs
AaaAcc Allocasuarina Shrubland <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i>, <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> and <i>Hakea minyma</i> tall shrubland <i>Amphipogon caricinus</i> var. <i>caricinus</i>, <i>Triodia scariosa</i> and <i>Borya sphaerocephala</i> low sparse grassland. Recorded on a low profile plateau and flats with red to orange sandy soils. Density and height of shrubs varies from tall (>2m) closed shrublands to mid (1-2m) open shrubland.	Survey effort: Q05, Q10, Q11, Q13, R04 Species richness: 24 native species Extent: 62.71 ha	
EyTsAe Eucalypt Woodland <i>Eucalyptus yilgamensis</i>, <i>Eucalyptus celastroides</i> and <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> mid woodland over <i>Templetonia smithiana</i>, <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>, <i>Sclerolaena patenticuspis</i> and <i>Ptilotus aervoides</i> low sparse mixed grass and forbland. Recorded on flats and gently undulating terrain with red clay soils. High cryptogram and litter cover. Some variation reflective of the bands of shrubs that occur, particularly <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiata</i> which occurs sporadically in clusters.	Survey effort: Q03, Q12, Q15, R21, R25, R26 Species richness: 38 native species Extent: 152.23 ha	

Vegetation Description	Details	Photographs
EcAcXd Eucalypt Woodland <i>Eucalyptus capillosa</i> and <i>Callitris columellaris</i> mid woodland over <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i>, <i>Dodonaea microzyga</i> and <i>Eremophila clarkei</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Xerolirion divaricata</i>, <i>Arthropodium</i> sp. and <i>Amphipogon caricinus</i> var. <i>caricinus</i> low sparse mixed forb and grassland. Includes granite breakaways and the adjacent rocky floodplain. Includes white sandy soils with calcrete rocks. Includes population of Priority 2 <i>Lissanthe scabra</i>.	Survey effort: Q05, Q07, Q08, Q09, R06 Species richness: 35 native and two weed species Extent: 19.69 ha	

E.2. Potentially occurring conservation significant flora

Conservation significant flora assessed as potentially occurring the application by AECOM (2025) are presented in the extracts below

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Taxon	Habitat ¹	Cons. Code		Distance (km)		Date		Max Date	PMST	Likelihood Assessment					Total Score	Pre-survey Likelihood	Post-survey Likelihood
		EPBC	BC Act / DBCA	WA HERB	TPFL	WA HERB	TPFL			Recorded in Survey Area	Known Occurrence <5km	Recent Record <20 years	Known within LGA	Habitat Suitability (0,1,2)			
<i>Acacia ancistrophylla</i> var. <i>perarcuata</i>	Red sand, clay loam, loam. Undulating plains.		P3	31.15		1968		1968		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Low
<i>Acacia crenulata</i>	Clay, sandy clay, yellow sand. Rocky rises, granite outcrops, breakaways.		P3	28.07		1981		1981		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Moderate
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i>	Yellow/brown sand, gravelly soils. Undulating plains, flats.		P3	0.90	3.12	2008	2008	2008		0	1	1	1	2	5	High	Moderate
<i>Acacia desertorum</i> var. <i>nudipes</i>	Yellow sand, lateritic gravel. Sandplains, flats.		P3	11.21	22.54	2018	2006	2018		0	0	1	1	2	4	High	Low
<i>Acacia filifolia</i>	Yellow sand, gravelly lateritic sand on sandplains.		P3	13.02	29.57	2002	2002	2002		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Low
<i>Acacia formidabilis</i>	Yellow or red/brown sand. Undulating plains, hillsides.		P3	0.65		1985		1985		0	1	1	1	2	5	High	Low
<i>Acacia haematites</i>	Grows on a haematite-rich BIF range where it occurs in red loam or pale coloured sandy clay on the eroded slopes below massive ironstone or lateritized duricrust outcrops. Known from a single BIF range near Koolyanobbing (50 km north-east of Southern Cross) (Maslin, 2014).		P1	11.18		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Acacia</i> sp. Moorine Rock (B.R. Maslin 4474)	Dark brown hard clay-loam, granite. Clay flats at base of rock outcrops.		P1	18.83		1990		1990		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Balaustion grandibracteatum</i> subsp. <i>grandibracteatum</i>	Grows in yellow-brown sand, laterite, gravel on moderately exposed flat sand plains (PGV Environmental, 2024).		P3	11.21		2008		2008		0	0	1	1	2	4	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Banksia dolichostyla</i>	Grows on iron-capped hills and rises on ironstone (lateritic) soil profiles. Associated vegetation includes low woodland and low shrubland. Associated vegetation species include <i>Banksia</i> spp. and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp (DEWHA, 2008a).	V	VU					1900	May	0	0	0	0	1	1	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Boronia adamsiana</i>	Grows in heath or scrub heath on yellow sand, near granite outcrops (DoE, 2023).	V	VU					1900	May	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Bossiaea</i> sp. Jackson Range (G. Cockerton & S. McNee LCS 13614)	Breakaway, laterised ironstone, red-brown clay loam soils. Flats and lower slopes at base of weathered granite breakaways. Dry white-grey sandy loam. Mid slope of low BIF hills, growing on duricrust (Woodman Environmental, 2021).		P3	24.84	24.84	2011	2011	2011		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Dasymalla axillaris</i>	Known from sandy soils in the Yalgoo area of the northern area of the Avon Wheatbelt (DEC, 2009).	CE	CR					1900	May	0	0	0	0	1	1	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Daviesia microcarpa</i>	Grows in alkaline red-brown clay loam with calcrete nodules on lower slopes, bases of hills with outcropping rock, on road verges, gravel pits and mine waste dumps (DAWE, 2021a).	E	CR	12.50	12.50	2006	2009	2009	Known	0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Eremophila resinosa</i>	Occurs on soil types from sandy loams to loams and clays in open mallee woodland with a mixed <i>Acacia</i> scrub understorey (DEC, 2009).	E	EN					1900	Likely	0	0	0	0	2	2	Low	Low

