



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11489/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Everest Metals Corporation Ltd
Application received:	5 March 2026
Application area:	64.58 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 77/515
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Yilgarn
Colloquial name:	Mt Dimer Taipan Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Everest Metals Corporation Ltd proposes to clear up to 64.58 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 100.7 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Everest, 2026). The project is located approximately 90 kilometres in a north easterly direction from Koolyanobbing, within the Yilgarn Shire (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the expansion of mining activities within this area (Everest, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	3 September 2026
Decision area:	64.58 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, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (A.1), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures, relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.2).

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 the buffer of the Finnerty Range/Mt Dimer/Yendilberin Hills BIF priority ecological community (PEC);
- impacts to vegetation associated with a watercourse;
- the loss of malleefowl foraging habitat;
- increased risk of terrestrial fauna injury or mortality from mechanical clearing;
- the potential impact to *Idiosoma* spp.;
- the loss of habitat potentially critical for arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB); and
- the loss of potential southern whiteface breeding habitat.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be 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;

- maintain surface water flow and avoid riparian vegetation where practicable;
- a restricted clearing condition at the locations of Priority flora and areas of the PEC 1 buffer;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity;
- pre clearance surveys to identify *Idiosoma castellum* (tree-stem trapdoor spider) and *Idiosoma intermedium* (Coolgardie shield-backed trapdoor spider) individuals, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified burrows;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 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

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.

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that following avoidance and mitigation measures have been implemented:

- two large areas will be protected as it contains priority flora as identified during the latest flora survey;
- all trucks will be cleared of vegetation matter (seeds etc) before entering the mining lease;
- no impact to drainage lines is planned;
- erosion management will be put into place;
- annual monitoring, reporting and removal of invasive weeds will be carried out; and
- no Priority flora will be cleared (Everest, 2026).

3.1. 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 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.

3.1.1. Biological values (flora and fauna) - Clearing principles (a & b)

Assessment

Flora

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Plantecology Consulting in April 2024 and by ResourcesWA in November 2025. A total of 144 species were recorded from 81 genera and 43 families (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025). Surveys identified three priority flora species within the application area:

- *Austrostipa everettiana* (P1) (one individual);
- *Eucalyptus formanii* subsp. *circulata* (P4) (11 individuals); and
- *Lepidosperma lyonsii* (P1) (24 individuals within the application area, and an additional 61 individuals were observed outside the permit boundary (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025).

Everest Metals Corporation Ltd has committed to avoiding all Priority flora identified within the application area, including an additional buffer area around the population (Everest, 2026).

The application area intersects with the buffer of the Finnerty Range/Mt Dimer/Yendilberin Hills BIF, which is a Priority 1 Ecological Community (GIS Database). The observation of *Lepidosperma lyonsii*, a P1 species closely associated with BIFs, in the north-east corner of the application area is an indication of the proximity to the Ecological Community (ResourcesWA, 2025). The Priority Ecological Community encompasses species that occur on the banded ironstone outcrops, and these species were not observed within the application area (ResourcesWA, 2025). However, the presence of the observed Priority 1 flora species and associated vegetation suggests that this area may form part of the wider banded ironstone vegetation complex. The vegetation on the lower slopes of the BIF grades into the ecological communities on the BIF itself, and buffers play an important role in protecting PEC's.

Five weed species were observed during the survey. Three weed species, *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock) (504 individuals), *Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sow Thistle) (six individuals) and *Centaurea melitensis* (Maltese Cockspur) (215 individuals), were observed only in disturbed areas (ResourcesWA, 2025). The other two, *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* (Slender Iceplant) (1006 individuals) and *Aira cupaniana* (Silvery Hairgrass) (one individual) were present in native vegetation (ResourcesWA, 2025). It is likely that there are higher numbers in further locations in the application area (ResourcesWA, 2025).

