



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11549/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	AC Minerals Pty Ltd
Application received:	10 April 2026
Application area:	580 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of aerodrome, accommodation village, mine infrastructure, service corridors, site access road and borefield
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 28/401 Miscellaneous Licences 28/94, 28/95, 28/99, 28/102, 28/105, 28/106
Location (LGA area):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Rebecca Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

AC Minerals Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 580 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 2,313.29 hectares, for the purposes of ancillary mine infrastructure to support the Rebecca Gold Project site, located on M 28/400 and assessed under CPS 11347/1 (AC Minerals, 2026). The project is located approximately 127 kilometres east of Kalgoorlie within the city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The application is to allow for clearing of native vegetation to facilitate construction of an airstrip and accommodation village on L28/105, a borefield, pipeline and access roads on L28/94 and L28/95, and access roads and other ancillary infrastructure on M28/401, L28/99, L28/102 and L28/106 (AC Minerals, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	3 September 2026
Decision area:	580 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant (Ramelius, 2025) including the results of multiple flora and vegetation surveys and fauna surveys (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025; TE, 2023; TE, 2025), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate the construction of an aerodrome, accommodation village, mine infrastructure, service corridors, site access roads and a borefield.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for southern whiteface (*Apheclocephala leucopsis*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*);

- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- potential impacts to the Priority 1 wild river Ponton Creek; and
- potential land degradation in the form of erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing may have long-term adverse impacts on environmental values. The impacts 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:

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- vegetation management condition to avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and minimise the impacts of clearing on existing surface flows;
- flora management condition to limit clearing of priority flora identified within the application area;
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion;
- fauna management (southern whiteface);
- fauna management (malleefowl);
- fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly);
- fauna management (long-tailed dunnart); and
- fauna management (fauna spotter).