Taxon	Habitat ¹	Cons. Code		Distance (km)		Date		Max Date	PMST	Likelihood Assessment					Total Score	Pre-survey Likelihood	Post-survey Likelihood
		EPBC	BC Act / DBCA	WA HERB	TPFL	WA HERB	TPFL			Recorded in Survey Area	Known Occurrence <5km	Recent Record <20 years	Known within LGA	Habitat Suitability (0,1,2)			
<i>Eremophila virens</i>	Light brown or red sandy-loam over granite and quartzite in rocky situations, growing in thicket or shrub with Acacias, Mallees and Sheoaks (DEC, 2008a).	E	EN					1900	Likely	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Eremophila viscida</i>	Preferred habitat appears to be areas of brown, sandy loam or red brown clay loam soils, in open woodland in association with <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> and scrub vegetation, often near areas of exposed granite or alongside saline lake systems. The species is also associated with granite and salt lake systems and plants are more frequently found in runoff areas, including drainage lines or ephemeral creeks connected to granite outcrops (TSSC 2017; Phillimore et al., 2003).	E	EN					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Eucalyptus brevipes</i>	Found on soils ranging from pale red-brown loams to white sand and quartzite outcrop (DEWHA, 2008b).	E	EN					1900	May	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Eucalyptus calycogona</i> subsp. <i>miraculum</i>	Occurs in mallee and mixed mallee-mallet vegetation on pale orange to red clay- loams to thin stony loams with ironstone gravel (Nicolle & French, 2009).		P1	25.82		2012		2012		0	0	1	1	2	4	High	Low
<i>Eucalyptus crucis</i> subsp. <i>crucis</i>	Grows on shallow, granitic, sandy loam soil on granite rocks associated with sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina</i>), wattle (<i>Acacia</i>) and One-sided Bottlebrush (<i>Calothamnus</i>) (DAWE, 2008).	V	EN	11.18	21.36	2006	2008	2008	Known	0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Eucalyptus polita</i>	Loam, sand. Around salt lakes, flats.			21.56		2010		2010		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Frankenia parvula</i>	Preferred habitat is white to brown sand over sandy clay around the high water mark of major drainage channels where it grows both independent of and within fringing vegetation (CALM, 2004).	E	EN					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Gastrolobium diabolophyllum</i>	Grows in yellow-brown sand over laterite on broadly undulating dunes in open mallee shrublands amongst <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> (Salmon Gum), <i>Acacia</i> , <i>Allocasuarina</i> , <i>Gastrolobium</i> , and <i>Banksia</i> species (DEWHA, 2009a).	CE	CR					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	2	2	Low	Negligible
<i>Gastrolobium graniticum</i>	Associated with the margins of granite outcrops, especially along drainage lines, on sandy soils in open woodland in association with <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> , <i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> , and <i>Eucalyptus eremophila</i> (DEWHA, 2008c).	E	EN					1900	May	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Glossostigma trichodes</i>	Pools in granite. Fine clayey substrate.			20.23		2009		2009		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Goodenia heatheriana</i>	Red crumbly clay, greenstone gravel and cobbles. Lower slopes, moderately exposed gently undulating plain, roadsides.		P1	25.89		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Grammosolen odgersii</i> subsp. <i>occidentalis</i>	Grows in orange sandy soils and red-brown sandy and clayey loams in open mallee-heath (DEC, 2008b).	E	CR					1900	Likely	0	0	0	0	2	2	Low	Negligible
<i>Hakea pendens</i>	Stony loam. Ironstone ridges.		P3	11.65		1969		1969		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Hemigenia</i> sp. Newdegate (E. Bishop 75)	Clay loam. Disturbed sites.		P1	26.39		2018		2018		0	0	1	1	2	4	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Hydrocotyle corynophora</i>	Grows in damp depressions which seasonally dry into areas of red or red-brown cracking clays or clay loam, surrounded by low open woodland often dominated by <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> (Perkins, 2017). Known only from two areas (approximately 30 km apart) near Marvel Loch, south-east of Southern Cross, Western Australia.		P1	26.40		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Isopogon robustus</i>	Occurs on a decomposing laterite shelf and grows in grey skeletal sandy loam over laterite (DEWHA, 2009b).	CE	CR					1900	Likely	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible

