



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11539/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Odyssey Gold Limited
Application received:	2 April 2026
Application area:	162.80 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 20/527
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Cue
Colloquial name:	Tuckanarra Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Odyssey Gold Limited proposes to clear up to 162.80 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 363.86 hectares, for the purpose of mining and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 70 kilometres south of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Cue.

The application is to allow for the development of the Tuckanarra Gold Project which will include the development and expansion of six open pits, establishment of waste rock landforms and ore stockpiles; construction of linear infrastructure (i.e. tracks, pipelines etc.); and supporting infrastructure such as an on-site office, workshops, fuel storage and abutments (MBS Environmental, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	17 September 2026
Decision area:	162.80 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 E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate the development of the Tuckanarra Gold Project.

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;
- potential impacts to west coast mulga slider; and
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).

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:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- conduct a pre-clearance survey for southern whiteface during breeding season.

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
- the polluter pays principle

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

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, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has committed to the following mitigation measures (MBS Environmental, 2026):

- avoid and minimise disturbance of drainage depression vegetation communities;
- utilise existing disturbed areas where practicable;
- managing clearing via an internal Land Clearing Procedure;
- clearly delineating clearing areas;
- vehicle and equipment hygiene procedures will be implemented;
- stockpiling stripped topsoil and vegetation for use in future rehabilitation activities; and
- progressively rehabilitating disturbed areas on completion of Project activities.

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (conservation significant 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

Botanica Consulting (2026) conducted a reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey over the Tuckanarra Project area on 19 November 2025. No Threatened or priority flora species were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026). It should be noted that the survey was conducted outside of the recommended timeframe for the bioregion; however, rainfall was above average for June, July and August, prior to the survey. The following conservation significant flora species may occur within the application area:

Calytrix verruculosa, P3, is a shrub that flowers in August or October, growing in sandy clay (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 14 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Murchison IBRA bioregion. There is a historical record from 1945 located within five kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). There is suitable soil and habitat within the application area in the form of sandy soil and Acacia shrubland. The conservation significant flora species was not identified in recent flora surveys covering the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026). As a result, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significant impact to the species.

Acacia speckii, P4, is a bushy, rounded shrub or tree that grows in rocky soils over granite, basalt or dolerite, generally within habitats described as rocky hills or rises (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 40 records in the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. There is a known record located within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). There is suitable soil and habitat within the application area in the form of stony soils and rocky hillslopes/plains (Botanica Consulting, 2026). Despite this, the species was not identified in recent surveys. It is also not geographically restricted to the bioregion and as a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to significant impacts to the species.

Sida picklesiana, P3, is a compact shrub that has records collected between August and November, often growing in sandy loam (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 32 records in the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions. There is a known record located within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Despite this, the species was not identified in recent surveys. It is also not geographically restricted to the bioregion, and as a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to significant impacts to the species.

Goodenia berringbinensis, P4, is an ascending annual herb that flowers in October, often growing in red sandy loam along watercourses (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 33 records in the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) that are distributed across the Carnarvon, Coolgardie, Gascoyne, Great Victoria Desert, Murchison, Pilbara and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. There is a known record located within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The application area does not contain any watercourses, and the conservation significant species has not previously been recorded within the survey area. As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the species.

Acacia burrowsiana, P3, is stout shrub or tree often growing in red-brown loams with ironstone rubble on the surface and calcrete soils on flats adjacent to watercourses and breakaways (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 28 records in the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) that are distributed across the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The species was flowering during the survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2026). The application area does not contain any watercourses, and the conservation significant species has not previously been recorded within the survey area. As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the species.

Grevillea inconspicua, P4, is an intricately branched spreading shrub that occurs in loam and gravel, often along drainage lines or rocky outcrops (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 63 Western Australia Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Murchison IBRA bioregion. The species was not identified during recent surveys undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2026). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the species.

Maireana prosthochaeta, P3, is a densely-leaved shrub that grows in laterite (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 24 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is located within 40 kilometres of the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026). The species was not identified during recent surveys undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2026). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the species.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing of priority flora can be managed by taking the steps to avoid and minimise the extent of the clearing.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

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

Assessment

A basic and targeted vertebrate fauna survey was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026) over the Tuckanarra Project Area between 8 and 10 December 2025. Four fauna habitats were identified within the proposed area to be cleared (see Appendix A) (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). During the fauna survey, no species of conservation significance were identified within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). The following species may occur within the application area:

West Coast mulga slider (*Lerista eupoda*), P1, is a pale brown slider that occurs throughout the arid interior of southern Western Australia (Cogger, 2018). The species utilises open mulga on red loams and sandy loams (Smith, 1996). There are two records within the local area, with one located within 15 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The species may traverse the area along suitable soils and vegetation complexes. As a result, a directional clearing condition will be implemented to mitigate potential impacts to the species.