1.5. Site map

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

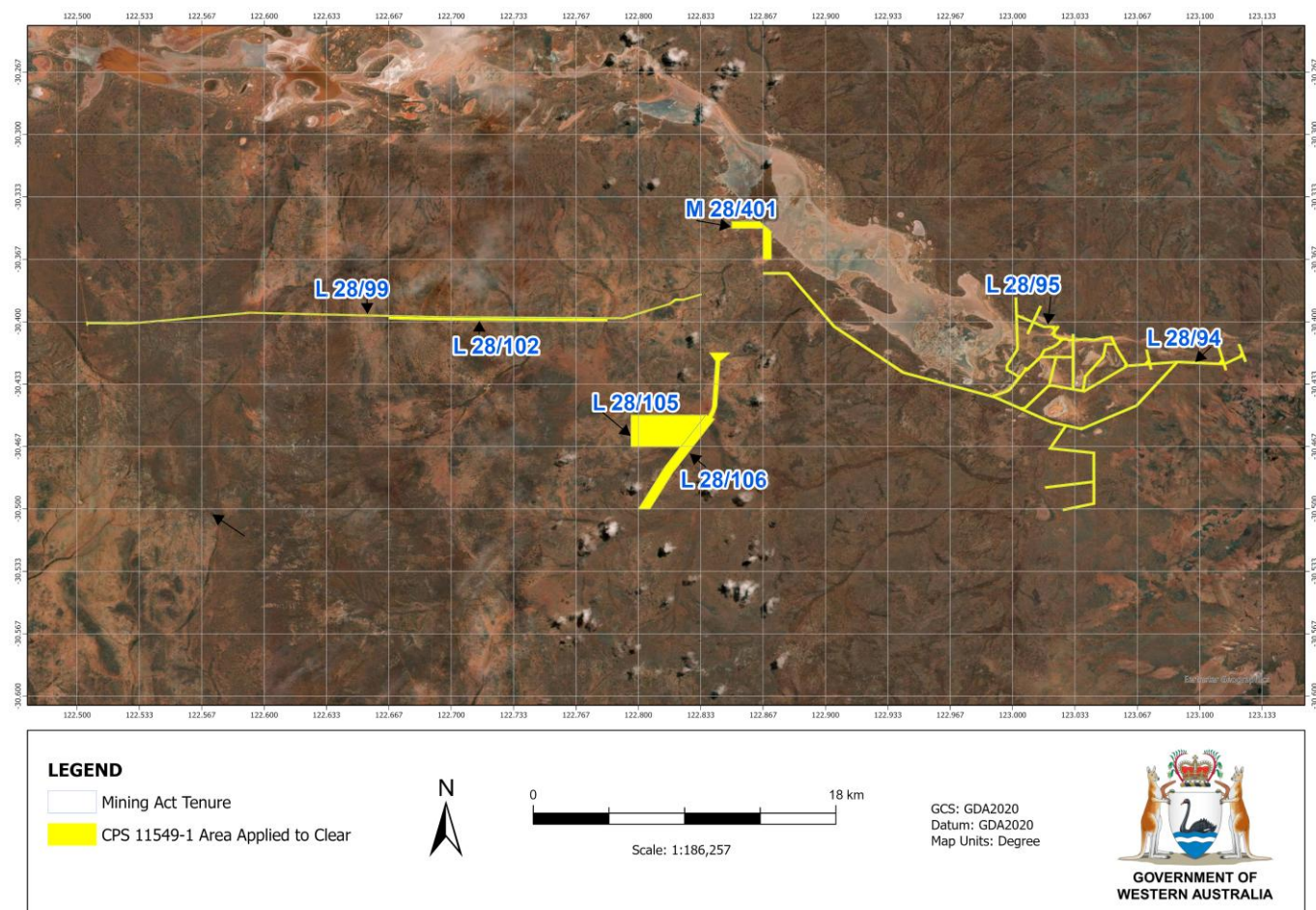


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 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)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that vegetation clearing procedures and weed management procedures would be undertaken on site. The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts, which in addition to the conditions implemented through the clearing permit will reduce the 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 (biodiversity, 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 (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

Assessment

Fauna

Two fauna surveys have been carried out over or adjacent to the application area, both conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems in May to June 2023 and August to September 2025. The first of these surveys was a basic vertebrate fauna survey carried out over two sections of the application area, part of the borefield to the east and the supporting infrastructure section to the north, adjacent to Lake Rebecca (TE, 2023). The second survey was a basic and targeted vertebrate fauna survey carried out over part of the airfield section of the application area to the south (TE, 2025). While they did not locate any conservation significant fauna species within the application area, the surveys did record conservation significant fauna in the surrounding area. The fauna habitats identified within the application area also provide suitable habitat for the following conservation significant species:

- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), VU;
- *Jalmenus aridus* (inland hairstreak butterfly), P2;
- *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), VU;
- *Lerista puncticauda* (dotty-tailed robust slider, Great Victoria Desert), P2; and
- *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly), CR.

Additionally, Western Wildlife conducted a fauna survey over Mining Lease 28/400 in 2022 in support of the application for CPS 11347/1 (WW, 2022). This survey only recorded one instance of conservation significant fauna, a camera trap identifying an individual *Sminthopsis longicaudata* (long-tailed dunnart) on the eastern edge of M 28/400.

Birds

Migratory birds

Given the proximity of the application area to Lake Rebecca, and that the eastern extent of the application area intersects parts of this lake system, there are multiple migratory bird species that may utilise the non-perennial lakes as habitat during or after periods of rainfall. This includes species such as *Actitis hypoleucos*, *Apus pacificus*, *Calidris acuminata*, *Calidris ruficollis*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Tringa brevipes* and *Tringa nebularia*, amongst others. While not recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area, these species are long-ranging birds that utilise inland lakes as suitable habitats. Despite the likelihood that they may be present within or in close proximity to the application area, these species would occur as transient visitors and would be expected to move to alternative habitat in the surrounding landscape if present once clearing activities commence.

Southern whiteface

Southern whiteface is a small bird similar to thornbills but with a stockier build, with brownish-grey upperparts with a pale white underside (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is widespread across the south of Australia but patchily distributed throughout its range, preferring woodlands and tall shrublands with grassy understorey or low shrub layer (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species has been recorded in the local area, with suitable habitat for this species identified within the application area (TE, 2025). The open woodland over shrubs present within the application area provides suitable foraging and breeding habitat for this species, with the majority of vegetation within the application area being in very good condition (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025). With the records in the local area and the suitable habitat present, it is highly likely that this species may utilise the application area and as such, the proposed clearing is likely to impact suitable habitat for the southern whiteface. Potential impacts to southern whiteface may be minimised through the implementation of a fauna management condition.

