



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11404/1
Permit Holder:	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Duration of Permit:	From 7 July 2026 to 7 July 2036

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of accessing monitoring bore locations and to support safe drilling operations.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 256 on Deposited Plan 238185, Lagrange
 Lot 264 on Deposited Plan 238183, Lagrange
 Lot 1561 on Deposited Plan 65161, Eighty Mile Beach

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.303 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 to 5 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 7 July 2031.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;
- minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner in a single direction to allow fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

8. Fauna management - Greater bilby pre-clearance survey

- (a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, for the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1-5 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) undertake surveys using transects spaced at 100 metres on average to identify evidence of use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*); and
 - (ii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under *condition* 8(a)(i), undertake surveys using transects spaced at 20 metres on average, to identify evidence of burrows that may be suitable for greater bilby use.
- (b) Where potential greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition* 8(a), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i). flag the location of the burrow/s; and
 - (ii). inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.
- (c) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 8(b), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i). monitor the burrow with remote cameras for greater bilby use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;
 - (ii). where no evidence of greater bilby activity is identified under *condition* 8(c)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as *un-occupied* and the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - A. carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrow; and
 - B. collapse and fill the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed that no native vertebrate fauna are present within the burrow.
 - (iii). where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under *condition* 8(c)(i), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - A. continue to monitor the burrow for greater bilby activity;
 - B. implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent greater bilby from exiting the burrow; and

- C. once greater bilby displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under *condition 8(c)(ii)A* and *condition 8(c)(ii)B*.
- (d) If the greater bilby has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under *condition 8(c)(iii)*, the permit holder must, no earlier than seven (7) days prior to clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilby to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat*, in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
 - (e) Immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition 8(d)*, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition 8(c)(ii)A* and *condition 8(c)(ii)B*.
 - (f) Within 24 hours prior to undertaking clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect the flagged burrow/s identified under *condition 8(b)(i)* for evidence of re-excavation by greater bilby.
 - (g) Where re-excavated greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition 8(f)*, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i). flag the location of the burrow/s; and
 - (ii). inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.
 - (h) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition 8(g)(ii)*, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i). remove and relocate any identified greater bilby from the burrow to an area of *suitable habitat*, in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and
 - (ii). immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition 8(h)(i)*, undertake the actions required under *condition 8(c)(ii)A* and *condition 8(c)(ii)B*.
 - (i) Where an *un-occupied* burrow is identified under *condition 8(g)(ii)*, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition 8(c)(ii)A* and *condition 8(c)(ii)B*.
 - (j) Where any greater bilby burrows are identified under *condition 8(a)* or *8(f)*, and any greater bilby is relocated under *condition 8(d)* or *8(h)*, the permit holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the *CEO* within two (2) months of undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit:
 - (i). the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *occupied*, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii). a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under *condition 8(c)*;
 - (iii). the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under *conditions 8(c)*, *8(e)*, *8(h)* and *8(i)*;
 - (iv). the date and time greater bilby are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under *condition 8(c)*;
 - (v). the gender of each greater bilby captured and relocated under *condition 8(d)* or *8(h)*;
 - (vi). the location of any greater bilby captured under *condition 8(d)* or *8(h)*, using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

- (vii). the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are captured under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h);
- (viii). the location of any greater bilby relocated under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- (ix). the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are relocated under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h);
- (x). the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated greater bilby under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h); and
- (xi). a copy of the relevant authorisations for the relocation of greater bilby under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h).

