Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11516/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Beacon Mining Pty Ltd
Application received:	19 March 2026
Application area:	40 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Pipeline and transport corridor
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 15/453
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Geko Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Beacon Mining Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 142 hectares, for the purpose of a pipeline and transport corridor. The project is located approximately 25 kilometres northwest of Coolgardie, within the Shire of Coolgardie.

The application is to allow for the construction and development of a dewatering pipleline and haul road to coonect the Geko Project to Beacon Mining Ltd Pty's Jaurdi Gold Project (LP Environmental, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	28 July 2026
Decision area:	40 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 1 submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix C), relevant datasets (Appendix G), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of fauna, flora and vegetation surveys (Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix D), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to allow for the construction and development of a dewatering pipleline and haul road to coonect the Geko Project to Beacon Mining Ltd Pty's Jaurdi Gold Project (LP Environmental, 2026).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- potential land degradation in the form of wind and water erosion.
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the clearing of riparian vegetation;
- the clearing of conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant flora; and
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna;

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed 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:

- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and
- flora management (limiting clearing of Priority 3 species, *Homalocalyx grandifloras,* to 20 individuals)
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition 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 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- 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 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *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, 2020)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The clearing permit application (Beacon Mining, 2026) and the Geko Project Clearing Permit Environmental Assessment (LP Environmental, 2026) were submitted by the applicant, stating the following avoidance and mitigation strategies will be applied:

- the proposed pipeline/ transport corridor has been planned to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, heritage sites and threatened flora/ fauna records;
- vehicle hygiene measures will be implemented to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds during clearing and operation. The pipeline/ transport corridor will be rehabilitated at the completion of mining; and
- the only intersected watercourse will have culverts in place to enable natural flow.

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 C) and the extent to

which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

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

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

Assessment

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions (2023) over the period 19 to 21 June 2023. The survey consisted of 127 releves over an area of approximately 312 hectares; however, within the application area this is 76 releves within an area of approximately 142 hectares (NVS, 2023). The sampling intensity equates to one releve for approximately every 1.8 hectares. The survey intensity is of sufficient effort for the purpose of a reconnaissance survey (EPA, 2016).

Given the linear nature of the proposed haul road and pipeline corridor, the clearing is unlikely to impact a significant proportion of any flora population. Unlike a consolidated disturbance footprint, linear clearing generally traverses vegetation communities and populations rather than removing large contiguous areas of habitat, thereby retaining a greater degree of landscape connectivity and reducing the likelihood of substantial impacts to population persistence (Lentini et al., 2013).

Based on the presence of local records and the availability of suitable habitat within the application area, the following flora species are known to occur or have the potential to occur and require further discussion.

Species recorded within the application area

Homalocalyx grandifloras (Priority 3) is a spreading shrub found in yellow sandplains (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). This taxon was recorded at two locations within the application area with a total abundance of 20 plants (NVS, 2023). This taxon is not restricted to the application area and is known from 16 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed within the Coolgardie and Murchison Bioregions ranging from the Helena Aurora Conservation Park to Goldfields Hwy south of Menzies, in excess of 2,000 plants (NVS, 2023; LP Environmental, 2026). Three of the 16 Western Australian Herbarium records occur within conservation areas (GIS Database). It is likely that the recorded population within the application area extends beyond the area proposed to be cleared as the habitat types recorded during the survey are common and widespread in the surrounding areas (NVS, 2023; LP Environmental, 2026). A large population of this taxon has been previously recorded at the Lady Ida Project (owned and operated by Beacon) located 25 kilometres to the northeast of the application area, adjacent to the Credo Conservation Park with 1,744 individual plants recorded, with a total population extent of 1,987 hectares (LP Environmental, 2024; 2026). The extrapolated total population abundance of this species within the survey area was 993,362 individuals within the survey area alone (LP Environmental, 2024).

