



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	11418/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Penny Operations Pty Ltd
<b>Application received:</b>	13 January 2026
<b>Application area:</b>	350 hectares
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral production and associated activities
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical removal
<b>Tenure:</b>	Mining Leases 57/180 and 57/196 Miscellaneous Licences 57/54 and 57/55
<b>Location (LGA area):</b>	Shire of Sandstone
<b>Colloquial name:</b>	Penny West Project

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Penny Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 350 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,086 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Penny Operations, 2026). The project is located approximately 103 kilometres south-southwest of Sandstone, within the Shire of Sandstone (GIS Database).

This application is to replace the CPS 9048/2, which expired on 13 November 2025 (DMIRS, 2021a; Penny Operations, 2026). A total of 110.5 hectares of clearing was conducted under CPS 9048, across the permit's duration (Ramelius Resources, 2025; 2026).

Clearing permit CPS 9048/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 22 October 2020 and was valid from 14 November 2020 to 13 November 2025 (DMIRS, 2021b). The permit authorised the clearing of up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 878 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (DMIRS, 2021b).

On 27 May 2021, CPS 9048/1 was amended to add Miscellaneous Licences 57/54 and 57/55 to the permit tenure (DMIRS, 2021b). The permit boundary was also increased by 234 hectares to 1,086 hectares (DMIRS, 2021b). The amount of clearing authorised was increased by 100 hectares to 350 hectares for supporting infrastructure to the mining operation (DMIRS, 2021b).

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

<b>Decision:</b>	Grant
<b>Decision date:</b>	19 February 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	350 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 for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation 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) and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section ).

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;
- local impacts to priority flora species, *Hemigenia exilis*;
- the increased risk of fauna injury or mortality;

- the clearing of vegetation associated with a watercourse;
- potential land degradation in the form of erosion; and
- potential reduction of surface water quality, due to increased siltation of watercourses.

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

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- avoid known occurrences of *Hemigenia exilis* with a buffer of ten metres;
- avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and ensure surface water flows are maintained;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

## 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)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

## 3. Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

In order to minimise the impacts of the proposed clearing activities, the following management measures will be implemented:

- induction of staff and contractors on potentially occurring significant flora, fauna, and their associated habitats;
- avoidance of mature trees where possible;
- clearing within ephemeral drainage lines is to be avoided or minimised where possible;
- vehicle hygiene and weed management measures will be implemented to prevent introduction or spread of weeds (Botanica, 2020a).

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

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles 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 line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

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

#### Assessment

##### Flora diversity

The flora survey by Botanica (2020b) recorded a total of 72 flora taxa which consisted of 37 genera across 20 families. The most diverse genera were *Acacia* (13 species), *Eremophila* (eight species) and *Eucalyptus* (four species) (Botanica, 2020b).

Although the Eastern Murchison subregion has a rich species diversity, most species are wide ranging and occur in other subregions (CALM, 2002). Biodiversity hotspots within the subregion are mostly confined to salt lakes and calcrete aquifers (CALM, 2002). As the application area does not contain these habitats and habitats occurring within the application area are widespread in the surrounding area, the application area is unlikely to represent an area of relatively high biodiversity (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b; GIS Database).

##### Weeds

The desktop assessment by Botanica (2020b) indicated there were ten weed species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the survey area, with one listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS):

- *Chenopodium murale* (Nettle-leaf Goosefoot);
- *Euphorbia terracina* (Geraldton Carnation Weed);
- *Rostraria pumila*;
- *Rumex hypogaeus* (Double Gee);
- *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock);
- *Schismus arabicus* (Araby Grass);
- *Verbesina encelioides*;
- *Carrichtera annua* (Ward's Weed);
- *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel-grass); and
- *Lycium ferocissimum* (African Boxthorn) (WoNS).

One weed species was detected within the survey area, being *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock), growing in association with the open pit (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b).

Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone.

##### Priority flora

*Hemigenia exilis*, Priority 4, inhabits lateritic soils on breakaways and slopes (WAH, 1998-). Within the application area, three individuals have been recorded, inhabiting the lower slopes and associated drainage lines of rocky breakaways (Botanica, 2020b). *Hemigenia exilis* is known from 45 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records, with the majority of records occurring within the Eastern Murchison subregion. The records of *Hemigenia exilis* are located approximately 80 kilometres west of the nearest known records, constituting a minor range extension (Botanica, 2020b; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing may result in a significant local impact to *Hemigenia exilis*.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in biodiversity loss due to the introduction or spread of weeds. *Hemigenia exilis* may be significantly impacted, at a local scale, by the proposed clearing.

#### Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- flora management (avoid known occurrences of *Hemigenia exilis* with a buffer of ten metres); and
- avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and ensure surface water flows are maintained.