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), VU, is a small, stocky, thornbill-like bird that occurs across most of mainland Australia south of the tropics, from the north-eastern edge of the Western Australian wheatbelt, east to the Great Dividing Range (DCCEEW, 2023). This species is unobtrusive, foraging on the ground amongst leaf litter, and nests within tree hollows or low foliage and shrubs (DCCEEW, 2023; Menkhorst et al., 2019). This species breeds from July to October and builds large domed nests of grass, bark and roots in hollows or crevices and occasionally low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023; Higgins & Peter, 2002). Suitable habitat includes undisturbed open woodlands and shrublands, low density tree cover, and the presence of tree hollows. The closest record of southern whiteface was recorded during the fauna survey undertaken by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026). The record was approximately 12 kilometres northeast of the application area. While there is limited leaf litter likely deterring the species from foraging in the application area, tree cover is largely low density and could feature tree hollows suitable for breeding. It would be possible for southern whiteface to utilise habitat within the application area for breeding. As a result, a pre-clearance survey for the species will be implemented for any clearing undertaken during the breeding season.

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), VU, occur in a wide range of habitats generally consisting of a sandy substrate with trees between 3 and 8 metres in height and shrub layer providing horizontal cover (DCCEEW, 2024). The large ground-dwelling bird favours long unburned and ungrazed mallee and constructs nests in sandy soils and leaf litter by building large mounds used for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). The species is not known from the greater region and as a result, the application area is unlikely to provide habitat for the species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

There are several records of migratory birds within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) of the application area; however, there is a low likelihood of occurrence for many of these species including the grey falcon, gull-billed tern, wood sandpiper, common sandpiper, glossy ibis, white-winged black tern, marsh sandpiper, caspian tern and red-necked-stint (GIS Database). While the application area contains some suitable habitat for these bird species, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact these species at a regional level, given similar habitat occurring in the regional area.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the potential impacts of the proposed clearing on southern whiteface can be managed by implementing a pre-clearance survey for the conservation significant species.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; 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 10 metre buffer around identified active nests.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 1 May 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2021/008 – Yugunga-Nya People Part A) 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 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 part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The proposed clearing area is part of the existing Tuckanarra Project (MBS Environment, 2026).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Lakeside Pastoral Lease (NRS) located approximately 49 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database). The following vegetation communities were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026): • RH-AOW1: Low woodland of <i>A. mulganeura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila latrobei</i>, <i>E. jucunda</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> on a rocky hillslope. • RP-AFW1: Low open forest of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>A. incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on a rocky plain. • RP-AOW1: Low woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>A. ramulosa</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> on a rocky plain. • DD-AFW1: Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> in drainage depression. • Cleared areas. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in Good to Completely Degraded condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 205.2 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).
Soil description	The soil in the application area is, in the majority, mapped as stony soil. There are areas of red shallow sandy duplex and red shallow sand and loam throughout the application area as well (DPIRD, 2026).
Land degradation risk	The application area lies within the Gabanintha land system (GIS Database). This system has been mapped and described as in a Technical Bulletin published by the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD). The land system is described as consisting of ridges, hills and footslopes of various metamorphosed volcanic rocks (greenstones), supporting sparse acacia and other mainly non-halophytic shrub lands (Curry et al., 1994).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). There are two non-perennial, minor watercourses in the immediate surrounds of the application area.
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Cue Water Reserve located approximately 29 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the East Murchison Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database).
Flora	There are no known records of conservation significant flora within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026; GIS Database). There are five conservation significant flora species that occur within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Eight conservation significant flora species may occur within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	No threatened ecological communities (TECs) or priority ecological communities (PECs) were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026). The Trillbar Land System Priority 3 Ecological Community is located approximately five kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no known records of conservation significant fauna within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026; GIS Database). There are 15 conservation significant fauna species located within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Two conservation significant fauna species could potentially occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).
Fauna habitat	A fauna habitat field assessment was conducted in in December 2025 by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026). Four broad habitat types were identified (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). • Mulga over mulga shrubs; • Mulga in ephemeral drainage; • Mulga on stony ridge; and • Disturbed areas. The full survey descriptions and mapping are available in Appendix D.