Fauna

A fauna survey of the application area was conducted by AEMCO over conducted over 7 survey days between 1 and 9 April 2024 (AEMCO, 2024). A total of 12 bird species, four reptile species, two frog species, four mammal species and various invertebrates were identified within the application area (AEMCO, 2024). The application area lies within a very large undisturbed landscape and has no obvious restrictions to landscape permeability. The few mining developments in the area occupy a small overall footprint at this stage. No conservation significant fauna was identified during the fauna survey (AEMCO, 2024).

Various invertebrate and subterranean fauna were recorded within the application area. Evidence of trapdoor spider activity was observed; however, recent flooding and elevated soil moisture levels appeared to have rendered all observed burrows inactive at the time of the survey (AEMCO, 2024). Flooding can temporarily affect the detectability and surface activity of burrowing invertebrates, resulting in reduced evidence of occupancy despite the potential continued presence of individuals within the area (AEMCO, 2024).

The survey area may still provide suitable habitat for conservation-significant trapdoor spider species, including *Idiosoma castellum* (tree-stem trapdoor spider) and *Idiosoma intermedium* (Coolgardie shield-backed trapdoor spider). These species construct cryptic burrows in stable soils and are often associated with intact woodland and shrubland habitats containing suitable ground cover, leaf litter, and soil characteristics (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Although no active burrows attributable to these species were confirmed during the survey, their presence cannot be ruled out due to the availability of potentially suitable habitat and the likelihood that recent flooding events reduced surface activity and obscured evidence of occupancy.

The fauna survey also identified the *Camponotus* Sugar Ant, which is recognised as an obligate association species for the Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly (ABAB). No targeted surveys for the ABAB were undertaken as part of the assessment and suitable habitat for the species may be present within the application area where mature smooth-barked eucalypts occur. Potential host trees include salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus capillosa* subsp. *wandoo*), smooth-barked York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia*), and ribbon-barked mallee (*Eucalyptus sheathiana*) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The presence of suitable host ant colonies is considered a critical habitat requirement for the species. Four vegetation associations identified within the application area, EIIW, EII-D, EsEtTOW and EtW; have confirmed the presence of suitable habitat features, it is recommended that targeted surveys for the ABAB be undertaken prior to the clearing of any mature trees to determine whether the species is present and to inform appropriate management measures.

The Malleefowl, recorded within five kilometres of the application area, is a threatened species listed as a Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). AEMCO (2024) did not find any active mounds within or in close proximity to the application area. However, suitable habitat is present and the application area lies within the distribution of this species. Therefore, it is possible that an active Malleefowl mound could occur within or in close proximity to the application area when clearing occurs. Potential impacts to Malleefowl as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a Malleefowl management condition.

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), Vulnerable, occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). As suitable habitat occurs within the application area, and the application area is within the species' distribution, southern whiteface may occur within the application area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Habitat used for breeding is considered critical for southern whiteface conservation, and should not be cleared (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Southern whiteface constructs large bulky domed-shaped nests made from grass, bark and roots within hollows or crevices in trees, and low bushes (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). As potentially suitable breeding habitat occurs within the application area, the proposed clearing could impact southern whiteface if active nests are present during clearing activities.

Although the fauna survey did not identify any conservation significant species, in addition to the aforementioned species, a further five conservation significant species are considered likely to occur within the application area, due to suitable foraging habitat. The five conservation significant fauna species are:

- Gilled slender blue-tongue (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*);
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*)
- Western mouse (*Pseudomys occidentalis*)

Whilst these species may opportunistically utilise the application area for foraging and/or breeding, they are unlikely to be dependent on the area, given the availability of similar and better quality habitat in the immediate surrounds.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in a partial loss of the buffer currently providing protection to the Priority 1 Ecological Community, impacts to Priority flora, the loss of malleefowl habitat, increased risk to terrestrial fauna injury or mortality from mechanical clearing, the loss of habitat potentially critical for ABAB, and loss of southern whiteface breeding habitat.