Approximately 60,450 *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals within the population recorded by the LP Environmental (2024) survey will be impacted by CPS 10586/1, leaving a remaining 932,912 individuals. This population, in addition to the other available records, equates to a species total of approximately 935,000 individuals (LP Environmental, 2024; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). The clearing of 20 individual plants would be a total species impact of approximately 0.002%, therefore the disturbance of 20 *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals by the proposed activities is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species locally or regionally.

Species that possibly occur within the application area

Based on the proximity of known records and the presence of suitable habitat within the application area, the following species are considered likely to occur within the application area (GIS Database).

Eremophila praecox (Priority 2) inhabits red/brown sandy loam and undulating plains (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than one kilometre from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from 52 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions, with three of these located within conservation areas (GIS Database). Given the species relatively broad distribution across the two bioregions and the occurrence of multiple populations within conservation estate, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Chamelaucium sp. Coolgardie (P. Pavlovic 289) (Priority 1) inhabits yellow sands in open mallee over open shrubs (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than six kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from two Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie bioregion, with none of these located within conservation areas (GIS Database). Given this, the proposed clearing may be significant to the species if it occurs undetected within the application area. However, due to the linear nature of the proposed haul road and pipeline corridor, the clearing is unlikely to impact a significant proportion of the species if present (Lentini et al., 2013; NVS, 2023).

Eucalyptus educta (Priority 2) is a straggling and spreading mallee that inhabits shallow soils on granite rocks (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than six kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from 46 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie, Murchison, Swan Coastal Plain and Yalgoo bioregions, with 1 of these located within a conservation area (GIS Database). Given the species is known from 46 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from multiple bioregions and has a population within conservation areas, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Gompholobium cinereum (Priority 3) is a shrub that inhabits sands, brown loam, and laterite in open mallee shrubland (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than nine kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from 18 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Murchison, Geraldton Sandplains and Yalgoo bioregions, with two of these located within conservation areas (GIS Database). Given the species is known from 18 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from multiple bioregions, and has multiple populations within conservation areas, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Phebalium appressum (Priority 3) is a shrub that inhabits yellow sandplains in open mallee over *Acacia* and *Triodia* shrubland (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than 13 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from five Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie bioregion, with none of these located within conservation areas (GIS Database). Given this, the proposed clearing may be significant to the species, if the species occurs undetected within the application area, however due to the linear nature of the proposed haul road and pipeline corridor, the clearing is unlikely to impact a significant proportion of the species if present (Lentini et al., 2013; NVS, 2023).

Acacia websteri (Priority 1) is a shrub that inhabits red sands, clays and loams in low lying areas in *Acacia* scrub (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than 18 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species is known from 21 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions, with one of these located within a conservation area (GIS Database). Given the species is known from 21 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from multiple bioregions, and has a population within conservation estate, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in potentially significant impacts to *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by minimising proposed impacts to only the 20 recorded *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- flora management (limiting clearing of Priority 3 species, *Homalocalyx grandifloras,* to 20 individuals)

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

Assessment

A terrestrial fauna survey was conducted over the application area by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) between 26 to 28 July 2023. The survey consisted of 192 habitat assessments, that identified 5 broadscale fauna habitats, and opportunistic observations of fauna (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). No targeted fauna survey has been completed over the application area in accordance with EPA guidelines (EPA, 2020; LP Environmental, 2026; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Based on the occurrence of the identified habitats and vegetation, the following species have the potential to occur within the application area and require further discussion.

Birds

Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl), Vulnerable, occur within semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee, with sandy or loamy substrates and abundant leaf litter for the construction of mounds (DCCEEW, 2024; National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016). No mounds were recorded, but malleefowl tracks were recorded at multiple locations within the application area (NVS, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). The application area contains suitable habitat for malleefowl within shrubland and woodland habitats (DCCEEW, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Given malleefowl are known to occur within the application area and large areas of suitable foraging and breeding habitat are still present within the application area, a fauna management condition should be implemented to minimise the potential impact of the proposed clearing on this species.

Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon), Other Specially Protected, is a migratory species. Within their global range, peregrine falcons can be found in a variety of habitats, including mountains, forests, cities, valleys, deserts, and coastlines (Australian Museum, 2019). As suitable habitat occurs and the species has been recorded approximately 31 km from the application area, peregrine falcons may occur within the application area to disperse or forage (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database). As the species is wide-ranging and suitable habitat is abundant in the surrounding area, impacts to this species due to the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant.

Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys (western rosella (inland)), Priority 4, has a patchy distribution within the Great Western Woodlands. This species is now primarily recorded along its south-western edge and south and east of Norseman. Within its range, this species inhabits drier eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and nests in tree hollows, showing a preference for marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), york gum (*E. loxophleba*), flooded gum (*E. rudis*), and salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*), and prefers *Casuarinas* for foraging (DEC, 2009; Garnett & Crowley, 2000). The species has been recorded in surveys conducted nearby to the project, and suitable foraging and potentially suitable breeding habitat occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). However, given that suitable habitat is widespread in the surrounding area and the taxon is wide ranging and mobile, the proposed clearing of suitable habitat is unlikely to be significant for the conservation of western rosella (inland).

Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface), Vulnerable, occurs across most of mainland Australia within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (DCCEEW, 2023). These areas are usually dominated by *Acacias* or *Eucalypts* on ranges, foothills, lowlands and plains (DCCEEW, 2023). Southern whiteface was not recorded by the fauna survey or within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). However, surveys in adjacent areas have recorded the presence of this species in low abundance (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database). Critical habitat for the southern whiteface consists of open woodland and shrubland supporting suitable ground-foraging habitat (grasses, shrubs and herbaceous litter) and hollow-bearing trees required for nesting and roosting, and should not be cleared (DCCEEW, 2023). Suitable habitat occurs within the application area within the eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubs, mallee over shrubs and mixed shrubland fauna habitats, therefore southern whiteface may utilise the area (DCCEEW, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Given southern whiteface may occur within the application area, utilising areas of suitable

foraging and breeding habitat present within the application area, and no detailed or targeted fauna survey has been conducted, a fauna management condition should be implemented to minimise the potential impact of the proposed clearing on this species.

Zanda latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo), Endangered, has been recorded within the local area (GIS Database). The long-term survival of a robust population of Carnaby's cockatoos depends on the availability of suitable woodland breeding habitat and tree hollows, and foraging habitat capable of providing enough food to sustain the population (DPAW, 2013). The application area is significantly outside the expected distribution, and the vegetation types present are unlikely to provide suitable breeding or foraging habitat (DPAW, 2013; NVS, 2023; GIS Database). Due to this, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in significant impacts to this species.

A number of migratory shorebird species are recorded in the local area including *Actitis hypoleucos* (common sandpiper), *Arenaria interpres* (ruddy turnstone), *Calidris acuminata* (sharp-tailed sandpiper), *Calidris ferruginea* (curlew sandpiper), *Calidris ruficollis* (red-necked stint), *Charadrius veredus* (oriental plover), *Tringa brevipes* (grey-tailed tattler), *Tringa glareola* (wood sandpiper) and *Tringa nebularia* (common greenshank) (van Swinderen et al., 2025; GIS Database). Given the only waterbody in the application area is a major ephemeral watercourse, it is unlikely to provide suitable, significant habitat for these migratory shorebird species (van Swinderen et al., 2025; GIS Database). *Plegadis falcinellus* (glossy ibis), whilst not a shorebird, is migratory and preferred habitat for foraging and breeding is fresh waterbodies, and is therefore unlikely to utilise the habitat in the application area (DOE, 2026; GIS Database). *Charadrius cucullatus* (hooded plover) and *Oxyura australis* (blue-billed duck) are non-migratory, however the same reasoning applies as to why they are unlikely to utilise the available habitats in the application area, as there is only one ephemeral waterway intersecting the application area (Australian Museum, 2024; Birdlife, 2024a; GIS Database).