Taxon	Habitat ¹	Cons. Code		Distance (km)		Date		Max Date	PMST	Likelihood Assessment					Total Score	Pre-survey Likelihood	Post-survey Likelihood
		EPBC	BC Act / DBCA	WA HERB	TPFL	WA HERB	TPFL			Recorded in Survey Area	Known Occurrence <5km	Recent Record <20 years	Known within LGA	Habitat Suitability (0,1,2)			
<i>Leucopogon</i> sp. Yellowdine (M. Hislop & F. Hort MH 3194)	Undulating sand plain. Dry yellow loamy sand.		P2	28.04		2011		2011		0	0	1	1	2	4	High	Low
<i>Lissanthe scabra</i>	Dry, white to orange-brown clay, sandy gravel loams, granite. Breakaways, uplands.		P2	0.08	0.00	2010	2010	2010		1	1	1	1	2	6	Known	Known
<i>Melaleuca sciotostyla</i>	Grows in orange clayey sand with lateritic pebbles and scree slopes in dense shrubland (DoE, 2014).	E	EN					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	1	1	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Millotia newbeyi</i>	Red/brown loam, red clay. Undulating plains.		P1	23.63		1993		1993		0	0	1	1	2	4	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Myriophyllum petraeum</i>	Strictly confined to ephemeral rock pools on granite outcrops.		P4	19.90	19.90	2009	1989	2009		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Notisia intonsa</i>	Plain with brown loam, iron stone gravel and quartz.		P3	26.41		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Negligible
<i>Phlegmatospermum eremaeum</i>	Stony, orange-brown loam.		P3	25.70		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Low
<i>Prostanthera nanophylla</i>	Yellow sand over laterite, rocky loam. Sandplains.		P3	24.41		1967		1967		0	0	1	1	2	4	Moderate	Low
<i>Ricinocarpos brevis</i>	Confined to shallow sandy soils on rocky banded ironstone outcrops (DEWHA, 2007).	E	EN					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Rinzia fimbriolata</i>	Recorded from sandy soil in mallee shrubland or woodland, also with one record from 'clay soil with quartz pieces' (Rye, 2017).		P1	0.00	s	2005		2005		1	1	1	1	2	6	Known	Low
<i>Rinzia triplex</i>	Recorded on sandy plains in yellow to red, often gravelly or lateritic soils, with one record mentioning fragments of banded ironstone, dominated by <i>Acacia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus</i> or <i>Allocasuarina</i> , often with <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> present (Rye, 2017).		P3	25.77	25.88	2003	2003	2003		0	0	1	1	2	4	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Roycea pycnophylloides</i>	Grows along shorelines or on slight rises above open saline flats and major drainage channels (DAWE, 2021b).	E	VU					1900	Likely	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Stylidium choreanthum</i>	White/yellow or red sand. Plains.		P3	1.43	3.11	2011	1996	2011		0	1	1	1	2	5	High	Low
<i>Tecticornia flabelliformis</i>	Grows on the margins of salt lakes and coastal salt marshes over gypsum deposits and is often associated with other Tecticornia species (Carter, 2010).		P2					1900	Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Tetratheca paynterae</i>	Grows in rock crevices, in shallow pockets of soil of rich red loam (DEWHA, 2008d).	E						1900	May	0	0	0	0	2	2	Low	Low
<i>Teucrium diabolicum</i>	Grows in red cracking clay or clay loam, usually in shallow depressions or on low undulating plains that support low scrub or heath, or in association with low open woodland (e.g. with <i>Eucalyptus tenuis</i>) (Wege & Davis, 2020).		P3	26.78		2015		2015		0	0	1	1	1	3	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Verticordia elizabethiae</i>	Grows on flats surrounding salt lakes, with halophytic heath (e.g. <i>Maireana</i> , <i>Gunniiopsis</i> and <i>Frankenia</i>) and fringing <i>Callitris</i> (Rye & Barrett, 2020).		P1	13.21		1926		1926		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Verticordia mitodes</i>	Yellow sand. Undulating plains.		P3	19.83		1993		1993		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Verticordia pulchella</i>	Sandy soils over granite. Massive granite areas.		P2	32.69	33.75	1988	1988	1988		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible
<i>Verticordia stenopetala</i>	Yellow sand, sometimes with gravel. Undulating plains.		P3	26.76	31.91	2009	1984	2009		0	0	1	1	0	2	Negligible	Negligible