Conditions

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

- a restricted clearing condition at the locations of Priority flora and within areas of the PEC 1 buffer;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity;
- pre clearance surveys to identify *Idiosoma castellum* (tree-stem trapdoor spider) and *Idiosoma intermedium* (Coolgardie shield-backed trapdoor spider) individuals, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified burrows;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

3.2. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 5 June 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 over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl, arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) and southern whiteface, 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. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is in the Coolgardie Bioregion (GIS Database) and is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia.
Ecological linkage	There are no formal ecological linkages within the application area (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	Mount Manning Nature Reserve lies approximately 15 kilometres north of the application area and Mt Manning Conservation Park is situated approximately 10 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum and gimlet (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Plantecology Consulting during April 2024 and by ResourcesWA during November 2025. The following ten vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025): <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> Shrubland (BeS) (1): <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> shrubland is made up of an overstory of <i>Acacia sibina</i> 3-3.5 m, <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> 3 m, <i>Melaleuca nematophylla</i> 3 m, <i>Grevillea zygomorpha</i> 2 m, and <i>Eucalyptus ewartiana</i> 4 m on the edges with a combined PFC of 2-5%, over a midstory dominated by <i>Baeckea elderiana</i> 1.2 m with a PFC of 25-30%. This Vegetation Association was observed on mid slopes, growing on clay loam with 40-50% lag gravel. <i>Casuarina pauper</i> Woodland (CpW) (2): <i>Casuarina pauper</i> woodland covers a relatively small area of the overall Study Area and is associated with adjacent breakaways. It has an overstory of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> to 5 m with a PFC of 3-5%, over <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> 2 m, <i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> to 2.5 m, and <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> 2.5 m with a PFC of 2-5%, over an understory of <i>Grevillea acutaria</i> 0.4 m, <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> 0.6 m, <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> 0.5 m, <i>Acacia andrewsii</i> 0.6 m, <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i> 0.5 m, <i>Maireana trichoptera</i> 0.3 m, <i>Maireana georgei</i> 0.2 m, <i>Acacia erinacea</i> 0.5 m, <i>Sclerolaena fusiformis</i> 0.1 m with a PFC of 2-5%. The Association is observed on slopes at the bases of breakaways. The substrate is laterite outcropping with 90% quartz and ironstone lag gravel (20-50 mm). <i>Eucalyptus corrugata</i> Woodland (EcW) (3): <i>Eucalyptus corrugata</i> Woodland covered a major proportion of the Study Area. This Vegetation Association is described as <i>Eucalyptus corrugata</i> 6-8 m PFC 5-10%, over <i>Acacia acuminata</i> 2.5 m, <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> 2 m, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> 1.8 m, and <i>Santalum spicatum</i> 2 m with a PFC of 10-12%. The Vegetation association grows on mid slopes, on orange brown loam with 90% ironstone lag gravel. Leaf litter covers 2-5%, and dead wood has <1% cover. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> Woodland (EliW) (4): <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> woodland covered a significant part of the Study Area. The Vegetation Association has an overstory of <i>E. loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> 6 m, with occasional <i>E. kochii</i> 6 m, making up a PFC of 15-20%. <i>Eucalyptus corrugata</i> 6-8 m can be seen in the interzonal areas. The Association grows on clay loam with lag gravel, in lower parts of the landscape. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> Woodland – Drainage (Eli-D) (5): <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> Woodland – Drainage consists of <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> 6 m with a PFC of 5%, over a midstory dominated by <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Acacia collegialis</i> to 3 m, with <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> to 3 m, and <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i> to 1.8 m, contributing to a total PFC of 20-25%. This Vegetation Association is low in the landscape, along broad drainage lines, and grows on orange clay loam with 10% ironstone lag gravel (10-50 mm). Leaf litter is 40%, and dead wood covers 4-5%. <i>Eucalyptus ravida</i> Woodland (ErW) (6): <i>Eucalyptus ravida</i> Woodland is characterised by <i>E. ravida</i> to 8 m with <i>E. transcontinentalis</i> 8 m, PFC 30-40%, over <i>Acacia acuminata</i> 3 m, <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> 3 m, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> 3 m, <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> 1.6 m, with a PFC 2%, over <i>Acacia erinacea</i> 0.5 m, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> 0.6 m, with a PFC of 10-12%. This Association is locally inward draining, with thick leaf litter (80-90%). It grows on clay soils, in the north-west corner of the Study Area, and has been historically disturbed by earth-moving equipment in some places. <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> <i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i> Tall Open Woodland (EsEtTOW) (7): This Vegetation Association is commonly seen in the Coolgardie bioregion and has an overstory dominated by <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> 15-18 m and <i>E. transcontinentalis</i> 12-15 m, with occasional <i>E. ravida</i> 6 m, making up a PFC of 10-15%. The Association occurs on gentle slopes, on clay loam. <i>Eucalyptus vittata</i> Woodland (EvW) (8): <i>Eucalyptus vittata</i> woodland was recorded only in the north-east corner of the Study Area, towards the foot of the neighbouring banded ironstone formation. The Vegetation Association is characterised by an overstory of <i>Eucalyptus vittata</i> to 8-10 m, with <i>E. yilgarnensis</i> 6 m, making up a PFC of 15%. The Vegetation Association occurs mid slope, on orange clay loam with 10% ironstone lag gravel (10- 50 mm). Leaf litter cover is 40%, and dead wood cover is 4-5%.