Invertebrates

Jalmenus aridus (inland hairstreak), Priority 2, has been recorded in the local area (GIS Database). The inland hairstreak inhabits open woodlands with a mixture of young and mature *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubs, a variety of flowering shrubs (*Eremophila* sp., *Scaevola* sp., and *Maireana* sp.), some scattered taller vegetation (*Allocasuarina* sp., *Santalum* sp.) and open areas of exposed, well-drained ground adjoining *Senna* host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Most breeding sites have been found on clay loam on relatively flat ground or adjoining seasonal floodplains (Eastwood et al., 2023). The inland hairstreak has a mutualistic association with *Froggattella kirbii* ants. These ants are often found at the base of *Senna* hostplants (Eastwood et al., 2023), however the presence of *F. kirbii* within the application area is unknown. The application area contains *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* in vegetation groups that also have the presence of *Eremophila* spp., *Maireana* spp., *Scaevola* spp., and *Santalum* spp. within shrubland and woodland habitats in vegetation groups G, M, P and R (NVS, 2023). As the application area contains suitable vegetation for this species (see Table 1), the precautionary principle should be applied and a fauna management condition should be implemented to investigate the presence of *Froggattella kirbii* ants to determine if the application area contains critical habitat for this species.

Table 1. Presence of flora species required for *Jalmenus aridus* habitat within each identified vegetation group in the application area (Eastwood et al., 2023; NVS, 2023)

	Vegetation Group							
Flora species	C	D	G	M	O	P	R	S
Senna artemisioides subsp. *filifolia*			X	X		X	X	
Maireana sp.					X	X	X	
Eremophila sp.			X	X	X	X	X	
Scaevola sp.			X	X			X	
Allocasuarina sp.	X							X
Santalum sp.			X			X	X	X

Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly) (ABAB), Critically Endangered, has been recorded within the local area (GIS Database). ABAB populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). ABAB has an obligate association with the sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. terebrans (DBCA, 2020). Habitat where this species has previously been described is vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*), salmon gum (*E. salmonoploia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). In addition to gimlet and salmon gum, other smooth-barked eucalyptus including wandoo, smooth-barked york gum (*E. loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia*) and ribbon barked mallee (*E. sheathiana*) at these sites had basal ant colonies (DBCA, 2020). The habitat at the locally extinct Lake Douglas site differs from the other sites but is also dominated by mature smooth-barked eucalypt woodland, particularly Victoria Desert mallee (*E. concinna*) (DBCA, 2020). The application area contains vegetation groups that contain smoothed bark eucalypts, including gimlet, salmon gums and Victoria Desert mallee, in vegetation group R (NVS, 2023). Other smoothed barked eucalypts including *E. concinna, E. eremophila* subsp. *eremophila*, *E. leptopoda* subsp. *subluta* and *E. rigidula* have also been recorded within the application area in vegetation groups C, D, M and S (NVS, 2023). As smoothed barked eucalypts are present within the application area (see Table 2), the application area may potentially provide suitable habitat for this species. A

fauna management condition should be implemented to investigate the presence of *Camponotus* sp. nr. terebrans to determine if the application area contains critical habitat for this species.

Table 2. Presence of smoothed barked *Eucalyptus* species that indicate potential for *Ogyris petrina* habitat within each identified vegetation group in the application area (DBCA, 2020; NVS, 2023).

	Vegetation Group							
***Eucalyptus* species**	C	D	G	M	O	P	R	S
E. salubris							X	
E. salmonophloia							X	
E. concinna							X	
E. eremophila subsp. *eremophila*				X				X
E. leptopoda subsp. *subluta*	X	X						
E. rigidula								X

Mammals

Nyctophilus major tor (central long-eared bat), Priority 3, is a wide-ranging bat species that inhabits dry woodlands and shrublands in arid and semi-arid regions, roosting within tree hollows or under loose bark and in other crevices (Menkhorst & Knight, 2011). However, considering the species high mobility and ability to disperse over long distances, the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat values necessary for the existence of this species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for the following fauna species and is likely to have a significant impact on these species if present within the application area:

- *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl)
- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface)
- *Jalmenus aridus* (inland hairstreak),
- *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly)

The proposed clearing is also likely to result in an increased risk of fauna injury or mortality.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna and their habitats can be managed by imposing the below conditions on the granted clearing permit.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) and *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly), and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition 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 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- 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 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 2 April 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission (2026) was 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*.