Malleefowl

Malleefowl occurs in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* and native pine *Callitris* spp. scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Malleefowl can also occur in scrubs of acacia in central Australia however this is less frequent (DCCEEW, 2024). Nesting habitat occurs in light sandy soil and where leaf litter is abundant, for the construction and heating of the incubation mound (DCCEEW, 2024). This species forages on the ground in leaf litter or among low vegetation, such as herbs and shrubs (DCCEEW, 2024). The vegetation within the application area provides suitable habitat for this species, and signs of malleefowl have been recorded in close proximity to the application area, including an inactive mound on M28/400 and tracks scattered throughout the area at the eastern extent of the application area (TE, 2023). Given the evidence of malleefowl in the surrounding area and suitable habitat present within the application area, it is likely that malleefowl may be present within the area proposed to be cleared. Impacts to malleefowl if present may be minimised through the implementation of a fauna management condition.

Invertebrates

Arid bronze azure butterfly

Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly) (ABAB) populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range, and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils with an open understorey; however, this species can occur in association with a range of other smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* species (DBCA, 2020). Additionally, ABAB has an obligate association with a sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* (DBCA, 2020). Western Wildlife conducted a targeted survey for this sugar ant in 2022, sampling a total of 333 sites evenly spread through the Eucalypt woodlands on M 28/400. This survey did not locate any colonies of *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* throughout M 28/400, and given the proximity of the application area and similarity in environmental characteristics, it is unlikely that this ant occurs within the area proposed to be cleared. Without the ant, it is unlikely that ABAB is present within the application area, even more so given the distance (greater than 100 kilometres) to the nearest of the two known populations of this species.

Inland hairstreak butterfly

Jalmenus aridus (Inland hairstreak butterfly) is data deficient and previously known from only two locations near Kalgoorlie. However, it has recently been recorded from an additional 10 locations across an area extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species consists of open woodland containing the hostplants *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and/or *Acacia tetragonophylla* alongside various nectar producing shrub species such as *Acacia*, *Eremophila*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Maireana* and *Scaevola*, and open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the hostplants (Eastwood et al., 2023). There have been no surveys conducted for this species or an associated ant species, *Froggattella kirbii*, over the application area or its surrounds. Suitable habitat for this species is present within the application area, with one or both of the hostplants occurring in the majority of the vegetation associations across the application area in addition to mixed *Acacia*, *Eremophila* and *Scaevola* species, only being absent from the proposed haul road between M 28/400 and L 28/95 (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025). While the closest record of this species is greater than 90 kilometres away from the application area, there is a deficiency in records, and as such, may be present within the application area due to the favourable environmental characteristics (Eastwood et al., 2023). If present within the application area, this would represent a significant range extension for the species, and as such may indicate the presence of an important population as it would occur at the edge of the species known range. As such the impacts of the proposed clearing on this species would be significant if present within the area proposed to be cleared. Potential impacts to inland hairstreak butterfly may be minimised through the implementation of a fauna management condition.

Mammals

Long-tailed dunnart

Sminthopsis longicaudata (long-tailed dunnart) is a small marsupial with a tail twice the length of its head and body, weighing up to 20 grams and growing up to 96 millimetres in length excluding the tail (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). It is known from several scattered localities extending from the Pilbara, northeast Goldfields and Gibson Desert regions of Western Australia to the western MacDonnell Ranges of the Northern Territory (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). Within its range, this species is known to occur in isolated populations where individuals are found to be locally common, inhabiting rocky scree with hummock grasses and shrubs (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). Within the Murchison IBRA bioregion, the long-tailed dunnart has also been recorded

in acacia shrublands and mulga woodlands (IS, 2021). While not recorded by either of the Terrestrial Ecosystems surveys, it was recorded by a camera trap within Mining Lease 28/400 as part of Western Wildlife's 2022 survey. This recording occurred on the 'stony rise' fauna habitat identified during the Western Wildlife survey, which matches with the known habitat preference of this species. While the 'stony rise' fauna habitat is sparse throughout the area, there is a large amount of *Acacia* and mulga woodland that may provide supplementary habitat for this species. The majority of which is located throughout Mining Lease 28/401, which also features a section of 'stony rise' fauna habitat. As such, this species may be present within the application area but is likely restricted to areas of stony rise habitat identified by the surveys. Potential impacts to this species if present within the application area may be minimised through the implementation of a pre-clearance survey condition.