### 3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

#### Assessment

##### Peregrine falcon

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Other Specially Protected, is a migratory species. Within their global range, peregrine falcons can be found in most habitats, including arid inland areas (Australian Museum, 2019; NWF, n.d.). However, the peregrine falcon requires secure nest sites, usually preferring sheltered cliff faces, to lay its eggs (Australian Museum, 2019). This breeding habitat does not occur within the application area (Botanica, 2020b). This species may use the application area as a wider home range; however the area is not considered critical habitat (Botanica, 2020b).

##### Malleefowl

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, inhabits woodlands and shrublands in arid and semi-arid areas (CALM, n.d.). Suitable habitat occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b). To build their incubator nesting mounds, malleefowl require a sandy substrate, abundant leaf litter and a dense canopy (CALM, n.d.; DCCEEW, 2024). The application area contains habitats which are marginal or unsuitable for malleefowl breeding (Botanica, 2020b). Additionally, no evidence of malleefowl activity was identified during the fauna survey (Botanica, 2020b).

The nearest record of malleefowl is approximately 25 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). It is possible that malleefowl could occasionally utilise habitats in the application area for foraging and dispersal (Botanica, 2020b). As supporting

habitat is widespread in the local area, and breeding habitat does not occur, it is unlikely that the habitat within the application area is critical for malleefowl survival (GIS Database). However, mechanical clearing poses the risk of injury or mortality to malleefowl individuals.

#### **Western pebble-mound mouse**

The western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*), Priority 4, inhabits rocky areas with little to no soil, where vegetation consists of hummock grasslands with an *Acacia* overstory (Burbidge, 2016). This habitat occurs within the application area (Botanica 2020a; 2020b; DPIRD, 2026). Although one record of this species occurs within 50 kilometres of the application area, the western pebble-mound mouse is mainly distributed within the Pilbara, with the next nearest records over 300 kilometres further north (Burbidge, 2016; Firman et al., 2025; GIS Database). Due to the local recording being anomalous, and the application area being outside the known range of this species, it is unlikely that the western pebble-mound mouse occurs within the application area.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in the clearing of critical habitat for conservation significant fauna. Mechanical clearing may put malleefowl at risk of injury or mortality.

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

#### Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

### **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing permit application was advertised on 23 January 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There is one registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance (Place 4451) within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

**End**

## Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 28 January 2026, the applicant reported that no clearing has been conducted during the period 1 July 2025 to 13 November 2025 (Ramelius Resources, 2026).	The information provides context of the site, which was considered throughout assessment.

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is part of the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database).</p> <p>The proposed clearing area contains an existing pit associated with the Penny West Gold Project (GIS Database). The application area is surrounded by mainly gold mining operations (GIS Database).</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover (GIS Database).</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area is not considered a significant ecological linkage. The vegetation immediately surrounding the application area and the majority of the region remains uncleared (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest DBCA legislated conservation area is the Gagarlagu Nature Reserve, located approximately 64 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and</p> <p>485: Hummock grassland with scattered low trees over dwarf shrubs or mixed short grass and spinifex mixed species (<i>Triodia</i> spp.) (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Botanica (2020b) on 22 May 2020, covering an area of 902 hectares within the application area. Botanica (2020a) indicates that the additional areas in the amended CPS 9048/2 permit boundary are consistent with those of the original survey. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VT01a: <i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland;</li> <li>• VT01b: <i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland;</li> <li>• VT02: <i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland;</li> <li>• VT03: <i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland;</li> <li>• VT04: <i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland;</li> <li>• VT05: <i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland;</li> <li>• VT06: <i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland;</li> <li>• Mosaic (VT02-VT04); and</li> <li>• Totally degraded (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b).</li> </ul> <p>Full descriptions, representative photographs and a map of these vegetation associations are available in Appendix E.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2020b) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good to completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Good:</b> 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;</li> <li>• <b>Poor:</b> 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;</li> <li>• <b>Degraded:</b> 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; and</li> <li>• <b>Completely degraded:</b> areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation.</li> </ul> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.</p>