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

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 22 June 2026, the applicant confirmed that 20 *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals would be cleared by the proposed activities. The applicant also provided a survey of an adjacent project area that had recorded a population of 1,744 *Homalocalyx grandifloras* individuals.	The information and survey provided is considered in the assessment of clearing principle (a).

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Aboriginal cultural heritage obligations are maintained and works affecting public infrastructure are approved by the Shire.	Considered in the relevant planning instruments and other matters section. We acknowledge concerns regarding works affecting public infrastructure requiring Shire approval, however this is beyond the scope of this assessment.

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is a 142 hectare part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by various mining and pastoral land uses. The proposed clearing area adjoins an existing Beacon Mining Pty Ltd native vegetation clearing permit, CPS 10184/1 (LP Environmental, 2026; GIS Database). Both clearing permits are part of the Geko Project, however CPS 11516/1 will also link the Geko Project to Beacon Mining Ltd Pty's Jaurdi Gold Project (LP Environmental, 2026).
Ecological linkage	The proposed clearing does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared and is unlikely to provide an ecological linkage to surrounding areas (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any DBCA legislated conservation areas. The closest mapped legislated conservation area is the Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve, located approximately 19 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 8: Medium woodland; salmon gum and gimlet; 128: Bare areas; rock outcrops; and 1413: Shrublands; acacia, casuarina and melaleuca thicket (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions during June 2023. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2023): • **C** – *Acacia acuminata* thicket; • **D** - *Acacia heteroneura* var. *jutsonii* shrubland with occasional *Eucalyptus griffithsii* on yellow sandplains; • **G** - *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over sclerophyll shrubland; • **M** - *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over *Melaleuca* shrubland; • **O** - Open Chenopod and sclerophyll shrubland; • **P** - Sclerophyll shrubland; • **R** - Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland; • **S** - *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over spinifex; and • **Existing disturbance** – Consists of historic exploration clearing and access roads
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (NVS, 2023) of the application area indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing areas is in excellent, very good, good or completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion is described as arid to semi-arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 270 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026a; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 380 - 430 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database). Land system mapping broadly describes the application area as gently undulating plains (DPIRD, 2026).

Characteristic	Details
Soil description	The soils within the application area are mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database): **Doney System [265Do]:** Calcareous alluvial plains with eucalypt woodlands adjacent to salt lake systems. **Johnston Land System [265Jn]:** Gently undulating plains with occasional granite rises, supporting eucalypt woodlands and non-halophytic shrublands. **Joseph Land System [265Jo]:** Undulating yellow sandplain, supporting dense mixed shrublands with patchy mallees.
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Doney, Johnston and Joseph land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). These land systems are described by Waddell and Galloway (2023) as having the following land degradation risks; **Doney:** This system is generally not susceptible to erosion, although drainage tracts are susceptible, particularly if perennial plant cover is substantially reduced. **Johnston**: Alluvial fans and drainage tracts are moderately susceptible and loamy sheetwash plains are mildly susceptible to erosion. Obstruction of natural water flows can cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope. Soil surface disturbance on these landforms may initiate erosion. **Joseph:** Lack of slope, sandy soils and dense vegetation make most of this system resistant to erosion. However, Joseph is fire prone, which can result in the temporary loss of stabilising perennial vegetation and exacerbate wind erosion of sandy surfaces, though emergence of regrowth following rain usually restores stability.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one major non-perennial watercourse and one small non-perennial lake intersects the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Menzies Water Reserve located approximately 111 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 14,0000 – 35,0000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as hyper-saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	There are no records of Threatened flora within the application area (NVS, 2023; GIS Database). There is record of one Threatened flora within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). One Priority flora species was recorded within the application area and 22 Priority flora species that occur in the local surrounds (20 kilometres) listed in Appendix C.3. (NVS, 2023; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities located within the application area (GIS Database). The closest conservation significant ecological community is the Emu Land System (P3), which is located approximately 62 kilometres north of the application area (DBCA 2025; GIS Database).
Fauna	There is one conservation significant fauna species, *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), that has been recorded within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database). There are 18 records of conservation significant fauna that have been recorded within the local surrounds (50 kilometres), however more may have the potential to utilise as listed in Appendix C.4 (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) conducted a basic and targeted vertebrate fauna survey, and excluding the disturbed, cleared and rehabilitated areas, described the following five broad fauna habitats in the project area: • Eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubs; • Mallee over shrubs; • Mixed shrubland; • Chenopod and salt pan habitats; and • Disturbed areas.