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E.3. Fauna habitat

Fauna habitats within the application area as mapped by AECOM (2025) are presented in the extracts below.

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Fauna Habitat	Description	Cons. Sig. Fauna Species that May Utilise Habitat	Photo
Eucalypt Woodland	Eucalypt woodland dominated by a variety of Eucalypt species including tree and mallee form over sclerophyllous shrubs and sparse grasses and herbs. Occurs on orange to red loamy clays on undulating terrain with medium litter cover of logs and leaves. Understorey is relatively open.	Potential suitable habitat for: • Chuditch • Malleefowl • Coolgardie Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider • Western Brush Wallaby	
Eucalypt Woodland on Breakaway/Rock	<i>Eucalyptus capillosa</i> and <i>Callitris columellaris</i> trees over sparse sclerophyllous shrubs and sparse herbs and grasses on hard granite breakaways and plateaus. Leaf litter was sparse with large areas of bare open areas devoid of vegetation due to the impenetrable hard rock surface. Breakaways include boulders, crevices and shallow caves.	Potential suitable habitat for: • Chuditch	

Fauna Habitat	Description	Cons. Sig. Fauna Species that May Utilise Habitat	Photo
Shrubland	Shrublands dominated by <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i>, <i>A. acutivalvis</i>, <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> and <i>Acacia rigens</i> mid to tall shrubs over mid to low sclerophyllous shrubs and sparse grasses. Soils were sandy to sandy loam suitable for burrowing. Leaf litter variable from moderate to light leaf and logs.	Potential suitable habitat for: • Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider • Malleefowl • Coolgardie Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider	



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E.4. Potentially occurring conservation significant fauna

Conservation significant fauna assessed as potentially occurring the application by AECOM (2025) are presented in the extracts below

