



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11454/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	GMA Garnet Pty Ltd
Application received:	5 February 2026
Application area:	13.46 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral exploration, construction of a pit, stockpile areas and track maintenance
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 70/204, 70/259 and 70/1380 Prospecting Licence 70/1669
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Northampton
Colloquial name:	Lynton Mine

1.2. Description of clearing activities

GMA Garnet Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 13.46 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 13.46 hectares, for the purpose of mining related infrastructure (GMA, 2026). The project is located approximately 1.4 kilometres north-west of Lynton and 1.6 kilometres east of Gregory, within the Shire of Northampton (GIS Database).

The application area is proposed to be cleared to facilitate construction of 22 drill lines, ranging in length from approximately 90 to 740 metres (m), and 12 m in width. In addition, the clearing will facilitate the construction of a trial pit and stockpile area, expansion of an existing stockpile area, as well as maintenance of an existing track to improve safety, including the construction of three passing bays (Emerge Associates, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	23 June 2026
Decision area:	13.46 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2019; 2020; 2022; 2023, Emerge Associates, 2025), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The 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;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is a significant remnant of native vegetation; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within 12 months of clearing to ensure habitat is not permanently lost

1.5. Site map

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

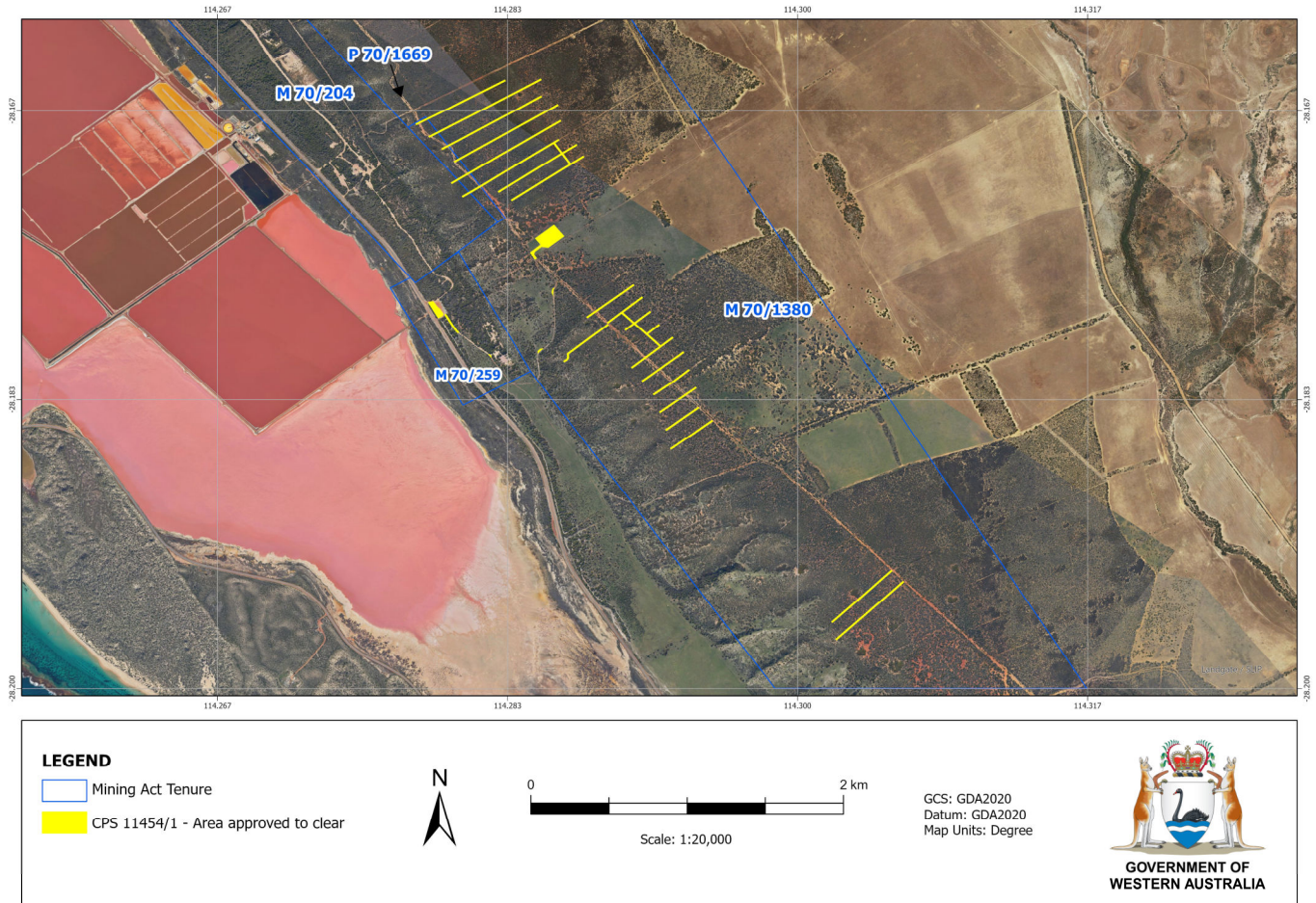


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that avoidance and mitigation measures such as the following will be implemented (Emerge Associates, 2026):

- The use of existing tracks has been utilised as much as possible to minimise the total extent of clearing required. The minimum safe working widths have been used for tracks, and the minimum safe working size of drill pads have been used to keep the total clearing footprint as small as possible.
- Where possible, the clearing for the drill lines will only require a 5 metre wide corridor instead of the 12 metre wide alignment that has been applied for through this application.
- The stockpiling of topsoil and vegetation is to occur for use during rehabilitation with weeds segregated and quarantined from stockpiles.
- Standard weed hygiene is to be undertaken on vehicles and mobile equipment to reduce the risk of spreading weeds.
- All wastes are to be securely contained and removed from the application area.
- The rehabilitation of the drill lines is proposed upon completion of the drilling program.
- Rehabilitation of the application area includes the following:
 - Remove all drilling equipment and mobile plant including sample bags and rubbish.
 - Cut and fill drill pads and access tracks are required to be re-profiled back into the natural hillside/terrain, to create a long term safe and stable landform.
 - Replace stockpiled topsoil evenly distributing across the application area.
 - Evenly distribute weed free stockpiled vegetation and where required seed with suitable local native flora species.

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, flora and vegetation) and land resources. 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 Principles (a) and (c)

Assessment

Flora and vegetation surveys within the broader area recorded one threatened and three priority flora species (GHD, 2019; 2020; 2022; 2023; Emerge Associates, 2025). Three priority flora species that were recorded within the broader survey area occur within the application area (GHD, 2019; 2020).

Anthocercis intricata is a Priority 3 flora species that grows in sand or loam over limestone on consolidated sand dunes (WAH, 1998-). It has been recorded from 35 locations within the Western Australian Herbarium across four bioregions (WAH, 1998-). Of the 541 individuals from 70 locations that were recorded within the broader survey area, 12 individuals were recorded within the application area (GHD, 2019). The proposed clearing of 12 individuals is not considered to impact on these species as it was widely spread in sandy soils within the survey area, including in areas of past disturbance (i.e. tracks).

Melaleuca huttensis is a Priority 3 flora species that grows in light yellow beige sand on lower slopes of undulating plains or sandplains (WAH, 1998-). This species has been recorded from 18 locations within the West Australian Herbarium and has only been recorded within the Geraldton Sandplains (WAH, 1998-). GHD installed 240 temporary 10 x 10 metre quadrats along transects within vegetation types 4 and 5 to extrapolate the size of the whole population of *Melaleuca huttensis*. GHD estimates that the population size of this species ranges from 28,860 to 1,587,300 plants within vegetation types 4 and 5 (288.6 hectares). The species was also recorded from a number of locations outside vegetation types 4 and 5 (population extent) and in previously disturbed areas (i.e. drill lines). GMA Garnet Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 80 individuals of this species which would not be considered significant at a local or regional level as there are records within the surrounding areas.

Diuris recurva is a Priority 4 flora species that grows in loam in winter-wet areas and has been recorded across the Avon Wheatbelt, Geraldton Sandplains and Jarrah Forest Bioregion from 38 locations (WAH, 1998). GHD (2019) recorded 186 individuals of this species within the broader survey area; of these, one individual was recorded within the application area. The clearing of one individual is not considered likely to result in significant impacts to the species at a local or regional scale, as there are records and suitable habitat in nearby areas and surrounding bioregions.