C.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 - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	97.96	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
8	694,638.14	346,425.77	49.87	47,035.60	6.77
128	329,836.19	288,813.54	87.56	69,081.92	20.94
1413	1,679,916.32	1,286,855.48	76.60	222,015.35	13.22
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Coolgardie)					
8	280,248.26	275,589.11	98.34	26,689.01	9.52
128	184,549.90	183,891.19	99.64	34,672.13	18.79
1413	1,061,212.28	1,042,553.77	98.24	192,883.70	18.18

Government of Western Australia (2019)

C.3. Flora analysis table

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

The likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (LP, 2024; 2026; Marchant, 2019; NVS, 2023; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Homalocalyx grandiflorus	P3	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Eremophila praecox	P2	Y	<1	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Chamelaucium sp. Coolgardie (P. Pavlovic 289)	P1	Y	<6	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Eucalyptus educta	P2	Y	<6	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Gompholobium cinereum	P3	Y	<9	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Phebalium appressum	P1	Y	<13	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Acacia websteri	P1	Y	<18	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.1.
Brachysola halganiacea	P2	N	<10	Unlikely
Eucalyptus urna subsp. *xesta*	P3	N	<13	Unlikely
Acacia crenulata	P3	N	<15	Unlikely
Austrostipa burgesiana	P1	N	<15	Unlikely
Eremophila microphylla	P3	N	<15	Unlikely
Philotheca pachyphylla	P1	N	<15	Unlikely
Melichrus sp. Coolgardie (K.R. Newbey 8698)	P1	N	<17	Unlikely
Acacia sclerophylla var. *teretiuscula*	P1	N	<18	Unlikely
Allocasuarina eriochlamys subsp. *grossa*	P3	N	<18	Unlikely
Eremophila veronica	P3	N	<18	Unlikely
Gastrolobium graniticum	T	N	<18	Unlikely
Hakea rigida	P2	N	<18	Unlikely
Xanthoparmelia dayiana	P3	N	<18	Unlikely
Acacia epedunculata	P1	N	<19	Unlikely
Stackhousia muricata subsp. Perennial (W.R. Barker 3641)	P3	N	<19	Unlikely
Styphelia saxicola	P3	N	<19	Unlikely

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

C.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix G.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration (LP Environmental, 2026; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019, 2024; BirdLife Australia, 2026a; 2026b; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DBCA, 2020; DCCEEW, 2023; 2024; DEC, 2009; DOE, 2026; DPAW, 2013; Eastwood et al., 2023; Garnett & Crowley, 2000; LP Environmental, 2026; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; NVS, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; van Swinderen et al., 2025; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	**Conservation status**	**Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]**	**Distance of closest record to application area (km)**	**Likelihood of occurrence**
Birds				
Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl)	VU	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	<31	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys (western rosella (inland))	P4	Y	<67	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	<385	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Tringa nebularia (common greenshank)	MI	N	<9	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Calidris acuminata (sharp-tailed sandpiper)	MI	N	<10	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Calidris ferruginea (curlew sandpiper)	CR	N	<10	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Calidris ruficollis (red-necked stint)	MI	N	<10	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Actitis hypoleucos (common sandpiper)	MI	N	<30	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Charadrius veredus (oriental plover)	MI	N	<30	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Oxyura australis (blue-billed duck)	P4	N	<32	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Arenaria interpres (ruddy turnstone)	MI	N	<34	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Tringa glareola (wood sandpiper)	MI	N	<34	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Plegadis falcinellus (glossy ibis)	MI	N	<35	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Tringa brevipes (grey-tailed tattler)	P4 & MI	N	<45	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Charadrius cucullatus (hooded plover)	P4	N	<49	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Zanda latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo)	EN	N	<49	Unlikely – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Invertebrates				
Jalmenus aridus (inland hairstreak)	P2	Y	<43	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly)	CR	Y	<43	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.
Mammals				
Nyctophilus major tor (central long-eared bat)	P3	Y	<27	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2.