9. Revegetation and rehabilitation (temporary works)

- (a) The permit holder must retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) The permit holder must at an *optimal time* following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this permit by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under *condition* 9(a) on the cleared area(s);
 - (iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (iv) deliberately laying vegetative material and topsoil that have comparable vegetation types, comparable soil types and comparable soil disease status to pre-clearing vegetation types within the permit area.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		<p>reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with <i>condition 5</i>;</p> <p>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with <i>condition 6</i>;</p> <p>(g) actions undertaken in accordance with <i>condition 7</i>;</p> <p>(h) actions taken to manage and mitigate impacts to greater bilby in accordance with <i>condition 8</i>; and</p> <p>(i) actions undertaken in accordance with <i>condition 9</i>.</p>

11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under *condition 10* of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
optimal time	means during the wet season (November to April) after or immediately prior to, the first wet season rains, for undertaking direct seeding and

Term	Definition
	planting.
occupied	means currently occupied, or where uncertainty exists, potentially occupied, by the greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>).
rehabilitate/ rehabilitated/ rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate/ revegetated/revegetation	means the re-establishment of a cover of local provenance native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
suitable habitat for greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	means habitat known to support <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> within the known current distribution of the species. In the Pilbara this often includes low <i>Acacia</i> spp over hummock grasses and Mulga shrubland on a substrate that is suitable for burrowing such as sand, sandy clay or sandy gravel) (Spectrum, 2025)
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS


Meenu Vitarana
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

15 June 2026

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur (area 3)



Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur (area 2)



Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur (area 3)



Figure 4: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur (area 4)



Figure 5: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur (area 5)



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 11404/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Application received:	18 December 2025
Application area:	0.303 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Access to monitoring bore locations and to support safe drilling operations
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Property:	Lot 256 on Deposited Plan 238185, Lot 264 on Deposited Plan 238183 and Lot 1561 on Deposited Plan 65161
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Broome
Localities (suburb/s):	La Grange Eighty Mile Beach

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is 0.303 hectares distributed across five separate areas to facilitate the installation of drill pads for six monitoring bores (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). All clearing is proposed within the Shire of Broome and is located adjacent to existing tracks. Clearing is to provide access to the bore locations and to establish safe working areas for drilling operations, including the movement and storage of equipment and machinery.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	15 June 2026
Decision area:	0.303 hectares of native vegetation across 5 sites, as depicted in section 1.5, below.

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 Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Officer considered the purpose of the clearing, that it was to collect information relating to groundwater abstraction in the La Grange and Eighty Mile Beach area, where the data from the Seawater Interface Monitoring Bores will be used to improve the understanding of groundwater conditions and

to inform allocation planning and water licence management. The data will assist in the assessment and management of potential impacts on groundwater resources, including groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

The proposed clearing may result in the following:

- impacts to greater bilby and other terrestrial fauna should they occur within the application area at the time of clearing, noting they may periodically utilise the site, and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent native vegetation.

After considering the available information, the Delegated Officer determined that the following requirements will be conditioned on the clearing permit to manage and address the potential impacts of clearing:

- avoid and minimise measures to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- undertake slow, progressive, one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- pre-clearance surveys to identify greater bilby within the application area, and the relocation of any individuals recorded
- revegetate and rehabilitate areas cleared for temporary works within six months

The Delegated Officer considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing are unlikely to have any long-term adverse impacts on the environmental values in the local area and that the abovementioned management practices will adequately mitigate any potential impacts.

1.5. Site maps



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



Figure 2. Map of Area 2. The area crosshatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 3. Map of Area 3. The area crosshatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit



Figure 4. Map of Area 4. The area crosshatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit



Figure 5. Map of Area 5. The area crosshatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit

2 Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The proposed drill sites have been located adjacent to existing tracks and were selected to minimise vegetation clearing. Access upgrades will be limited to minor grading to remove small regrowth and overhanging vegetation to safely accommodate heavy vehicles. Drill pads are generally proposed within areas of low to medium density native vegetation, with clearing restricted to that required to establish a safe working environment for drilling operations. The final cleared area may be reduced depending on the requirements of the drilling contractor once appointed (DWER 2025b).