Characteristic	Details												
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the Murchison bioregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station (Yuinmery) recording an average rainfall of approximately 244.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).</p> <p>The application area is mapped at elevations of 470-500 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Land system mapping broadly describes the application area as gently undulating plains and low hills (DPIRD, 2026).</p>												
Soil description	<p>The soils within the application area are mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>System</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Marmion system (279Ma)</td> <td>Gently undulating sandplains with mixed tall shrublands and hummock grasslands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violet system (279Vi)</td> <td>Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiluna system (279Wi)</td> <td>Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Windarra system (279Wn)</td> <td>Gently undulating stony plains and low rises with quartz mantles on granite, supporting acacia-eremophila shrublands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yowie system (279Yo)</td> <td>Sandy plains supporting tall shrublands of mulga and bowgada with patchy wanderrrie grasses</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	System	Description	Marmion system (279Ma)	Gently undulating sandplains with mixed tall shrublands and hummock grasslands	Violet system (279Vi)	Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands	Wiluna system (279Wi)	Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs	Windarra system (279Wn)	Gently undulating stony plains and low rises with quartz mantles on granite, supporting acacia-eremophila shrublands	Yowie system (279Yo)	Sandy plains supporting tall shrublands of mulga and bowgada with patchy wanderrrie grasses
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Land degradation risk	<p>Sands of the Marmion system may become susceptible to wind erosion when hummock grasslands are removed by clearing or fire (Payne et al., 1998).</p> <p>Within the Violet land system abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion over most of this land system, except where the soil surface has been disturbed. In such circumstances, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion. Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion (Pringle, 1994).</p> <p>Narrow drainage tracts in the Wiluna land system are moderately susceptible to water erosion (Payne et al., 1998).</p> <p>Hardpan plains and drainage floors of the Windarra system are mildly susceptible to soil erosion. Elsewhere, soil mantles provide effective protection against erosion (Pringle, 1994).</p> <p>Soils of the Yowie system are not susceptible to erosion (Pringle, 1994).</p>												
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicate that four minor, non-perennial watercourses intersect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).												
Hydrogeography	<p>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Sandstone Water Reserve located approximately 104 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database).</p> <p>The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered brackish (NWGA, 2023; GIS Database).</p>												
Flora	There are records of 11 priority flora within 50 kilometres of the application area, of which one ( <i>Hemigenia exilis</i> ) has been recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b; GIS Database).												
Ecological communities	<p>No significant vegetation, including Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and Priority Ecological Communities (PECs), were identified within the Botanica (2020b) survey area.</p> <p>The nearest recorded PEC is the Yuinmery Calcrete Priority 1 PEC (GIS Database).</p> <p>One TEC occurs in the Murchison bioregion, being the Depot Springs stygofauna community (DFCA, 2025b).</p>												
Fauna	There are records of seven conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The nearest record ( <i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i> ) is located approximately 5.6 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).												
Fauna habitat	<p>The following fauna habitats occur within the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open <i>Acacia</i> shrubland;</li> <li>• Open <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland;</li> <li>• Mosaic: <i>Acacia</i> shrubland and <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland;</li> <li>• Rehabilitated waste dump; and</li> </ul>												

Characteristic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old pit (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b).</li> </ul>

## 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 - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99	293,505	1.04
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	1,317,179	6.62
485	215,964	215,949	~99	25,644	11.87
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Murchison)					
18	12,403,172	12,363,253	~99	45,094	0.36
485	210,081	210,066	~99	25,644	12.21

Government of Western Australia (2019)

## B.3. Flora analysis table

The following priority flora species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b; DPIRD, 2026; Obbens, 2012; Payne et al., 1998; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Hemigenia exilis</i>	P4	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Euryomyrtus recurva</i>	P3	Y	<25	Possible
<i>Baeckea</i> sp. London Bridge (M.E. Trudgen 5393)	P3	Y	<30	Possible
<i>Pterostylis virens</i>	P3	Y	<40	Possible
<i>Millotia falcata</i>	P1	Y	<45	Possible
<i>Eucalyptus educta</i>	P2	Y	<45	Possible
<i>Alyxia tetanifolia</i>	P3	Y	<45	Possible
<i>Stenanthemum patens</i>	P1	Y	<50	Possible
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	Y	<50	Possible
<i>Calandrinia operta</i>	P1	N	<40	Unlikely
<i>Bossiaea eremaea</i>	P3	N	<40	Unlikely

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

## B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019; Birdlife Australia, 2026; Botanica, 2020a; 2020b; Burbidge et al., 1988; Burbidge, 2016; DBCA, 2023; 2025a; DCCEEW, 2024; DPIRD, 2026; Firman et al., 2025; Payne et al., 1998; TSSC, 2015; GIS Database).

Species name		Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common name	Scientific name	WA	EPBC			
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	OS	-	Y	10.7	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Malleefowl	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	VU	VU	Y	24.8	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Western pebble-mound mouse	<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i>	P4	-	Y	32.1	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider	<i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i>	P3	-	N	5.6	Unlikely
Hooded plover	<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	P4	-	N	36.5	Unlikely
Southern marsupial mole	<i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	P4	-	N	48.6	Unlikely
Lesser stick-nest rat	<i>Leporillus apicalis</i>	EX	EX	Y	29.6	Highly unlikely