Characteristic	Details
	<i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i> Shrubland on Breakaway (MIBX) (9): <i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i> shrubland is associated with breakaways, and has an overstory of <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> 2.5 m, <i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i> 1.6 -2 m, and <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i> 1.8 m, with occasional <i>Acacia acuminata</i> 2 m and <i>Acacia collegialis</i> 2.5 m, making up a total PFC of 5%. This Association grows on 50% outcropping (laterite), with 50% laterite lag gravel, and a creamy orange clay soil. <i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i> Woodland (EtW) (10): This Vegetation Association is an artificial association and consists of rehabilitated slopes surrounding a cleared area. The vegetation has an overstory of various local <i>Eucalypt</i> species, including <i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i>, <i>E. loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i>, <i>E. ravida</i>, and <i>E. corrugata</i>. The vegetation grows on and at the base of a man-made slope, with deep outwashes and drainage. The understory is in poor condition and is likely waterlogged in some areas during the wet season.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025) identified the vegetation within the proposed clearing area as 'Completely Degraded' to 'Pristine'. Disturbances were predominantly associated with mining activity and associated infrastructure (Plantecology, 2024). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate of the region is semidesert Mediterranean (Sub-Eremaean) (ResourcesWA, 2025). The total annual rainfall recorded at Southern Cross Airfield is approximately 303.5 millimetres (BoM, 2026). The landform within the application is relatively flat with elevations ranging between 480 and 500 metres Australian Height Datum (mAHD) (GIS Database).
Soil description	Majority of the application area consists of level to gently undulating loamy plains with fine ironstone gravel mantles supporting dense acacia shrublands (DPIRD, 2026).
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Tealtoo and Dryandra landsystem (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). Both wind erosion and water erosion hazards are considered low, specifically in areas of red-brown hardpan shallow loam soil within the Tealtoo system (Payne et al, 1998).
Waterbodies	There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest non-perennial unnamed lake is situated approximately seven kilometres in a northwest direction to the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within the Goldfields groundwater area which is legislated by the RIWI Act (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is measured to be hypersaline, ranging from 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids (GIS Database).
Flora	Three priority flora species were recorded within the application area (ResourcesWA, 2025). Several Priority flora records occur within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) have been recorded within the application area itself (Plantecology, 2024; GIS Database). However, the buffer zones of the Finnerty Range, Mt Dimer, and Yendilberin Hills vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) - overlap the application area, which includes some remaining vegetation. This Priority 1 PEC is linked to banded ironstone formation (BIF) ranges (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025).
Fauna	Fauna records indicate that multiple conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (AEMCO, 2024; GIS Database). One fauna species listed as vulnerable has been recorded less than five kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). No sightings of this vulnerable fauna species were recorded by AEMCO (2024) during the field survey.
Fauna habitat	The fauna survey (AECOM, 2024) recognised the following vegetation and substrate associations (VSAs) within the application area: - A higher vegetation density habitat along drainage lines – 5.7 hectares; - The natural woodland area on the mining lease with lower level of disturbance due to prospecting – 24.9 hectares; - The highly disturbed but revegetated areas on the mining lease – 54.6 hectares; and - The highly disturbed and unrehabilitated areas on the mining lease - 15.8 hectares.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)