GHD (2022; 2023) and Emerge Associates (2025) have undertaken targeted searches for Threatened flora species *Caladenia bryceana* subsp. *cracens*. A total of 200 individuals have been recorded in the broader survey area (GHD 2022; 2023; Emerge Associates 2024; 2025). No individuals have been recorded within the application area, with the closest individual located approximately 70 metres west of the proposed drill lines. Within the broader area, the species has a specific habitat presence for extremely shallow beige sands over limestone with medium size shrubs (GHD 2019), which is not present within the application area. However, surveys showed that this species was recorded within *Melaleuca cardiophylla* shrubland to open shrubland (VT06) and extending into *Allocasuarina* thicket (VT02) that was previously mapped by GHD, therefore 0.18 hectares of suitable habitat for this species will be impacted, which is not considered significant.

Eighteen species of weeds were recorded during the greater survey area of the application area and surrounding areas (GHD, 2019; 2020). None were listed as a Declared Pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (GHD, 2019; 2020).

Conclusion

The proposed clearing is not likely to have significant impact on conservation significant flora, however there is potential for weeds to out-compete native flora and reduce the biodiversity of the area.

Conditions

Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the introduction of weeds may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management and the avoid and mitigate condition.

3.2.2 Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principle (b)

There are a number of conservation significant fauna species which have been recorded in the local area (20 kilometre radius) (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). The majority of these records are migratory shorebirds which are likely to utilise nearby Hutt Lagoon and coastal areas. Based on the habitat present, the application area is not likely to be suitable for these species. Several species such as Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Little Curlew (*Numenius minutus*), Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) are likely to pass through the application area as part of a larger home range; however, the vegetation is not likely to represent significant habitat. Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) has been recorded in the local area, however, there is no suitable breeding, roosting, or foraging habitat present within the application area (GHD, 2020).

The Geraldton Sandplain shield-backed trapdoor spider (*Idiosoma arenaceum*) has been recorded in the local area from similar habitat to that of the application area (GIS Database). This species has a moderately widespread distribution within the Geraldton Sandplains and far northern Wheatbelt bioregions with a range of over 250 kilometres (Rix et al., 2018; GIS Database). No burrows have been observed within the application area (GHD, 2020). While the proposed clearing may remove potential habitat for this species, it is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

The Tammar Wallaby (*Notamacropus eugenii derbianus*) has been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). These records (identified in 1960s – 1970s) represent the historical distribution of this species as it is currently known to inhabit three islands in the Houtman Abrolhos group, Garden Island near Perth, Middle and North Twin Peak Islands in the Archipelago of the Recherche (DEC, 2012b). They are also known from at least nine sites on the mainland — including, Dryandra, Boyagin, Tutanning, Batalling (reintroduced), Perup, private property near Pingelly, Jaloran Road timber reserve near Wagin, Hopetoun, Stirling Range National Park, and Fitzgerald River National Park (DEC, 2012b). Given this species was not recorded within the application area or the surrounding areas and suitable habitat is present within the bioregion, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to impact this species.

The graceful sun-moth (*Synemon gratiosa*) (Priority 4) is known to occur in disjunct populations from Kalbarri to Binningup (GIS Database). This species has been recorded within five kilometres of the application area and the suitable host plant, *Lomandra maritima*, was identified within the Survey Area (GIS Database). The larvae of the species, which was not identified during the fauna survey, feed only on *Lomandra hermaphrodita* and *Lomandra maritima* (DEC, 2012a). The proposed clearing is not considered likely to significantly impact this species at a local or regional level as the species was not identified during the fauna survey and suitable habitat is abundant in the surrounding bioregion (GIS Database).

An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was observed nesting in a dead Acacia tree in vegetation outside of the application area between the old dune pit and pit expansion areas (GHD, 2020). As this species is piscivorous and the vegetation within the application area is not used for foraging, the application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for this species. The Permit Holder identified the Osprey nest, excised it from the application area and committed to restricting disturbances with a buffer within 100 metres of the nest.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the application area does not provide significant fauna habitat for conservation significant fauna species.

Conditions

Potential impacts to fauna as a result of the clearing may be managed by implementing the slow directional clearing condition to allow fauna to move into the adjacent environment ahead of the clearing.