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 - Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 18	19,892,306.46	19,843,148.07	99.75	1,317,179.00	6.62
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 18	12,403,172.30	12,363,252.47	99.68	614,964.13	4.96

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Calytrix verruculosa</i>	P3	Y	Y	<5	14	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Acacia speckii</i>	P4	Y	Y	<10	40	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Ptilotus beardii</i>	P3	N	N	<10	39	Unlikely
<i>Sida picklesiana</i>	P3	Y	Y	<10	32	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Goodenia berringbinensis</i>	P4	Y	Y	<20	33	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Acacia burrowsiana</i>	P3	Y	Y	Unknown	28	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	Y	Y	Unknown	63	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Maireana prosthocochaeta</i>	P3	Y	Y	<40	24	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	MI	N	<5	16	Unlikely
West Coast mulga slider (<i>Lerista eupoda</i>)	P1	Y	<15	2	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	VU	N	<15	1	Unlikely
Gull-billed tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	MI	N	<20	3	Unlikely
Wood sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	MI	N	<20	4	Unlikely
Common sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	MI	N	<20	3	Unlikely
Glossy ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	MI	N	<20	4	Unlikely
White-winged black tern (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)	MI	N	<20	2	Unlikely
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	OS	N	<20	6	Unlikely
Marsh sandpiper (<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>)	MI	N	<20	4	Unlikely
Blue-billed duck (<i>Oxyura australis</i>)	P4	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Caspian tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	MI	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Red-necked stint (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>)	MI	N	<20	2	Unlikely
Southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	VU	Y	<20	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Hooded plover, hooded dotterel (<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>)	P4	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	VU	N	<35	0	Unlikely – 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 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> The area proposed to be cleared may contain populations of conservation significant flora.	Not likely to be 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 habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant fauna.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, 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> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain any known records of flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica Consulting, 2026).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There are no known TECs mapped nearby the application area (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). 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
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance on the nearest conservation area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No.
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given that no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, a watercourse or wetland (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area lies within the Gabanintha land system (GIS Database). This system is generally not prone to erosion and as a result, the proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle (Curry et al., 1994).	Not at variance	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) within the application area (GIS Database). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Course Areas (PDWSA) within the application area (GIS Database). Between 3,200 and 3,600 millimetres evaporate from the region every year, significantly higher than the annual rainfall recorded, suggesting a low risk of flooding (Commonwealth of Australia, 2006). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.		

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Biological survey information excerpts and photographs of the vegetation



Figure 1. RH-AOW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2026).



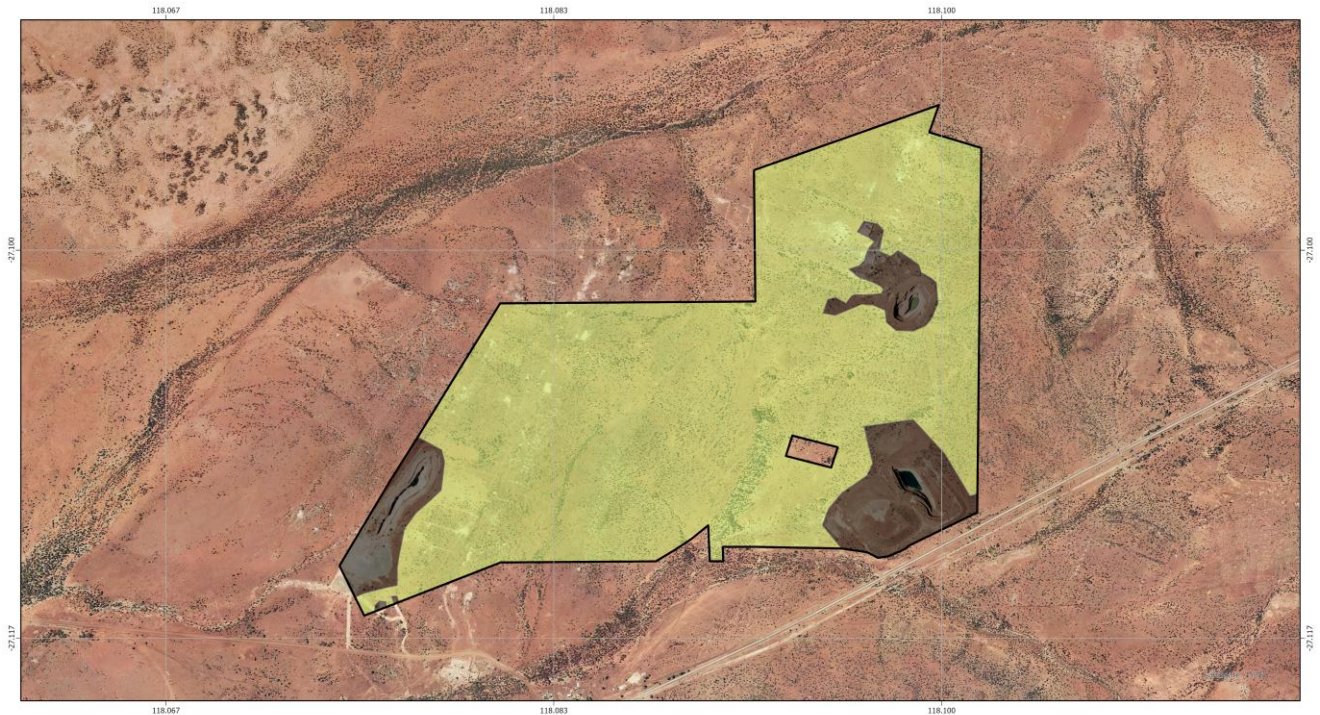
Figure 2. RP-AFW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2026).