IBRA Bioregion <i>Coolgardie</i>	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	97.96	1.00	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 141	1,158,760.28	960,755.60	82.91	408,314.70	35.24
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 141	883,085.75	858,525.10	97.22	883,085.75	0.00

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.1. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records derived from Florabase (total)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
<i>Acacia adinophylla</i>	P1	<20	31	Y
<i>Acacia armigera</i>	P1	<5	2	Y
<i>Acacia crenulata</i>	P3	<15	25	Y
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i>	P3	<20	33	N
<i>Acacia formidabilis</i>	P3	<20	15	N
<i>Acacia shapelleae</i>	T	<20	15	N
<i>Austrostipa everettiana</i>	P1	0	4	Y
<i>Baeckea</i> sp. Helena and Aurora Range (G.J. Keighery 4424)	P1	<20	2	N
<i>Banksia arborea</i>	P4	<1	65	Y
<i>Banksia lullfitzii</i>	P3	<20	25	N
<i>Beyeria rostellata</i>	P1	<20	20	Y
<i>Calytrix creswellii</i>	P3	<15	22	N
<i>Chamelaucium</i> sp. Kooyanobbing (V. Clarke 644)	P1	<20	12	Y
<i>Cryptandra crispula</i>	P3	<5	15	Y
<i>Cyathostemon verrucosus</i>	P3	<20	22	N
<i>Eremophila caerulea</i> subsp. <i>merrallii</i>	P4	<20	23	Y
<i>Eremophila hamulata</i>	P1	<20	12	Y
<i>Eucalyptus formanii</i> subsp. <i>circulata</i>	P4	0	67	Y
<i>Eucalyptus formanii</i> subsp. <i>formanii</i>	P4	<10	47	Y
<i>Goodenia jaurdiensis</i>	P2	<5	13	Y
<i>Grevillea erectiloba</i>	P4	<10	30	Y
<i>Grevillea georgeana</i>	P3	<1	66	Y
<i>Hibbertia lepidocalyx</i> subsp. <i>tuberculata</i>	P3	<20	13	Y
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>	P3	<20	16	N
<i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> subsp. <i>ochropetala</i>	P1	<10	9	Y
<i>Labichea eremaea</i>	P3	<20	21	N
<i>Lepidosperma bungalbin</i>	T	<20	15	Y
<i>Lepidosperma lyonsii</i>	P1	0	72	Y
<i>Leucopogon spectabilis</i>	T	<20	16	N
<i>Melichrus</i> sp. Bungalbin Hill (F.H. & M.P. Mollemans 3069)	P3	<15	47	N
<i>Mirbelia ferricola</i>	P3	<20	41	Y
<i>Neurachne annularis</i>	P3	<10	28	Y
<i>Notisia intonsa</i>	P3	<5	29	Y
<i>Persoonia leucopogon</i>	P1	<20	5	N
<i>Phebalium appressum</i>	P1	<20	5	N
<i>Phlegmatospermum eremaeum</i>	P3	<20	19	Y