3.2.3 Significant remnant vegetation / Land degradation - Clearing Principles (e) and (g)

Assessment

Remnant vegetation

The application area falls within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 44% of the pre-European vegetation extent still remains in the IBRA Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019), which gives it a conservation status of 'Depleted' according to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) (2002). The local area (10 kilometres radius) has been extensively cleared for agricultural purposes.

The application area is located within three regional vegetation associations, the Greenough 17, 371 and 387 associations (GIS Database). Both Greenough 17 and 387 associations have greater than 40% of the pre-European extents remaining, which meets the 30% retention target (DNRE, 2002). While the Greenough 371 association has 10.67% of its pre-European extent remaining, the vegetation within the application area is not considered to be represent this association (GHD, 2019; 2020). The vegetation types VT01 and VT02 generally align with BVA 17, where VT01 contains mostly wooded areas (Low forest), and VT02 contains Melaleuca shrublands (thicket) (GHD, 2020). VT03 does not align with BVA 371, which is likely, considering the small size of the vegetation type (GHD, 2020). However, VT03 does align with association 125 (Salt lake, lagoon, clay pan) (Beard 1975) that describes the Hutt Lagoon (GHD, 2020).

Ecological linkage

The application area forms part of an ecological linkage running north-west to south-east, with Hutt Lagoon to the west and large areas of cleared farmland to the east (GIS Database). This linkage is likely to be significant for fauna species in the local area. The application area does not contain any significant habitat features (such as caves, hollows, or water sources) (GHD, 2020). The proposed clearing does not completely sever this ecological linkage, however, it would restrict this corridor and potentially local faunal dispersal. While the vegetation is likely to contribute to an ecological linkage, is not likely to support a high level of faunal diversity given the impacts from weeds and feral grazers.

Land degradation

Water erosion may occur in cleared areas due primarily to the land slope (DPIRD, 2021). However, rainfall events that generate significant run-off are infrequent and the surface flow is generally very localised (DPIRD, 2021). There is the risk of wind erosion from the proposed clearing due to the loose sandy nature of the soils and when cleared, these soils have the potential to mobilise under strong prevailing winds (DPIRD, 2021).

Conclusion

Remnant vegetation and Ecological linkage

Further clearing of the remnant may contribute to the continued decline in its condition. Monitoring of previously rehabilitated areas has shown that the vegetation has the potential to return to a relatively similar composition and condition of the vegetation within the remnant (Emerge Associates, 2024; GHD, 2019; GMA, 2026). If cleared areas are rehabilitated in a timely manner, the long-term impacts of the clearing may be mitigated.

Land degradation

The risk of wind erosion may impact on neighbouring and surrounding vegetation and properties. Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the reduction of vegetation within an ecological linkage. This may have an impact the ability for some fauna to move through the landscape.