Cleared areas will be allowed to naturally revegetate following completion of drilling activities, except for a maintained area surrounding the bore headworks. This cleared area will be required to ensure ongoing vehicle access and operational safety and will extend approximately 2–3 metres around each bore headworks. Where more than one bore is installed at a single site, this maintained area will be required around each bore (DWER, 2025a).

All drill site locations have been physically inspected, and adjustments have been made where necessary to avoid the clearing of large trees or areas of dense vegetation. Letters of authority have been received from all landowners granting access to the proposed clearing sites, including Karajarri Traditional Lands Association, KAPCO and Anna Plains Co Pty Ltd.

The DWER North West Region - Planning Advice considers the risk to water resources in relation to Native Vegetation Policies and Guidelines as low. In addition, they believe the overall outcome will result in improved protection of these ecosystems from over-abstraction of groundwater by industry and agriculture (DWER 2026).

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has undertaken reasonable measures to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, flora and wetlands), and that these required further consideration. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with

sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below. The local area is defined as within a 50-kilometre radius of the application area. As all application areas occur in close proximity, this radius was applied as a single, contiguous buffer encompassing all five sites.

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

Assessment

According to available desktop datasets, there are records of eight conservation listed flora species within the local area. Based on the suitability of habitat present, three conservation-listed flora species were considered to have the potential to occur within one or more of the application areas as outlined below:

- *Bonamia oblongifolia* (Priority 3) – areas 1 and 2
- *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) (Priority 3) – all areas
- *Atriplex eremitis* (Priority 1) – areas 4 and 5

***Bonamia oblongifolia* (P3)**

Bonamia oblongifolia is a perennial herb or low shrub restricted to the Dampierland IBRA region and typically occurs on sandy or gravelly soils within *pindan* and *acacia* woodland habitats (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The same soil and vegetation types are mapped within application areas 1 and 2 and are consistent with site photographs (Appendix D). Desktop records indicate the nearest known occurrence is approximately 2.4 kilometres from application area 1.

Given the limited extent of proposed clearing and the presence of extensive similar habitat in the surrounding landscape, significant impacts to *Bonamia oblongifolia* are not expected.

***Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) (P3)**

Polymeria sp. Broome is known from the Dampierland IBRA region and is commonly associated with sandy substrates supporting *pindan* and *acacia* woodland, including disturbed environments such as road verges (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Desktop database records indicate the species occurs at multiple, dispersed locations across the broader regional landscape, with mapped occurrences located outside and spatially separated from all application areas.

While suitable habitat may be present across all application areas, there are no records within the proposed clearing areas, with the nearest known occurrence located approximately 2.4 kilometres from Area 1. The proposed clearing is small in extent and does not intersect any known records of *Polymeria* sp. Broome, nor does it represent a discrete or isolated habitat unit. On this basis, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to involve the clearing of native vegetation that comprises the whole or a part of the habitat necessary for the survival of the species.

***Atriplex eremitis* (P1)**

Atriplex eremitis is a saltbush with a restricted distribution in arid regions of Western Australia. The species is typically associated with saline grassland and rangeland environments, typically occurring in proximity to wetlands, drainage features or disturbed saline soils (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

Desktop assessment indicates that application areas 4 and 5 are located within the broader Eighty Mile Beach System; however, available regional records show *Atriplex eremitis* occurring at discrete locations spatially separated from both application areas. The nearest known records are located approximately 14.66 kilometres from application area 4 and 11.26 kilometres from application area 5. Vegetation mapping and aerial imagery indicate the application areas do not intersect concentrated saline flats or wetland features typically associated with the species. No targeted flora survey was undertaken. The proposed clearing is small in extent and does not coincide with known occurrences or discrete habitat units for *Atriplex eremitis*. On this basis, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to involve the clearing of native vegetation that comprises the whole or a part of the habitat necessary for the survival of *Atriplex eremitis*.

Conclusion

Based on the above information, none of the conservation-listed flora species recorded near the application areas are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing at a local or regional scale. Accordingly, the proposed clearing does not constitute a significant residual impact to these species.