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

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	**Variance level**	**Is further consideration required?**
Environmental value: biological values		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains priority flora species and may contain suitable habitat for additional priority flora species and conservation significant fauna.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain suitable habitat for *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), *Jalmenus aridus* (inland hairstreak) *and Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly). Other conservation significant fauna may be impacted by the proposed clearing but are unlikely to be reliant on specific habitats within the application area.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area and only one species within the local area (NVS, 2023; GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain or be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened flora.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within or in close proximity to the area proposed to be cleared, as no TECs occur in the Coolgardie bioregion (DBCA, 2025; GIS Database). No TECs were identified during biological survey of the application area (NVS, 2023).	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The local area has not been extensively cleared (GIS Database). The extent of the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix C.2). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (approximately 19 kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared, however one major ephemeral watercourse is recorded within the application area (LP Environmental, 2026; GIS Database). This major ephemeral drainage line intersects the existing Jaurdi Hills Road which already has culverts in place to prevent inhibition of natural flow; however, the proposed clearing may still impact riparian vegetation growing in association with this watercourse (LP Environmental, 2026; GIS Database).	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Condition: To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.		
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The land systems mapped within the application area are moderately susceptible to wind and water erosion, particularly after vegetation has been disturbed in drainage lines (DPIRD, 2026; Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Noting the extent of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Condition: To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • a staged clearing condition to minimise erosion; • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.	May be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given the proposed clearing is for 40 hectares within the Raeside-Ponton catchment (approximately 11,589,533 hectares), the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly alter surface or groundwater quality at a catchment scale (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses within the application area, however, the one major ephemeral watercourse within the application area may be impacted by the proposed clearing (GIS Database). Therefore, it is recommended that a watercourse management condition is imposed on the clearing permit to reduce likelihood of water quality deterioration at a local scale. Condition: To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.	May be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). There is one major ephemeral watercourse that intersects the application area (GIS Database). The application area has an average rainfall of approximately 270 millimetres per year, and an average areal actual evapotranspiration between 300 – 200 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026a; 2026b). The application area is mapped at elevations of 380 - 430 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Land system mapping broadly describes the application area as gently undulating plains (DPIRD, 2026). The sporadic and low rainfall, high evapotranspiration, relatively flat landscape and lack of permanent watercourses in the application indicates that the proposed clearing is unlikely to exacerbate or create a significant increase in the incidence of flooding (BoM, 2026a; 2026b; DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix E. 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 F. Vegetation communities within the application area

Figure 1. Vegetation group C - *Acacia acuminata* thicket (NVS, 2023).

Figure 2. Vegetation group D - *Acacia heteroneura* var. *jutsonii* shrubland with occasional *Eucalyptus griffithsii* on yellow sandplains (NVS, 2023).

Figure 3. Vegetation group G - *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over sclerophyll shrubland (NVS, 2023).

Figure 4. Vegetation group M - *Euclayptus griffithsii* over *Melaleuca* shrubland (NVS, 2023).

Figure 5. Vegetation group O - Open *Chenopod* and sclerophyll shrubland (NVS, 2023).

Figure 6. Vegetation group P - Sclerophyll shrubland (NVS, 2023).

Figure 7. Vegetation group R - Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland (NVS, 2023).

Figure 8. Vegetation group S - *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over spinifex (NVS, 2023).

Figure 9. Existing disturbance – Consists of historic exploration clearing and access roads (NVS, 2023).

Appendix G. Sources of information

G.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)

- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.