Conditions

GMA has internal protocols to manage risks associated with dust and include such measures as listed in Section 3.1. In addition to this, to address the above impacts, the permit holder must retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within 12 months of clearing to ensure habitat is not permanently lost.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 8 May 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2020/001) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Yamatji). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993*, and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is located within the Geraldton Hills subregion of the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is part of a remnant patch of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by areas of cleared agricultural land and also some adjacent areas of garnet mining (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	The majority of the area to the east of the broader application area has been cleared for agriculture (GIS Database). The application area is located within a relatively intact band of vegetation along the eastern edge of Hutt Lagoon that can function as an ecological linkage for fauna species moving through the landscape (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The closest conservation area is the Utcha Well Nature Reserve which is located approximately 11 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: • 17: Shrublands; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> thicket; • 371: Low forest; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i>; and • 387: Shrublands; <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> thicket (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the broader application area and surrounding areas by GHD between July and August in 2019 and December 2019. The following vegetation associations was recorded within the application area (GHD, 2019; 2020): VT01 - <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> open woodland to woodland (0.4 hectares) <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> open woodland to woodland over <i>Rhagodia preissii</i> subsp. <i>obovata</i>, <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> subsp. <i>microcephala</i>, <i>Olearia</i> sp. Kennedy Range (G. Byrne 66) and <i>Stylobasium spathulatum</i> open shrubland over <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i> and <i>*Ehrharta longiflora</i> open grassland to grassland. Other common species include <i>Alyogyne hakeifolia</i>, <i>Roepera fruticulosa</i>, <i>Commicarpus australis</i> and <i>Euphorbia boophthona</i>. Occurs over lower and middle slopes on brown to orange sands. VT03 – <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> Low Woodland (1 hectare) Tall open scrub to low open woodland of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> with scattered <i>Pittosporum ligustrifolium</i> over <i>Pimelea microcephala</i>, <i>Olearia</i> sp. Kennedy Range and <i>Stylobasium spathulatum</i> tall to medium shrubs over low shrubs of <i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> with isolated <i>Commicarpus australis</i> on upper middle slopes on brown to orange sands. VT04 – <i>Melaleuca huttensis</i> and <i>Grevillea argyrophylla</i> heath (0.44 hectares) Tall heath to heath of <i>Melaleuca huttensis</i> with scattered emergent <i>Grevillea argyrophylla</i> over mixed low shrubs of <i>Olearia</i> sp. Kennedy Range and <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> over a sedgeland of <i>Ecdeiocolea monostachya</i> with <i>Desmocladius asper</i> and <i>Conostylis stylidioides</i>. VT05 – <i>Melaleuca huttensis</i> and <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> shrubland (7.26 hectares) Very open scrub of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> with tall shrubs of <i>Grevillea argyrophylla</i> and <i>Anthocercis intricata</i> over shrubs of <i>Melaleuca huttensis</i> over scattered sedges of <i>Ecdeiocolea monostachya</i> and <i>Desmocladius asper</i> on pale sands on mid slopes. VT06 – <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> heath (0.18 hectares) Dense heath to scrub of <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> with <i>M. leuropoma</i> with scattered <i>Grevillea argyrophylla</i> over <i>Acacia spathulata</i> over <i>Ricinocarpus muricatus</i> and <i>Cryptandra mutila</i> with scattered <i>Desmocladius asper</i>, and <i>Conostylis stylidioides</i> with herbs on limestone outcrops. VT07 – Mallee with <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> on limestone (0.25 hectares) Mixed Mallee of dominated by <i>Eucalyptus oraria</i> and <i>E. dolichocera</i> on limestone with scattered tall shrubs of <i>Pittosporum ligustrifolium</i> over closed heathland of <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i>, <i>M. leuropoma</i> and <i>Grevillea argyrophylla</i> over diverse low shrubs of <i>Acacia spathulata</i> over <i>Ricinocarpus muricatus</i> and <i>Cryptandra mutila</i> with scattered <i>Desmocladius asper</i> over mixed herbs on limestone outcrops. Areas dominated by Mallee have a grassy/weedy understorey with <i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> and <i>Rhagodia latifolia</i>. VT08 – Cleared and Degraded (3.3 hectares) Cleared and or Degraded areas, including existing tracks and infrastructure and cleared area. *denotes weed species
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (GHD, 2020) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in excellent to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Characteristic	Details
	The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in a winter dominant area with a marked wet winter and dry summer with an annual average rainfall of 341.4 millimetres (BoM, 2026).
Soil description	The application area is located in the Grey System, Tamala North 2 subsystem and Tamala North 4 subsystem: • Grey system: River beds, terraces and alluvial flats, includes dissected margins of relic alluvial plains; • Tamala North 2 subsystem: Low hills with relict dunes and some limestone outcrop. Forms a coastal band 3 to 7 kilometres wide; and • Tamala North 4 subsystem: Low hills with relict dunes and some limestone outcrop. Forms a coastal band 3 to 7 km wide (DPIRD, 2026).
Land degradation risk	The application area is located in the Tamala North System which is moderately susceptible to water and wind erosion (DPIRD, 2025). Water erosion has the potential to occur in cleared areas due primarily to the land slope (DPIRD, 2021). There is the risk of wind erosion from the proposed clearing due to the loose sandy nature of the soils and when cleared, these soils have the potential to mobilise under strong prevailing winds (DPIRD, 2021).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). The field survey did not record any drainage lines or vegetation associated with drainage lines (Emerge Associates, 2026; GHD, 2020).
Hydrogeography	The mapped groundwater salinity is 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish water quality (GIS Database).
Flora	The flora and vegetation surveys undertaken within the application area and surrounding areas recorded one Threatened and three Priority flora species (Emerge Associates, 2026). The following Priority flora species were recorded within the application area: • <i>Anthocercis intricata</i> (Priority 3); • <i>Diuris recurva</i> (Priority 4); and • <i>Melaleuca huttensis</i> (Priority 3).
Ecological communities	The application area is not located within any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no records of conservation significant fauna species located within the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Four fauna habitats were identified within the application area: • Acacia woodland (0.4 hectares); • Low Melaleuca thicket on shallow limestone (0.18 hectares); • Mallee over low shrubland on shallow limestone (0.25 hectares); and • Mixed shrubland with <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> (8.76 hectares) (GHD, 2019). Other areas were mapped as 'cleared' which were previously cleared and contained little or no native vegetation. The cleared areas comprise approximately 3.3 hectares (GHD, 2019).