Outcome

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

- Weed control, which ensures protocols are put in place to limit the introduction and transportation of weed affected materials.

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

Assessment

The desktop assessment identified a total of 64 conservation significant fauna species that have been previously recorded within the local area. These include 53 birds (41 migratory) species, 7 mammals and 4 reptiles. No significant fauna species were recorded within any of the application areas. A likelihood-of-occurrence assessment identified 7 species that may occur within the proposed clearing area:

- Greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) (vulnerable)
- Spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland) (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti*) (priority four)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (other specially protected fauna)
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (specially protected – migratory)
- Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) (specially protected – migratory)
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) (specially protected – migratory)
- Oriental pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) (specially protected – migratory)

Greater Bilby (VU)

The Greater Bilby is a burrowing marsupial with a highly fragmented distribution in Western Australia (Pavey, 2006). In northern Western Australia, the species largely occupies three major vegetation types: open tussock grassland on uplands and hills, mulga woodland or shrubland on ridges and rises, and hummock grassland in plains and alluvial areas (DCCEEW, 2023).

The Greater Bilby has not been recorded within any of the application areas; however, desktop records indicate known occurrences in proximity to the proposal, with the closest records located approximately 844 metres from application area 4 and 996 m from application area 1. Given the species' mobility and the presence of broadly suitable habitat, it is possible that Greater Bilbies may occur within the application areas on a transient or intermittent basis.

Any area where the species is known or likely to occur is considered habitat critical to the survival of the Greater Bilby (DCCEEW, 2023). Considering the proximity of nearby records, the presence of suitable habitat across all application areas, and the nomadic and transient nature of the species, the proposed clearing is not considered to result in a significant residual impact to Greater Bilby habitat that would require an offset. However, due to the reasonable likelihood that Greater Bilbies may utilise the application areas at the time of clearing, a pre-clearance fauna survey and the implementation of appropriate fauna management actions are required to ensure clearing activities do not result in harm to individuals.

Spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland) (P4)

The Spectacled hare-wallaby inhabits open woodlands, shrublands and hummock grasslands and typically shelters in dense tussocks during the day, and forages at night on shrubs, grasses and herbs, usually within proximity to shelter sites (Ingleby and Westoby, 1992).

While this species has not been recorded within any of the application areas, it may transiently occur on site given the proximity of known records, high mobility of the species and habitat suitability of the application areas. However, given the extent of the proposed clearing and habitat in the local area, it is not considered likely that any of the application areas contain significant habitat for the species.

Peregrine Falcon (OS)

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is widely distributed across Australia and utilises a broad range of habitats, including woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and coastal environments, typically occurring near watercourses where prey availability is high. The species is highly mobile, has a large home range, and does not rely on specialised or restricted habitat types.

The application area does not contain suitable breeding habitat for the Peregrine Falcon and therefore does not represent significant habitat for the species. While the vegetation present may provide occasional foraging opportunities, extensive areas of comparable habitat occur in the surrounding landscape. Given the species' mobility, large home range and the availability of alternative habitat, the proposed clearing is not expected to result in a significant impact to this species.

Migratory birds (MI)

Multiple species of migratory birds may be transient visitors to the application area including:

- *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey);
- *Apus pacificus* (Fork-tailed swift);
- *Tringa nebularia* (Common greenshank);
- *Glareola maldivarum* (Oriental pratincole).

Migratory bird species known from records in the local area may utilise the hummock grassland vegetation within the application areas on an opportunistic or transient basis for foraging; however, the application areas are not considered to provide suitable breeding habitat for these species. The vegetation present is likely to support only occasional use by these species, given their highly mobile nature and large home ranges (DBCA, 2021).