Figure 3. RP-AOW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2026).



Figure 4. DD-AFW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2026).



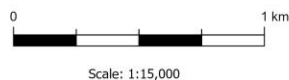
LEGEND

□ CPS 11539/1 area applied to clear

Vegetation Condition

■ Completely Degraded

■ Good



GCS: GDA2020
Datum: GDA2020
Map Units: Degree



Figure 5. Vegetation condition within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).
CPS 11539/1

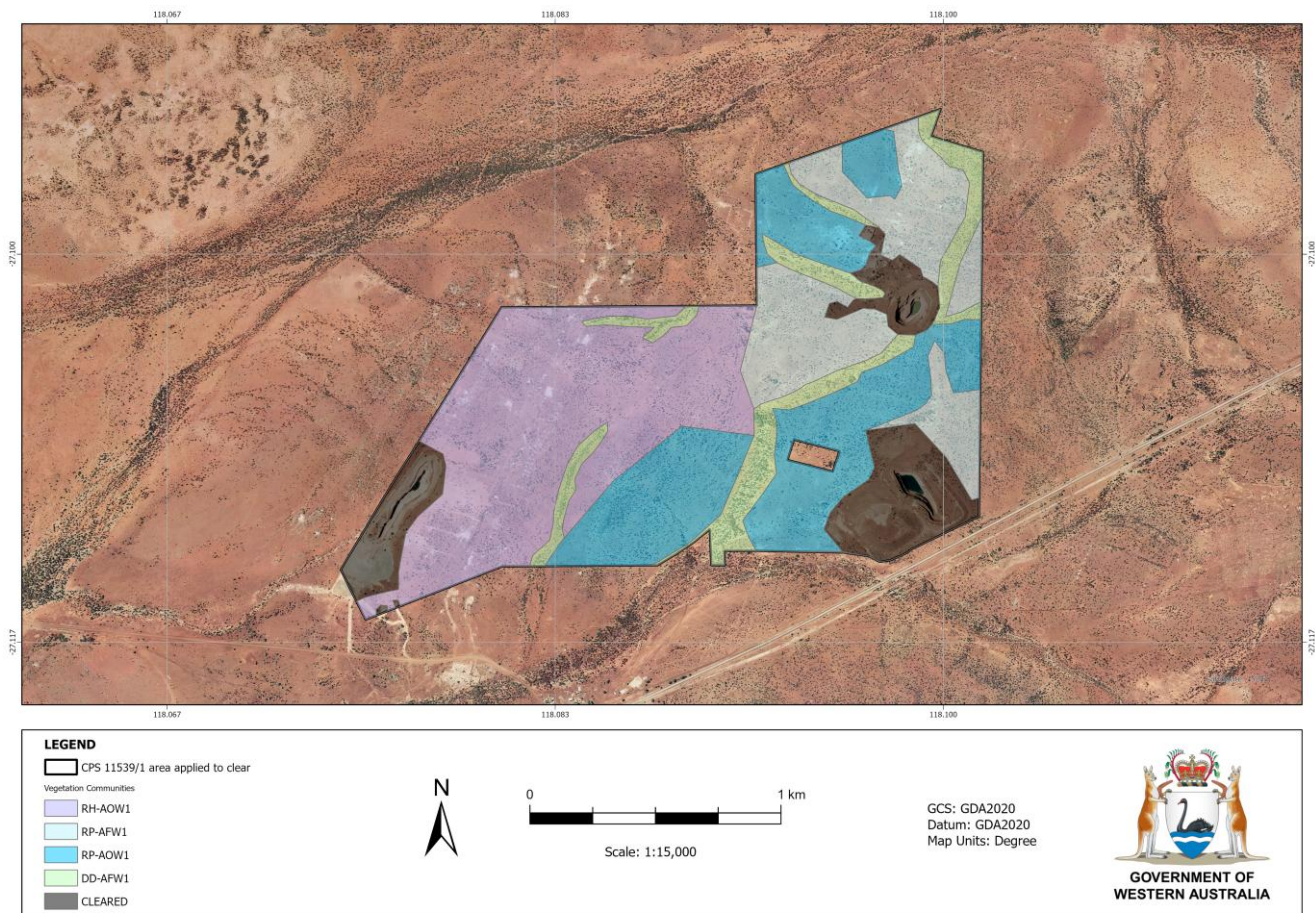


Figure 6. Vegetation communities within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