A.2. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (GHD, 2020; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
<i>Acacia latipes subsp. licina</i>	P3	Y	<5	21
<i>Acacia pelophila</i>	P1	N	<5	9
<i>Acacia ridleyana</i>	P3	N	<10	28
<i>Anthocercis intricata</i>	P3	Y	0	35

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
<i>Balladonia aervoides</i>	P3	Y	<5	16
<i>Beyeria cinerea</i> subsp. <i>cinerea</i>	P3	N	<10	56
<i>Blackallia nudiflora</i>	P3	N	<5	24
<i>Caladenia bryceana</i> subsp. <i>cracens</i>	T	Y	<0.1	10
<i>Caladenia elegans</i>	T	N	<10	16
<i>Caladenia hoffmanii</i>	T	N	<10	17
<i>Calectasia browneana</i>	P2	N	<10	11
<i>Calytrix harvestiana</i>	P2	Y	<5	32
<i>Calytrix pimeleoides</i>	P3	N	<10	19
<i>Chamelaucium</i> sp. Coolcalalaya (A.H. Burbidge 4233)	P1	N	<10	19
<i>Corynotheca acanthoclada</i>	P1	N	<10	6
<i>Diuris drummondii</i>	T	N	<10	56
<i>Diuris recurva</i>	P4	Y	0	38
<i>Drakaea concolor</i>	T	N	<5	7
<i>Eremophila microtheca</i>	P4	N	<5	9
<i>Eucalyptus blaxellii</i>	P4	N	<10	119
<i>Frankenia confusa</i>	P4	N	<5	29
<i>Gastrolobium propinquum</i>	P3	N	<10	33
<i>Grevillea triloba</i>	P3	Y	<5	59
<i>Guichenotia quasicalva</i>	P2	N	<5	21
<i>Hemigenia pimeleifolia</i>	P2	Y	<5	4
<i>Lasiopetalum oldfieldii</i>	P3	Y	<5	25
<i>Leucopogon</i> sp. Port Gregory (C. Page 33)	P1	N	<10	14
<i>Liparophyllum congestiflorum</i>	P4	N	<5	21
<i>Melaleuca huttensis</i>	P3	Y	0	18
<i>Ozothamnus vespertinus</i>	P1	N	<10	6
<i>Prostanthera scutata</i>	P2	N	<5	12
<i>Pterostylis sinuata</i>	T	N	<10	6
<i>Ptilotus chortophytus</i>	P1	N	<5	7
<i>Scaevola kallophylla</i>	P4	Y	<5	13
<i>Scaevola oldfieldii</i>	P3	N	<5	21
<i>Stachystemon nematophorus</i>	P4	N	<10	14
<i>Styphelia cernua</i>	P2	N	<10	8
<i>Teucrium</i> sp. Hutt River (W.H. Butler 54)	P1	N	<5	1
<i>Trithuria australis</i>	P4	N	<5	19
<i>Verticordia densiflora</i> var. <i>roseostella</i>	P3	N	<10	46
<i>Wurmbea tubulosa</i>	T	N	<10	20
<i>Xanthoparmelia xanthomelanoides</i>	P2	N	<5	7