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

**Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles**

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is unlikely to represent an area of relatively high biodiversity (Botanica, 2020a; 2020b; GIS Database).</p> <p>The proposed clearing may result in the introduction or spread of weeds, which may lower biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Hemigenia exilis</i> (Priority 3) may be significantly impacted, at a local scale, by the proposed clearing.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1 and Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain critical habitat for conservation significant fauna.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no threatened flora have been recorded within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area, the area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any vegetation communities considered to be a TEC within the application area (Botanica, 2020b). Additionally, as the only TEC known from the Murchison bioregion, being the Depot Springs stygofauna community, is located approximately 144 kilometres from the application area, it is considered unlikely to occur (DBCA, 2025b; GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<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 local area has not been extensively cleared (GIS Database). The extent of the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance (approximately 64 kilometres) to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<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>Given four watercourses are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is likely to impact vegetation associated with a watercourse.</p> <p><u>Condition:</u></p> <p>To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and ensure surface water flows are maintained.</li> </ul>	At variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The Marmion land system is susceptible to wind erosion when vegetative material is removed, and the Violet, Wiluna and Windarra land systems are susceptible to water erosion in drainage tracts (Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994).</p> <p>Noting the extent of these systems within the application area, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation (DPIRD, 2026).</p> <p><u>Condition:</u></p> <p>To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and ensure surface water flows are maintained; and</li> <li>a staged clearing condition to minimise erosion.</li> </ul>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>As three land systems within the application area susceptible to water erosion, siltation of watercourses may occur, which may lead to a deterioration of surface water quality (DER, 2014; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994).</p> <p>As the annual evaporation rate greatly exceeds the annual rainfall, groundwater recharge is likely to be minimal (BoM, 2006; 2026; Botanica, 2020a). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration of groundwater quality.</p> <p><u>Condition:</u></p> <p>To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and ensure surface water flows are maintained; and</li> </ul>	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a staged clearing condition to minimise erosion.</li> </ul>		
<p><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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area experiences an arid climate with mainly winter rainfall (CALM, 2002). The annual evaporation rate greatly exceeds the annual rainfall (BoM, 2006; 2026).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Raeside-Ponton catchment area (11,589,500 hectares) (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of up to 350 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to significantly impact on the drainage characteristics of the catchment or increase the potential for flooding within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

#### Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from 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 E. Vegetation associations

The following table is adapted from Botanica (2020a; 2020b).

Vegetation association	Broad floristic formation	Vegetation description	Landform	Representative photograph

VT01a	<i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland	<i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> tall open shrubland; <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> mid-low open shrubland; <i>Triodia rigidissima</i> sparse hummock grassland.	Undulating plains	
VT01b	<i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland	<i>Eucalyptus leptopoda</i> subsp. <i>arctata</i> low open woodland; <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> , <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia rigidissima</i> sparse hummock grassland.	Low rises	
VT02	<i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland	<i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> low open woodland; <i>Acacia erinacea</i> , <i>Eremophila pantonii</i> mid open shrubland; <i>Olearia muelleri</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> low sparse shrubland.	Slight rises	
VT03	<i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland	<i>Acacia burkittii</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila clarkei</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Olearia pimelioides</i> , <i>Prostanthera patens</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> low sparse shrubland.	Undulating plains	

<p>VT04</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus</i> low open woodland</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> (or <i>E. longissima</i>) low open woodland over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>, <i>Acacia burkittii</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> over <i>Eremophila pantonii</i> mid-low open shrubland.</p>	<p>Slight rises, breakaways</p>	
<p>VT05</p>	<p><i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland</p>	<p><i>Acacia ?aptaneura</i> tall open shrubland; <i>Eremophila clarkei</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>, <i>Melaleuca uncinata</i> sens. lat. Mid open shrubland.</p>	<p>Slight rises, breakaways</p>	
<p>VT06</p>	<p><i>Acacia</i> tall open shrubland</p>	<p><i>Acacia jennerae</i> and <i>Acacia ligulata</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> and <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> open shrubland over <i>Triodia</i> sp. and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i> low sparse shrubland/hummock grassland.</p>	<p>Drainage channel</p>	
<p>Mosaic</p>	<p>VT02-VT04</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Macro-channels, outwash plains</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Totally degraded</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Mining activities</p>	



Figure 1. Map of vegetation associations within the application area (Botanica, 2020a).

## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- 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)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)

- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Soil Sites (DPIRD-071)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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## Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEMIRS</b>	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)

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

### Definitions:

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

#### Threatened species

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

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

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

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

#### **CR Critically endangered species**

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

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

#### **EN Endangered species**

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

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

#### **VU Vulnerable species**

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

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

#### Extinct species

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

#### **EX Extinct species**

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

**EW Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

**Specially protected species**

**SP Specially protected species**

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

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

**MI Migratory species**

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

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

**CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

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

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

**OS Other specially protected species**

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

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

**Priority species**

**P Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.