Reptiles

Dotty-tailed robust slider

Lerista puncticauda (dotty-tailed robust slider) is found in a limited range in the south western section of the Great Victoria Desert of Western Australia (Chapple et al., 2019). As with many *Lerista* species, this fossorial lizard burrows through loose soil or sand beneath stones, logs or leaf litter, feeding on ants, termites and other small insects (Chapple et al., 2019). The greatest threat to this species is an increased occurrence of fire, which destroys the deep accumulations of leaf litter relied upon by this species, making them vulnerable to predation by feral cats that are known to preferentially hunt in recently burnt areas. There are two records of this species within 50 kilometres of the application area, with the majority of the records of this species falling within the eastern half of the Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve. While records for this species are limited, it is unlikely to occur within or adjacent to the application area as the vegetation associations and soil characteristics of known habitat differ markedly from those present within application area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may have significant impacts on the conservation of malleefowl, southern whiteface and long-tailed dunnart.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on the aforementioned conservation significant fauna species may be managed to be environmentally acceptable through the implementation of the below conditions.

Conditions

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

- fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring area proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) and inactive malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds and a 50 metre buffer around identified inactive mounds;
- fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak butterfly, and no clearing within 50 metres of associated host plants;
- fauna management (long-tailed dunnart) condition requiring area proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and long-tailed dunnart, and relocate any long-tailed dunnart identified by the survey; and
- a fauna spotter to traverse the area ahead of clearing machinery during clearings

3.2.2. Land and water resources (watercourse or wetlands) - Clearing principle (f)

The eastern extent of the application area intersects the catchment zone for the Priority 1 wild river Ponton Creek, with the main channel of the creek located approximately seven kilometres east of the application area at its closest point (GIS Database). Non-perennial drainage lines in the area drain towards Lake Rebecca, which in turn flows towards Ponton Creek. Some of these drainage lines intersect the application area, and portions of Leases 28/94 and 28/95 intersect the south eastern section of Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). The main drainage line of concern intersects Miscellaneous Lease 28/95, passing through a long section of the northern extent of this lease. This unnamed non-perennial drainage line runs into the Priority 3 Ponton Land System approximately 200 metres north of Miscellaneous Lease 28/94, before eventually flowing into the Priority 1 wild river Ponton Creek further downstream (GIS Database).

Advice was received on 24 August 2026 from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), identifying that the proposed clearing has the potential to impact the environmental and water management and values with the wild river (DWER, 2026). DWER advised that to protect the Ponton Creek wild river area from further degradation, the following measures are recommended:

- all mineral exploration and mining activities, including clearing, should adhere to established best management codes of practice;
- there should be no significant alteration of the natural hydrological regime and geomorphology of the wild river and its catchment;
- disturbance to riparian vegetation should be avoided to maintain foreshore stability and protect important riparian habitats;
- existing tracks should be used where possible; and
- any new roads or tracks in the catchment of a wild river should be designed, constructed and maintained to avoid direct sediment input or runoff to watercourses.

Many of these recommendations could be implemented through a vegetation management condition, and further recommendations from DWER have been provided to be addressed through the Mine Development and Closure Plan for the Rebecca gold project (DWER, 2026).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 26 June 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2023/004) 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 is one registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is located approximately 127 kilometres east of Kalgoorlie on unallocated crown land within the city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Murchison IBRA bioregion and the Eastern Murchison IBRA subregion (GIS Database). The application area is split into three sections located on mixed tracts of native vegetation, with some sections of the application area intersecting and/or adjacent to the non-perennial Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region are Unallocated crown land (UCL), Crown reserves, grazing-native pasture leasehold, freehold, conservation and mining leases (CALM, 2002).
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 Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve located approximately one kilometre east of the eastern extent of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 18: low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; 20: low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; 125: salt lake, lagoon, clay pan; and 400: saltbush and/or bluebush with scattered low trees (GIS Database). Multiple flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over sections of the application area by Botanica Consulting during May 2023, May 2024 and September 2025. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025): • Bare area, salt lake: Bare area, salt lake • Bare area, salt lake: Bare soil, salt lake • CLP-AFW1: Low <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> open forest over mid sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila clarkei</i> on clay loam plain. • CLP-AS1: Low <i>Acacia acuminata</i> shrubland over mid sparse shrubland of <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and low sod grass of <i>Austrostipa nitida</i> on clay loam plain. • CLP-AWS2: <i>Acacia burkittii</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> tall isolated shrubs over <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> shrubland. • CLP-CFW1: <i>Casuarina pauper</i> mid woodland over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> mid shrubland over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> low open shrubland on clay loam plain. • CLP-CW1: <i>Casuarina pauper</i> mid open forest over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> low chenopod shrubland on clay loam plain. • CLP-EOW1: <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i>, <i>E. salubris</i> low open woodland over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> open shrubland over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila parvifolia</i> subsp. <i>auricampa</i> over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low open shrubland. • CLP-EOW2: <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>, <i>E. salubris</i> and <i>Casuarina pauper</i> open woodland over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila glabra</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Olearia muelleri</i> low sparse shrubland • CLP-EW1: <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> mid woodland over <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> and <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> mid shrubland over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low chenopod shrubland on clay loam plain. • CLP-EW3: <i>Eucalyptus ravidia</i> low woodland over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> open chenopod shrubland over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low open chenopod shrubland on clay loam plain. • CLP-MS1: <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i>, <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> mixed shrubland over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low sparse chenopod shrubland. • CLP-MW1: <i>Casuarina pauper</i>, <i>E. oleosa</i> and <i>E. salubris</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia hemiteles</i>, <i>A. colletioides</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Olearia muelleri</i>, <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> and <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low open shrubland.