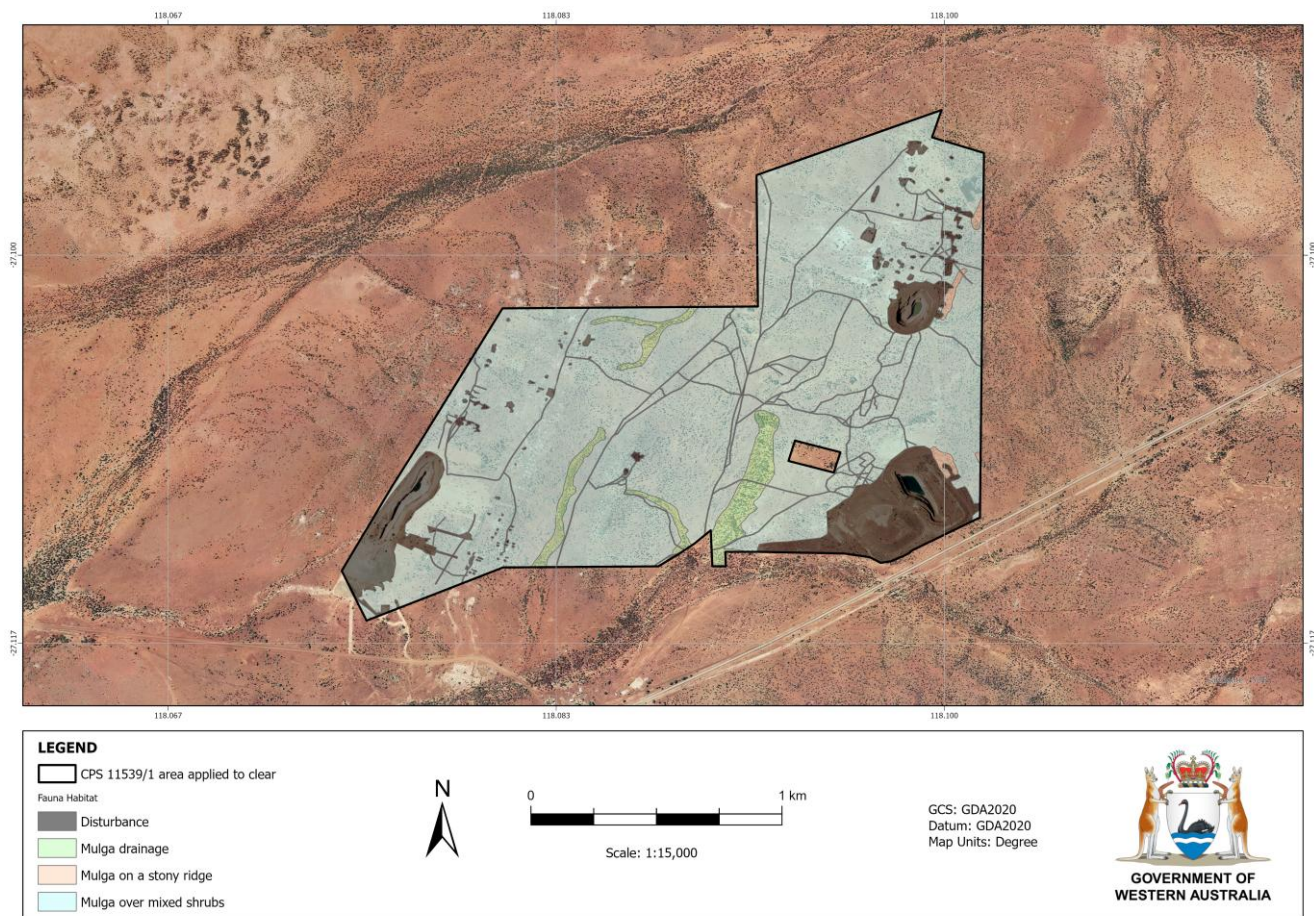


Figure 7. Fauna habitats within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- 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)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Basins (DWER-027)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- 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)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- 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 - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- 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)

E.2. References

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

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

Definitions:

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.