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Type	Taxon	Common Name	Habitat	Cons. Code		Date	No. of Records	Distance (km)	PMST	Likelihood Assessment				Total Score	Pre-Survey Likelihood	Post-survey Likelihood
				BC Act / DBCA	EPBC Act					Recorded in Survey Area	Known Occurrence <20km	Recent Record <20 years	Habitat Suitability (0,1,2)			
Bird	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Wide range of coastal wetlands, around muddy margins or rocky shores, some inland wetlands and rarely on mudflats (DCCEEW, 2023).	IA	MI & MA				Likely	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	Dry open forests and woodland and inland scrubs of mallee, mulga and saltbush are the preferred habitat of Southern Whiteface, especially areas with fallen timber or dead trees and stumps (Higgins & Davies, 1996).		V				Known	0	0	0	1	1	Low	Low
Bird	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	Over inland plains, sometimes above foothills or in coastal areas (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	MI & MA				Likely	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi</i>	Woylie	Inhabit woodlands and adjacent heaths with a dense understorey of shrubs, particularly <i>Gastrolobium</i> spp. (poison pea) (TSSC, 2018).	CR	E	1982	1	67.09		0	0	0	1	1	Low	Low
Bird	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Occurs along muddy edges of shallow fresh or brackish wetlands with inundated or emergent sedges, grass, saltmarsh or other low vegetation (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	V & MI & MA				May	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Intertidal mudflats in sheltered coastal areas and inland around ephemeral and permanent lakes, dams, waterholes and bore drains with bare edges of mud and sand (DCCEEW, 2024).	CR & IA	CE & MI & MA	2003	1	33.06	Known	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	Occupies shallow, fresh waters often containing low grass or other small herbs, swamp margins, flooded pastures and saltmarshes (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	MI & MA				May	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Red-necked Stint	Coastal sheltered areas and exposed or ocean beaches, sometimes on stony or rocky shores, reefs or shoals (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	MI & MA	2003	1	33.06		0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Western Quoll, Chuditch	Currently restricted to south-west Western Australia, in areas dominated by sclerophyll forest or drier woodland, heath and mallee shrubland (Van Dyck & Strahan, 2008).	VU	V	2022	106	11.16	May	0	1	1	2	4	High	Low
Reptile	<i>Egernia stokesii badia</i>	Western Spiny-tailed Skink	Semi-arid condition in south-west interior of Western Australia in woodlands of York Gum (<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>), Gimlet (<i>E. salubris</i>) and Salmon Gum (<i>E. salmonophloia</i>) (Pearson, 2012).	VU	E				May	0	0	0	2	2	Moderate	Low
Bird	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Timbered lowland plains, including <i>acacia</i> shrublands, particularly with tree-lined watercourses, tussock grassland and open woodland (TSSC, 2020).	VU	V				May	0	0	0	2	2	Moderate	Low
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	Rainforests, arid zones and coastal to alpine areas (BirdLife, 2024).	S		2015	14	11.16		0	1	1	0	2	Low	Low
Invertebrate	<i>Idiosoma castellum</i>	Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider	Habitat is exclusive to the Avon Wheatbelt and western Goldfields in WA (Main, 1986). The habitat for the species consists of flood-prone depressions and flats with myrtaceous shrubland (especially Broombush <i>Melaleuca uncinata</i> and Sheoak) on sandy-loam soil (Bennelongia Environmental Consultants, 2018).	P4		2009	125	13.39		0	1	1	2	4	High	High
Invertebrate	<i>Idiosoma intermedium</i>	Coolgardie Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider	Species occur in the south-west of Western Australia in the eastern Avon Wheatbelt and north-western Coolgardie bioregions. The type locality is Bodallin (Rix et al., 2018).	P3		2009	3	42.53		0	0	1	2	3	High	High
Invertebrate	<i>Idiosoma nigrum</i>	Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider	Clay soils are inhabited in the Wheatbelt, and rocky habitats in the Midwest, primarily in positions with increased moisture retention properties like gullies and drainage lines on southern facing slopes (Ecologia Environment, 2010).	EN	V	2010	10	43.92	Known	0	0	1	1	2	Low	Low
Bird	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	Known occurrence in the survey area. Found in the semi-arid to arid zone in shrublands and low woodlands dominated by <i>Melaleuca uncinata</i> complex, <i>Callitris verrucosa</i> and some shrublands dominated by Acacia and occasionally in woodlands dominated by eucalypts (DCCEEW, 2025).	VU	V	2022	249	0.00	Known	1	1	1	2	5	Known	High