Characteristic	Details
	• CLP-MW1: <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> mid open mallee forest over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> mid shrubland over <i>Triodia scariosa</i> low hummock grassland. • CLP-OS1: <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i>, <i>Casuarina pauper</i>, <i>Eucalyptus yilgarnensis</i> low isolated trees over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>E. decipiens</i> and <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> low sparse shrubland. • CP-CS1: <i>Tecticornia doliiformis</i>, <i>T. sp.</i> Dennys Crossing (K.A. Shepherd & J. English KS 552) and <i>Tecticornia peltata</i> low open samphire shrubland. • CP-CS2: <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i>, <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> subsp. <i>divaricata</i> and <i>Tecticornia sp.</i> Dennys Crossing low open chenopod shrubland with <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>, <i>F. setosa</i> and <i>Maireana amoena</i> low open shrubland. • DD-CS1: Mid <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i> and <i>Tecticornia sp.</i> Dennys Crossing chenopod shrubland with <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>, <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> and <i>Maireana amoena</i> low open shrubland in drainage depression. • Disturbed: Disturbed. • KD-CFW1: Low woodland of <i>Callitris preissii</i> over <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> and <i>Lycium australe</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i>, <i>Tecticornia disarticulata</i> and <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> low open chenopod shrubland on kopi dune. • OD-CS1: Mid <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i>, <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> subsp. <i>divaricata</i> and <i>Tecticornia sp.</i> Dennys Crossing chenopod shrubland with <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>, <i>F. setosa</i> and <i>Maireana amoena</i> low open shrubland in open depression. • RS-CW1: <i>Casuarina pauper</i> low woodland over <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> shrubland over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> low open shrubland on hillslope. • SCLP-AOW1: Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Eremophila miniata</i>, <i>E. scoparia</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> on sandy clay loam plain. • SD-AOS1: <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>, <i>A. aptaneura</i>, <i>Eremophila miniata</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>, <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> and <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> subsp. <i>microcephala</i> low sparse shrubland. • SD-AW1: Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Eremophila miniata</i>, <i>E. scoparia</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> on sand dune. • SD-CS1: Mid <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i>, <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> subsp. <i>divaricata</i> and <i>Tecticornia sp.</i> Dennys Crossing chenopod shrubland with <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>, <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> and <i>Maireana amoena</i> low open shrubland on sand dune. • SLP-MW1: <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> mid open mallee forest over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> mid shrubland over <i>Triodia scariosa</i> low hummock grassland on sandy loam plain. • SLP-RMW1: Regrowth <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> mid open mallee forest over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> mid shrubland over <i>Triodia scariosa</i> low hummock grassland on sand-loam plain.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in poor to very good condition (Keighery, 1994). The full Keighery (1994) 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 265.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 320-370 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database).
Soil description and land degradation risk	The soil within the application area is mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell and Galloway, 2023): Bandy land system – low outcrops of granite and gritty-surfaced plains, supporting scattered acacia shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow sand, red shallow loam, red loamy earth, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, bare rock and very shallow soil. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion. Bevon land system – low hills and rises with limonitic duricrust and stony lower slopes, supporting acacia shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow loam on greenstone, very shallow soil on ferruginous duricrust, calcareous shallow loam and shallow loamy gravel. Minor areas with duplex soils on breakaway footslopes and narrow drainage tracts are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.