The surrounding local area contains extensive areas of comparable foraging habitat. In the absence of suitable breeding habitat within the application areas and noting the broad distribution of these species, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in a significant impact on these migratory bird species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on significant habitat for any conservation listed fauna species. However, the proposed clearing may result in fauna fatalities should they occur within the application area at the time of clearing. Impacts to fauna are not expected to be significant given the small extent of vegetation to be cleared within an extensive local and regional extent and the fact that the clearing areas are concentrated along existing tracks. Conducting clearing in a slow, progressive manner from one direction to the other will allow any fauna present to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

Outcome

To address the above impacts and reduce any potential risks to fauna, the clearing permit contains conditions that require the applicant to undertake the following management measures:

- slow, progressive, one-directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity
- identify, remove (if present), and relocate (if necessary) greater bilby from the application area to an area of suitable habitat

3.2.3. Environmental value: Wetlands – Clearing Principle (f)

The application area is located within the Canning–Kimberley Groundwater Area, as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act)*. All of Area 5 and approximately half of Area 4 are located within the Eighty Mile Beach System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA).

The proposed clearing areas are limited in extent and are not associated with water abstraction or land-use development, other than the ongoing maintenance of access for monitoring purposes. As such, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to increase impacts to groundwater or surface water resources (DWER, 2026). Given the small scale of clearing and the extensive areas of undisturbed vegetation in the surrounding landscape, the proposal is unlikely to result in a significant impact on vegetation associated with the wetland. However, adjacent vegetation may be susceptible to weed invasion or sediment mobilisation during clearing activities if not appropriately managed, which could adversely affect nearby environmental values.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment and the avoidance and mitigation measures proposed (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer has determined that subject to conditions, the proposed clearing is not considered to significantly impact on these environmental values.

Outcome

To mitigate potential impacts from clearing, the following conditions will be added to the permit:

- Weed management measures to mitigate impacts to adjacent wetland vegetation.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on DWER's website, inviting public submissions over a 21-day consultation period. No submissions were received.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use have been considered under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*. As the proposed monitoring bores will be drilled solely for monitoring purposes and will not involve water abstraction, they are exempt from licensing requirements and do not require a section 26D or 5C licence.

The Shire of Broome was consulted by DWER and did not provide any comments on the proposed clearing.

Identified native title holders and claimants were notified and invited to comment on the application in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and section 51E(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Responses received include the following:

- The Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (KTLA) has provided authority to access the area, conditional upon submission of a site visit form at least two weeks prior to the commencement of works.
- Anna Plains Station has confirmed access approval and has no objections to the proposed clearing.
- Kimberley Agriculture & Pastoral Company (KAPCO) has authorised DWER access to the land and the clearing of native vegetation.

No aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application areas. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details																									
Local context	<p>All five areas proposed to be cleared are isolated patches of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. All the sites are adjacent to existing minor public track roads within 200 kilometres of Broome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1 is adjacent to an existing public track road off Stock Yard Road, approximately 0.73 kilometres from Bidadanga. Area 2 is adjacent to Frazier Downs Road and is located near the intersection with an existing public access track. Areas 3,4 and 5 are adjacent to existing public track roads off Great Northern Highway. <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of each area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>																									
Ecological linkage	<p>All areas proposed to be cleared do not intersect any formal mapped ecological linkages. Noting that all areas comprise of a combined 0.303 hectares (each drill pad site is approx. 606 m²) of low to moderate density vegetation in the centre of a larger remnant of contiguous vegetation. It is considered unlikely that the vegetation within the proposed clearing areas are contributing significantly to any formal or informal ecological linkages in the local area.</p>																									
Conservation areas	<p>The application areas do not intersect any conservation areas. The closest mapped conservation areas are outlined below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area ID</th> <th>Nearest conservation area</th> <th>Distance from application area (Km)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Area 1</td> <td>Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park</td> <td>44.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 2</td> <td>Jinmarnkur Conservation Park</td> <td>37.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 3</td> <td>Jinmarnkur Conservation Park</td> <td>8.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 4</td> <td>Jinmarnkur Kulja Nature Reserve</td> <td>3.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 5</td> <td>Jinmarnkur Kulja Nature Reserve</td> <td>10.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area ID	Nearest conservation area	Distance from application area (Km)	Area 1	Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park	44.3	Area 2	Jinmarnkur Conservation Park	37.6	Area 3	Jinmarnkur Conservation Park	8.8	Area 4	Jinmarnkur Kulja Nature Reserve	3.9	Area 5	Jinmarnkur Kulja Nature Reserve	10.5							
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Vegetation description	<p>The application area is situated within the Dampierland IBRA region. Photographs supplied by the applicant were used to assess the consistency of on-ground vegetation with mapped vegetation associations which are summarised below. Representative photographs for these areas are provided in Appendix D.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area ID</th> <th>Mapped Vegetation</th> <th>Mapped Description (Shepherd et al., 2001)</th> <th>Observed Vegetation (from photographs)</th> <th>Consistent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Area 1</td> <td>Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)</td> <td>Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i>, <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i>, <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. bitextura</i>)</td> <td>Scattered low trees, Acacia shrub layer, spinifex ground cover</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 2</td> <td>Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)</td> <td>Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i>, <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i>, <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. bitextura</i>)</td> <td>Scattered low trees, Acacia shrub layer, spinifex ground cover thought heavily impacted by recent fire.</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 3</td> <td>Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)</td> <td>Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i>, <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i>, <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. bitextura</i>)</td> <td>Photograph of access site only. No photograph of site due to overgrown vegetation on access track.</td> <td>Access track vegetation is consistent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 4</td> <td>Mandora Coastal</td> <td>Annual grasses (<i>Enneapogon</i> spp., <i>Aristida</i> spp.) on dry plains and</td> <td>Shrub-dominated vegetation with sparse ground layer</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area ID	Mapped Vegetation	Mapped Description (Shepherd et al., 2001)	Observed Vegetation (from photographs)	Consistent	Area 1	Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)	Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i> , <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Triodia pungens</i> , <i>T. bitextura</i>)	Scattered low trees, Acacia shrub layer, spinifex ground cover	Yes	Area 2	Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)	Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i> , <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Triodia pungens</i> , <i>T. bitextura</i>)	Scattered low trees, Acacia shrub layer, spinifex ground cover thought heavily impacted by recent fire.	Yes	Area 3	Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)	Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i> , <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Triodia pungens</i> , <i>T. bitextura</i>)	Photograph of access site only. No photograph of site due to overgrown vegetation on access track.	Access track vegetation is consistent	Area 4	Mandora Coastal	Annual grasses (<i>Enneapogon</i> spp., <i>Aristida</i> spp.) on dry plains and	Shrub-dominated vegetation with sparse ground layer	No
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Characteristic	Details															
		Plain (VA 73)	saltwater grasses (<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>) on coastal areas													
	Area 5	Dampierland (Vegetation Association 699)	Acacia thicket with scattered low trees over spinifex (<i>Acacia eriopoda</i> , <i>Corymbia dichromophloia</i> , <i>Triodia pungens</i> , <i>T. bitextura</i>)	Scattered Acacia shrubs over sparse spinifex Yes												
	The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 99.76 per cent (vegetation association 73) and 99.93 per cent (vegetation association 699) of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).															
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing areas are in poor to very good (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.</p>															