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

A.3. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GHD, 2020; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Common Name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	MI	<5	N
<i>Anous stolidus</i>	common noddy	MI	<5	N
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	MI	<5	Y
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris alba</i>	sanderling	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	red knot	EN	<5	N
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	CR	<5	N
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	pectoral sandpiper	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	ruff	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	long-toed stint	MI	<5	N
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	CR	<5	N
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	greater sand plover, large sand plover	VU	<5	N
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	EN	<5	N
<i>Dasyurus geoffroyi</i>	chuditch, western quoll	VU	<20	N
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS	<5	Y
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	gull-billed tern	MI	<5	N
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	MI	<5	N
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	MI	<5	N
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit	MI	<5	N
<i>Neopasiphae simplicior</i>	a short-tongued bee	EN	<5	N
<i>Notamacropus eugenii derbianus</i>	tammar wallaby	P4	<10	Y
<i>Numenius minutus</i>	little curlew	MI	<5	Y
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	MI	<5	N
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	MI	<5	Y
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	red-necked phalarope	MI	<5	N
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific golden plover	MI	<5	N
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	grey plover	MI	<5	N
<i>Synemon gratiosa</i>	graceful sunmoth	P4	<5	Y
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	crested tern	MI	<5	N
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	grey-tailed tattler	P4 & MI	<5	N
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	wood sandpiper	MI	<5	N
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	MI	<5	N
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	MI	<5	N
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek sandpiper	MI	<5	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority; OS: other specially protected

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." <u>Assessment:</u>	May be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared contains three priority flora species and six native vegetation units ranging from 'very good – excellent' to 'degraded' (Emerge Associates, 2024). Several species of weeds were recorded during the greater field survey of the application area and surrounding areas (GHD, 2019, 2020). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a weed management condition.		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area may contain suitable habitat for conservation significant species.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> There were no records of Threatened flora species within the application area (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). Targeted surveys for <i>Caladenia bryceana</i> subsp. <i>cracens</i> identified several individuals within the surrounding area (GHD 2022; 2023, Emerge Associates, 2025).	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known or mapped Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (GHD, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The local area has been extensively cleared and the vegetation within the application area forms part of an intact band of vegetation that runs along the eastern edge of Hutt Lagoon. The vegetation has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 371 which has approximately 11% of its pre-European extent remaining however, the vegetation is not considered to be representative of this vegetation association (GHD, 2020; Government of Western Australia, 2019; GIS Database).	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the application area. The nearest DBCA managed land is the Utcha Well Nature Reserve which is located approximately seven kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). Minor non-perennial watercourses and surface flow lines can be seen adjacent to the application area (GIS Database), however the field survey did not record any drainage lines or vegetation associated with drainage lines (GHD, 2020).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (g):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation." <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils are susceptible to wind erosion when cleared (DPRID, 2021). The application area also has potential for water erosion due to the slope of land (DPIRD, 2021).	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (i):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water." <u>Assessment:</u> There are no watercourses within the application area, and the flora survey of the area did not identify any vegetation as riparian (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). The nearest waterbody is Hutt Lagoon located approximately 250 metres west of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located on a slope which can cause localised areas of erosion however, the risk of water erosion in the area is low (DPIRD, 2021). The proposed clearing is not likely to cause sediment runoff into the nearby Hutt Lagoon.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located on a slope, and any removal of vegetation has the potential to increase the velocity of water runoff following rainfall events. Based on the soils present the proposed clearing has a low risk of increasing the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events (DPIRD, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo Baudin's Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Forest Red Tail Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Carnaby's Distribution
- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

D.2. References

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- Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl> (Accessed 2 June 2026).
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- Emerge Associates (2025) *Caladenia Bryceana* subsp. *Cracens* Targeted Flora Survey 2024 – Lynton Mine, Yallabatharra. Report prepared for GMA Garnet Pty Ltd by Emerge Associates, February 2025.
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- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf
- GHD (2019) Poty Gegory Mine M70/1380 Biological Survey. Report prepared by GHD for GMA Garnet Pty Ltd, November 2019.
- GHD (2020) Lynton Mine Expansion Biological Survey. Report prepared for GMA Garnet Pty Ltd by GHD Pty Ltd, February 2020.
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- GHD (2023) Orchid Habitat and Target Survey. Report prepared for GMA Garnet Pty Ltd by GHD Pty Ltd, January 2023.
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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species**SP Specially protected species**

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species**P Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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