Characteristic	Details
	Bunyip land system – alluvial tracts, commonly with gilgai, draining greenstone hills, supporting mixed halophytic shrublands occasionally with a black oak or eucalypt overstorey. Soils associated with this land system are hard cracking clay on plains remote from gilgai, self-mulching cracking clay in gilgai mounds and depressions, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous shallow loam, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, recent sediments and cracking clay. Alluvial plains are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Impedance to natural drainage features can initiate accelerated soil loss. Carnegie Lake Bed subsystem – lake floors, unvegetated and consisting only of salt lake soils. Salinity makes this land system in its natural state susceptible to high erosion rates, but a lack of slope causes erosion and deposition to be localised, resulting in dynamic equilibrium for this land system. Cundeelee land system – gently inclined sheetwash plains, interfluvies and sand sheets, supporting mosaic eucalypt-mulga-casuarina woodlands, mixed shrublands and spinifex. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow sandy duplex, red loamy earth, very shallow hardpan soil, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, occasionally very shallow calcrete soil, red deep sand, red sandy earth, red-brown non-cracking clay, red shallow sand, red shallow loamy duplex on weathered granite and occasionally very shallow hardpan soil. Soils on lower footslopes generally are highly susceptible to water erosion; alluvial plains and drainage floors are moderately susceptible. Hardpan plains and drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion. Impedance of natural water flows can initiate water erosion. Deadman land system – calcareous plains adjacent to salt lake systems, supporting acacia, black oak and mallee woodlands and chenopod shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are red sandy earth, calcareous loamy earth, calcareous gravelly shallow loam, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, very shallow calcrete soil, calcareous shallow loam, red deep sand, red sandy earth and calcareous sandy earth. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion. Graves land system – basalt and greenstone low hills, supporting acacia shrublands and/or eucalypt woodlands with saltbush and bluebush understoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous very shallow soil, calcareous loamy earth, calcareous stony soil, stony soil, very shallow ironstone soil, red loamy earth, red-brown non-cracking clay, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex and red shallow loamy duplex. This land system is generally not prone to erosion except where stony mantles are disturbed, and alluvial plains in valley floors are susceptible to water erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Gumland land system – alluvial plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic shrub understoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous loamy earth, red loamy earth, Alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous shallow loam, calcareous clay loam, self-mulching cracking clay and calcareous loamy ironstone gravel. Alluvial plains, drainage tracts and foci are susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, as are footslopes if protective mantles are disturbed. Infrastructure across sheetwash and alluvial plains can result in concentrated water flows and cause erosion incision. Halophytic vegetation is prone to overgrazing and subsequent degradation. Gundockerta land system – extensive, gently undulating, calcareous plains, supporting bluebush shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous shallow loam, shallow non-cracking clay, red shallow loam, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous loamy earth, alkaline red shallow sandy duplex, shallow non-cracking clay, saline soil, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, cracking clays in gilgai area, very shallow calcrete soil and very shallow ironstone soil. Where not protected by a stony mantle, saline stony plains and adjacent lower alluvial landforms are susceptible to water erosion. Helag land system – hardpan plains and central drainage tracts, supporting mulga and eucalypt woodlands with minor chenopod shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are red loamy earth, occasionally on hardpan at variable depth, very shallow hardpan soil, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, occasionally very shallow calcrete soil and calcareous loamy earth. Alluvial plains are susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Diversion of sheetwash by tracks and gullies can initiate erosion. Illaara land system – low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga-casuarina shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are loamy gravel, calcareous shallow loam, red loamy earth, very shallow soil over ferruginous duricrust, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, shallow loamy gravel, calcareous loamy ironstone gravel, calcareous loamy earth and red loamy earth. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion. Kirgella land system – extensive sandplain with scattered granite outcrop, supporting mainly spinifex hummock grasslands and mulga and mallee woodlands. Soils associated with this land system are red deep sand, red sandy earth, occasionally becoming calcareous at depth, red