Type	Taxon	Common Name	Habitat	Cons. Code		Date	No. of Records	Distance (km)	PMST	Likelihood Assessment				Total Score	Pre-Survey Likelihood	Post-survey Likelihood
				BC Act / DBCA	EPBC Act					Recorded in Survey Area	Known Occurrence <20km	Recent Record <20 years	Habitat Suitability (0,1,2)			
Bird	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	Known occurrence in the survey area. Found in the semi-arid to arid zone in shrublands and low woodlands dominated by <i>Melaleuca uncinata complex</i> , <i>Callitris verrucosa</i> and some shrublands dominated by Acacia and occasionally in woodlands dominated by eucalypts (DCCEEW, 2025).	VU	V	2022	249	0.00	Known	1	1	1	2	5	Known	High
Mammal	<i>Leporillus conditor</i>	Greater Stick-nest Rat	Southern arid and semi-arid regions of southern Australia including the local mountain ranges with perennial, semi-succulent shrubs. Greater stick-nest rats prefer dune and dune base habitats (DCCEEW, 2024).	VU	V		1	44.85		0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Bilby	Arid to semi-arid woodlands and hummock grasslands in the north of Australia, restricted to the Gibson, Little Sandy and Great Sandy Deserts, and parts of the Pilbara, Dampierland, Central Kimberley and Ord-Victoria Plains bioregions in Western Australia (Bradley et al. 2015).	VU	V	Not available	1	42.00		0	0	0	1	1	Low	Low
Bird	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	Found across a wide variety of wetlands, watercourses and on the banks of lakes and marshes (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	MI & MA				May	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>	Numbat	Mulga woodland, spinifex sandplains and eucalypt forests and woodlands. In WA, their habitat is generally woodland dominated by Eucalyptus species, with abundant hollow logs and branches (DBCA, 2021).	EN	E		1	41.23		0	0	0	1	1	Low	Low
Mammal	<i>Notamacropus irma</i>	Western Brush Wallaby	Open forest or woodland, particularly favouring open, seasonally wet flats with low grasses and open scrubby thickets (DCCEEW, 2025).	P4		2022	4	31.94		0	0	1	2	3	High	Moderate
Mammal	<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	Central Long-eared Bat	The trees of the upperstory of its habitat are the large to very tall eucalypt species, karri <i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> , jarrah <i>E. marginata</i> , tuart <i>E. gomphocephala</i> , and marri <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> . Other woodland types inhabited by the bat include stands of melaleuca, banksia and sheoak tees of genus Allocasuarina, and include a dense understory (Andrew, 2015).	P3		1981	1	73.72		0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Reptile	<i>Paroplocephalus atriceps</i>	Lake Cronin Snake	Open eucalypt woodland on sandy loam at Lake Cronin, Western Australia (Storr, 1980).	P3		2007	1	84.06		0	0	1	0	1	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	Black-footed Rock-wallaby	Wide variety of rock types, requiring sufficient cave and crevice development (DPaW 2015).	EN	E	2007	1	66.00		0	0	1	0	1	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Night Parrot	Wiluna district of central Western Australia, and the Lake Gregory area of northern Western Australia (Olsen, 2018), in spinifex grasslands and/or chenopod shrublands (Garnett et al., 2011).	CR	E				May	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Mammal	<i>Phascogale calura</i>	Red-tailed Phascogale	Restricted to remnant native vegetation throughout the wheat belt of south-western Western Australia (Kitchener, 1981) in Allocasuarina woodlands with hollow-containing eucalypts (e.g. <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>) and <i>Gastrolobium</i> spp. (Kitchener, 1981). It prefers older, vegetation that is unburnt with ample canopy cover.	CD	V	1998	1	50.95		0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>	Western Rosella	The inland subspecies is found in eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (<i>E. wandoo</i>), flooded gum, salmon gum (<i>E. salmonophloia</i>), tall mallee and rock sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>) (DEC, 2009).	P4		2022	2	54.57		0	0	1	1	3	Moderate	Moderate
Bird	<i>Thinornis cucullatus</i>	Hooded Plover	The Hooded Plover occurs on sandy beaches between Jervis Bay, New South Wales and the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, Tasmania, Esperance, and is found as far north as Jurien Bay which is about 200km north of Perth (DCCEEW, 2024).	P4	MA	2003	10	32.70		0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible
Bird	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	Inland wetlands and sheltered coastal habitats in shallows around the edges of water often among pneumatophores of mangroves or other sparse, emergent or fringing vegetation, such as sedges or saltmarsh (DCCEEW, 2024).	IA	E & MI & MA	2007	3	11.68		0	1	1	1	3	Moderate	Negligible
Bird	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Carnaby's Cockatoo	Uncleared or remnant native eucalypt woodlands containing Salmon Gum and wandoo, and in shrubland or kwongan heathland dominated by hakea, dryandra, banksia and grevillea species. It also occurs in remnant patches of native vegetation on land otherwise cleared for agriculture. Forages seasonally in pine plantations (DPaW, 2013).	EN	E				Likely	0	0	0	0	0	Negligible	Negligible



Clearing Permit Decision Report

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- 2 metre contours (DPIRD-072)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976-1991 (DBCA-029)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Subcatchments (DWER-030)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Coastal Flat (Polygon) (LGATE-122)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Elevation (Point) (LGATE-014)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Point) (LGATE-017)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Referral - Permit Application Not Required (DWER-117)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- 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 - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Zones (DPIRD-017)

- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-017)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Waterways Conservation Act Management Areas (DWER-072)
- Western Ringtail Possum Habitat Suitability (DBCA-049)
- Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat (DWER-071)
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites
- Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- Black Cockatoo BC Feeding SCP
- Black Cockatoo Feeding JF
- Black Cockatoo Feeding Areas Buffered
- Black Cockatoo Baudin's Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Forest Red Tail Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Carnaby's Distribution
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<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.