Species name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records derived from Florabase (total)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
<i>Stenanthemum newbeyi</i>	P3	<20	41	N
<i>Stylidium choreanthum</i>	P3	<20	30	Y
<i>Tetradlea aphylla</i> subsp. <i>aphylla</i>	T	<20	21	N
<i>Thysanotus</i> sp. Yellowdine (A.S. George 6040)	P2	<20	12	N
<i>Verticordia mitodes</i>	P3	<20	24	N

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

A.2. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (AECOM, 2024; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; 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>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	MI	<45	N
<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> (southwest subpopulation)	woma (southwest subpopulation)	P1	<20	N
<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	hooded plover, hooded dotterel	P4	<35	N
<i>Cyclodomorphus branchialis</i>	gilled slender blue-tongue	VU	<20	Y
<i>Dasyurus geoffroyi</i>	chuditch, western quoll	VU	<20	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS	<25	Y
<i>Idiosoma castellum</i>	tree-stem trapdoor spider	P4	<15	Y
<i>Idiosoma intermedium</i>	Coolgardie shield-backed trapdoor spider	P3	<15	Y
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	malleefowl	VU	<5	Y
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	central long-eared bat	P3	<20	Y
<i>Pseudomys occidentalis</i>	western mouse	P4	<30	Y

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> Three priority species were identified within the application area: <i>Austrostipa everettiana</i> (P1), <i>Eucalyptus formanii</i> subsp. <i>circulata</i> (P4) and <i>Lepidosperma lyonsii</i> (P1). The application area intersects the buffer of the Finnerty Range/Mt Dimer/Yendilberin Hills BIF, which is a Priority 1 Ecological Community (GIS Database).	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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." <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared may contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna (AEMCO, 2024).	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora." <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There are no records of threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database), and no threatened flora species were recorded during the vegetation and flora survey (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025; GIS Database).		
Principle (d): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (Plantecology, 2024; ResourcesWA, 2025; GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (Plantecology, 2024, GIS database). Approximately 97% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of these nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> One drainage line has been identified within the application area (AECOM, 2024). Of the vegetation associations recorded within the application area, <i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i> Woodland (EtW) (10) is the only association clearly associated with drainage features and may be considered a drainage-line/riparian vegetation community. The small drainage line is not well developed and is classified as a first order drainage line as it is close to its watershed, and no confluence have taken place (AECOM, 2024). A watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing, and the clearing of riparian vegetation is avoided, where practicable will be implemented.	At variance	No
Principle (g): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Tealtoo and Dryandra landsystem (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). Both wind erosion and water erosion hazards are considered low, specifically in areas of red-brown hardpan shallow loam soil within the Tealtoo system, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): <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> <u>Assessment:</u> Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, and Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within or within close proximity to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<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> Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within or close proximity to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not 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)
- 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 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)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- 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)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Soil Sites (DPIRD-071)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Zones (DPIRD-017)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

- AEMCO (2024) Mt Dimer – Taipan Pit Fauna Assessment Report. Report prepared for Everest Metals Corporation Limited, June 2024.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station (Number 012320). Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 2 July 2026).
- 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 31 August 2026).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 1 July 2026).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 1 July 2026).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004a) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56, June 2004.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.
- 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) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2026) Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment. January 2026. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Cumulative%20Impact%20Assessment_final.pdf
- Everest Metals Corporation (Everest) (2026) Clearing permit application form, CPS 11489/1, received 5 March 2026.

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Payne, A.L., Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Pringle, H.J.R., Leighton, K.A and Hennig, P (1998) Technical Bulletin No. 90: An inventory and condition survey of the Sandstone-Yalgoo-Paynes Find area, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, South Perth.

Plantecology Consulting (Plantecology) (2024) M77/0515 Mt Dimer Flora and Vegetation Survey. Prepared for Everest Metals Corporation Limited, June 2024.

ResourcesWA (2025) Mt Dimer Targeted Flora and Vegetation Assessment M77/515. Report for MEGA Resources, December 2025.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAH) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 18 August 2026).

Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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