Characteristic	Details
	sandy earth, red loamy earth and occasionally on hardpan at variable depth. Lack of slope, sandy soils and dense vegetation make most of this land system resistant to erosion. However, spinifex grasses are prone to fire and sands may become unstable immediately following fire, though regrowth after rain usually restores stability. Lakeside land system – lunettes and sand sheets surrounding playas, supporting eucalypt (mallee) woodlands with spinifex. Soils associated with this land system are red deep sand, red, yellow or brown sandy earths or shallow sandy duplexes, calcareous sandy earth, red sandy earth, red loamy earth, calcareous loamy earth and alkaline red shallow loamy duplex. Lack of slope, sandy soils and dense vegetation make most of this land system resistant to erosion. However, it is prone to fire which can cause temporary loss of stabilising vegetation, exacerbating wind erosion of sandy surfaces. Moriarty land system – low greenstone rises and stony plains, supporting mixed shrublands with eucalypt or casuarina overstoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous stony soil, very shallow calcrete soil, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, calcareous gravelly shallow loam, calcareous loamy ironstone gravel, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, red loamy earth, red-brown non-cracking clay, rarely self-mulching cracking clay. Slopes of low rises without protective stone mantles, alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Woolibar land system – gently undulating calcareous gravelly plains, supporting bluebush shrublands and eucalypt woodlands. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous shallow loamy earth, calcareous loamy earth, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous stony soil, calcareous shallow loam, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, shallow cracking clay, self-mulching cracking clay in gilgai depressions. Where not protected by a gravelly mantle, and especially when associated with weathered felsic volcanoclastic rocks, saline plains and lower alluvial plains are very susceptible to water erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that ten minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared, and that the application area is located adjacent to and within the non-perennial Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). The eastern extent of the application area intersects the Ponton Creek wild river The nearest Wetland of National or International Importance is Lake Marmion located approximately 134 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 140 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 3,000 to >35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to hypersaline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 8 priority flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area, with one priority 3 flora species (<i>Eremophila arachnoides</i> subsp. <i>tenera</i>) present within the application area (BC, 2025; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are three Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within 20 kilometres of the application area: • Cundlegum Land System (P3); • Emu Land System (P3); and • Ponton Land System (P3).
Fauna	There are records of seven conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres of the application area, with suitable habitat for an additional two conservation significant fauna species identified within the application area that may occur in the region (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	The following fauna habitats were identified within the application area (TE, 2024; TE, 2025): • Ephemeral creekline • Eucalypt woodland • Eucalypt woodland over spinifex • Lake habitat • Lake margin • Minor drainage habitat

Characteristic	Details
	- Mulga drainage - Mulga over mixed shrubs - Mulga over spinifex - Salt lake - Salt pan - Sheoak over chenopod shrubland - Stony rise - Disturbed/cleared land

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
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,295,103.39	1,292,474.58	99.80	250,985.57	19.38
Veg Assoc No. 125	3,485,785.49	3,146,487.22	90.27	265,740.10	7.62
Veg Assoc No. 400	190,823.50	189,665.42	99.39	-	-
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 18	12,403,172.30	12,363,252.47	99.68	614,964.13	4.96
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,174,259.17	1,171,630.81	99.78	181,845.19	15.49
Veg Assoc No. 125	711,483.67	710,255.44	99.83	51,223.48	7.20
Veg Assoc No. 400	190,823.50	189,665.42	99.39	-	-

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and results from three flora and vegetation surveys, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Priority 1			
<i>Eremophila perglandulosa</i>	Y	<5	9
<i>Frankenia georgei</i>	Y	<20	7
<i>Nicotiana salina</i>	N	<20	14
Priority 2			
<i>Eremophila praecox</i>	Y	<5	52
<i>Thryptomene eremaea</i>	Y	<5	13

Priority 3			
<i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. numerous-nerved variant (A.S. George 11924)	N	<5	19
<i>Eremophila arachnoides</i> subsp. <i>tenera</i>	Y	0	18
<i>Hibiscus krichauffianus</i>	N	<5	1
<i>Micromyrtus serrulata</i>	Y	<5	23