Climate and landform	<p>LaGrange and Eighty Mile Beach in north-west Western Australia experience a hot tropical to semi-arid climate, with very warm temperatures year-round and rainfall mainly in the summer wet season. Winters are dry, sunny, and slightly cooler.</p> <p>LaGrange (area 1 and 2) has a mean annual maximum temperature is 35.7C and the mean annual minimum temperature is 14.1C. An average of 512mm of rainfall is recorded annually from the Bidyadanga weather station.</p> <p>Eighty Mile Beach (area 3, 4 and 5) has a mean annual maximum temperature is 36.3C and the mean annual minimum temperature is 11.7C. An average of 417mm of rainfall is recorded annually from the Anna Plains weather station.</p>															
Soil description	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area ID</th> <th>Mapped soil type</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Area 1 and 2</td> <td>Yeeda System (113Ye - area 1) (117Ye – area 2)</td> <td>Red sandplains supporting pindan vegetation with dense acacia shrubs, scattered bloodwood and grey box trees and curly spinifex and ribbon grass (DPIRD, 2019).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 3</td> <td>Nita System (117Nt)</td> <td>Sandplains supporting shrubby spinifex grasslands with occasional trees (DPIRD, 2019).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 4 and 5</td> <td>Mannerie System (113Mn)</td> <td>Seepage areas on inland margins of paleo-tidal plains (adjacent to sand plain land systems) supporting melaleuca thickets and halophytic low shrublands (DPIRD, 2019).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Area ID	Mapped soil type	Description	Area 1 and 2	Yeeda System (113Ye - area 1) (117Ye – area 2)	Red sandplains supporting pindan vegetation with dense acacia shrubs, scattered bloodwood and grey box trees and curly spinifex and ribbon grass (DPIRD, 2019).	Area 3	Nita System (117Nt)	Sandplains supporting shrubby spinifex grasslands with occasional trees (DPIRD, 2019).	Area 4 and 5	Mannerie System (113Mn)	Seepage areas on inland margins of paleo-tidal plains (adjacent to sand plain land systems) supporting melaleuca thickets and halophytic low shrublands (DPIRD, 2019).
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Land degradation risk	The application area is characterised by relatively flat topography and comprises areas of sand and sandy loam soils, as well as saline soils (DPIRD, 2019).															
Waterbodies	<p>DWER's desktop assessment and aerial imagery has identified the following mapped water bodies within the application areas:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area ID</th> <th>Waterbodies and wetland descriptions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Area 1</td> <td>Area 1 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies. It is approximately 240 metres from a manmade drain and 800 metres from an intertidal coastal flat.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 2</td> <td>Area 2 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies; it is approximately 3 kilometres from an inundated area and approximately 3.2 kilometres from a nonperennial swamp.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 3</td> <td>Area 3 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies; it is approximately 3.2 kilometres from a minor river and 3.2 kilometres from a nonperennial swamp.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 4</td> <td>Approximately 50 percent of area 4 is located within the Eighty Mile Beach System wetland.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 5</td> <td>Area 5 is located entirely within the Eighty Mile Beach System wetland.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Area ID	Waterbodies and wetland descriptions	Area 1	Area 1 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies. It is approximately 240 metres from a manmade drain and 800 metres from an intertidal coastal flat.	Area 2	Area 2 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies; it is approximately 3 kilometres from an inundated area and approximately 3.2 kilometres from a nonperennial swamp.	Area 3	Area 3 does not intersect any wetlands or waterbodies; it is approximately 3.2 kilometres from a minor river and 3.2 kilometres from a nonperennial swamp.	Area 4	Approximately 50 percent of area 4 is located within the Eighty Mile Beach System wetland.	Area 5	Area 5 is located entirely within the Eighty Mile Beach System wetland.
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Characteristic	Details																		
Hydrogeography	All the proposed clearing areas are within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .																		
Flora	<p>The desktop assessment identified a total of 8 conservation significant flora species that had previously been recorded within the local area. These include one priority one species (P1) and seven Priority three flora species (P3) (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).</p> <p>None of these existing records occur within any of the application areas, with the closest two records being <i>Bonamia oblongifolia</i> (P3) and <i>Polymeria</i> sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) (P3) which were both recorded approximately 2.4 kilometres from application area 1.</p>																		
Ecological communities	<p>No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) are mapped over any application area. The closest mapped TEC/PEC's are outlined below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area ID</th> <th>Mapped vegetation type</th> <th>Distance from application area (km)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Area 1</td> <td>Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 2</td> <td>Vegetation Association 37 (PEC)</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 3</td> <td>Roebuck Land System (PEC)</td> <td>2.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 4</td> <td>Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)</td> <td>3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area 5</td> <td>Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)</td> <td>8.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area ID	Mapped vegetation type	Distance from application area (km)	Area 1	Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)	0.5	Area 2	Vegetation Association 37 (PEC)	1.4	Area 3	Roebuck Land System (PEC)	2.8	Area 4	Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)	3.5	Area 5	Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)	8.4
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Area 5	Eighty Mile Land System (PEC)	8.4																	
Fauna	<p>The desktop assessment identified a total of 64 conservation significant fauna species that have been previously recorded within the local area. These include 53 birds (41 migratory) species, 7 mammals and 4 reptiles.</p> <p>The closest record is an occurrence of Greater Bilby (<i>macrotis lagotis</i>), approximately 0.84 kilometres away from application area 1.</p>																		