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DPIRD, 2026b; TE, 2024; TE, 2025; GIS Database). The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Birds			
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	5
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)	OS	N	<5
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl)	VU	Y	<40
Invertebrates			
<i>Ogyris petrina</i> (arid bronze azure butterfly)	CR	Y	>50
<i>Jalmenus aridus</i> (inland hairstreak butterfly)	P2	Y	>50
Mammals			
<i>Notoryctes</i> sp. (marsupial mole)	P4	N	<5
<i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> (long-tailed dunnart)	P4	Y	<5
<i>Sminthopsis psammophila</i> (sandhill dunnart)	EN	N	<30
Reptiles			
<i>Lerista puncticauda</i> (dotty-tailed robust slider (Great Victoria Desert))	P2	Y	<10

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> Three flora and vegetation surveys were conducted over sections of the application area by Botanica Consulting in 2023, 2024 and 2025. These surveys identified one priority flora species within the application area, <i>Eremophila arachnoides</i> subsp. <i>tenera</i> (P3) (BC, 2025). There were 3,000 individuals of this species identified within the application area and its surrounds, with a maximum of 300 of these individuals to be removed by the planned clearing (BC, 2025; Ramelius, 2025). While there are only 18 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium, it has been recorded across three IBRA Bioregions (Coolgardie, Great Victoria Desert and Murchison). The removal of 300 individuals of this species being unlikely to result in significant local or regional impacts to the conservation of this species due to the large numbers of this plant recorded within a small area surrounding the application area and the likelihood that this population extends beyond the surveyed areas (BC, 2025; Ramelius, 2025; WAH, 1998-). Impacts to this species as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised through the implementation of a flora management condition. The application area provides suitable habitat for an additional five priority flora species recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, <i>Eremophila perglandulosa</i> (P1), <i>Eremophila praecox</i> (P2), <i>Frankenia georgei</i> (P1), <i>Micromyrtus serrulata</i> (P3) and <i>Thryptomene eremaea</i> (P2); however as these have not been identified by multiple flora surveys it is unlikely that they occur within the application area (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025; GIS Database). There are no Threatened or Priority ecological communities within the application area, and the vegetation associations identified within the application area are widespread in the surrounding area (GIS Database).	May be at variance	No
<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 contains potential habitat for conservation significant fauna species.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.” <u>Assessment:</u> No known threatened flora species have been identified within the application area or its surrounds (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). Multiple flora surveys of the application area did not identify any species or vegetation assemblages synonymous with any known TECs (BC, 2023; BC, 2024; BC, 2025).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.” <u>Assessment:</u> The extent of the mapped vegetation type in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<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> The nearest conservation area is the Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve located approximately one kilometre east of the application area. Due to the nature of the proposed clearing and the distance to the nature reserve there are unlikely to be any direct impacts to this reserve, however there may be indirect impacts as a result of changed surface flows and sedimentation rates, however these impacts fall under the consideration of Principle (f).	May be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area; however, it is intersected by multiple non-perennial surface drainage lines, in addition to the eastern extent of the application area intersecting the south east end of Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). Potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management and staged clearing condition. The drainage lines that intersect the application area and Lake Rebecca both drain into the catchment for the Priority 1 wild river Ponton Creek. Advice from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) was received on 24 August 2026 advising that the proposed clearing has the potential to impact on environmental and water management and values associated with the area (DWER, 2026).	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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> There are 15 land systems mapped within the application area, 12 of which are susceptible to erosion under certain conditions, such as removal of non-perennial shrub cover, disturbance of stony mantles, and alterations of natural surface flows by infrastructure (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised through the implementation of a staged clearing condition to ensure that large land surface areas are not devoid of stabilising vegetation cover for extended periods of time.	May be 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> No permanent waterbodies or watercourses occur within the application area, however there are multiple non-perennial drainage lines that intersect the application area in addition to intersecting parts of the south eastern extent of Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). Impacts to surface water as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management condition. The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). DWER have issued Groundwater Licence 214051(2) in relation to the borefield to be developed, and there is unlikely to be any impacts to surface water as a result of the removal of groundwater in this area (Ramelius, 2025).	May 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 permanent watercourses or wetlands recorded within the application area, with multiple non-perennial watercourses intersecting the application area in addition to intersecting parts of the south eastern extent of Lake Rebecca (GIS Database). There is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains due to the climate of the application area (BoM, 2026; GIS Database). Larger rainfall events	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
may result in flooding of the area; however, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incidence or intensity of flooding.		

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 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)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- 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)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Waterways Conservation Act Management Areas (DWER-072)
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

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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.