A.2. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Yes/No]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i> (Greater bilby)	VU	Yes	0.84	58
<i>Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti</i> (Spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland))	P4	Yes	4.75	5
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Yes – foraging habitat only	4.72	6
<i>Glaucopis marmorata</i> (Oriental pratincole)	MI	Yes – foraging habitat only	0.99	33
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Osprey)	MI	Yes – foraging habitat only	5.43	19
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (Fork-tailed swift)	MI	Yes – foraging habitat only	11.57	5
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Common greenshank)	MI	Yes – foraging habitat only	1.59	203

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The proposed clearing areas are not likely to contain locally or regionally significant flora or assemblages of plants and animals. The application areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been confined to previously disturbed and open areas • provides habitat for conservation significant fauna which has not been deemed significant in the local context • may contain habitat for threatened or priority flora, however not significant habitat; and • does not contain native vegetation which represents a TEC or PEC. 	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna. Noting the extent of native vegetation within the local area relative to the extent of vegetation proposed to be cleared, the application area is not likely to represent significant habitat for these species. The proposed mitigation measures would reduce the risk of any potential impacts on fauna species within the application area.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no records of threatened flora listed under the BC Act within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The proposed clearing area does not contain species representative of a TEC listed under the BC Act or EPBC Act.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type and native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia.</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.		
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Two areas proposed to be cleared are associated with Eighty Mile Beach Wetland System. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the impacts will likely be localised and temporary only. No long-term adverse impacts on the wetland systems are anticipated.</p>	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soil within the application areas contain sandy soils, which have an increased risk of wind erosion. Wind erosion is not expected to be significant given that the application area is bordered by remnant native vegetation. Noting the extent of the application areas the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the small extent of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u></p> <p>The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding or waterlogging.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale



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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Photographs of the Vegetation

Area 1	
	
<p>Facing WNW onto drill pad, taken from 121.7761500°E 18.6759163°S</p>	<p>Facing south showing access track, taken from 121.7763308°E 18.6758003°S</p>
<p>Figure 6. Photographs showing drill pad site (left) and access track (right) for area 1</p>	

Area 2



Facing SE onto drill pad, taken from 121.7638537°E 18.7727359°S



Facing northwest onto drill pad, taken from 121.7639603°E 18.7730184°S

Figure 7. Photographs showing drill pad site for area 2

Area 3 access track only



Facing north from access track, taken from 121.65877° E 19.05065° S

Figure 8. Photograph of the access track; site access was not possible at the time due to overgrown vegetation.

Area 4



Facing south onto drill pad, taken from 121.5475652°E 19.1216236°S



Facing roughly SW onto drill pad, taken from 121.5475652°E 19.1216236°S

Figure 8. Photographs showing drill pad site for area 4

Area 5



Facing SSE onto drill pad, taken from 121.5881270°E 19.1742748°S

Figure 10. Photographs showing drill pad site

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
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