

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11560/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Caprice Resources Ltd
Application received:	20 April 2026
Application area:	350 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 21/66 and 21/140
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Cue
Colloquial name:	Island Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Caprice Resources Ltd (Caprice, 2026) proposes to clear up to 350 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 758 hectares, for the purpose of mining related infrastructure. The project is located within Austin townsite and approximately 3.5 kilometres southwest of Mainland, within the Shire of Cue (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for mineral production and associated activities to develop the Island Gold mining project (Caprice, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	24 September 2026
Decision area:	350 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 one submission was received.

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

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to vegetation associated with a drainage lines;
- potential impact to priority flora *Angianthus uniflorus* and *Minuria* sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713); and
- potention impact on the suitable habitat of *Lerista eupoda* (West Coast Mulga Slider).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation and potential impact 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;

- a vegetation management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing, and the clearing of riparian vegetation is avoided, where practicable;
- a flora management condition where a targeted flora survey should be conducted over the application area to identify the presence of *Angianthus uniflorus* and *Minuria* sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713) and if identified, a 10 metre buffer will be erected; and
- a fauna management condition (west coast mulga slider) requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed for signs of west coast mulga slider; and to relocate identified individuals.

1.5. Site map

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

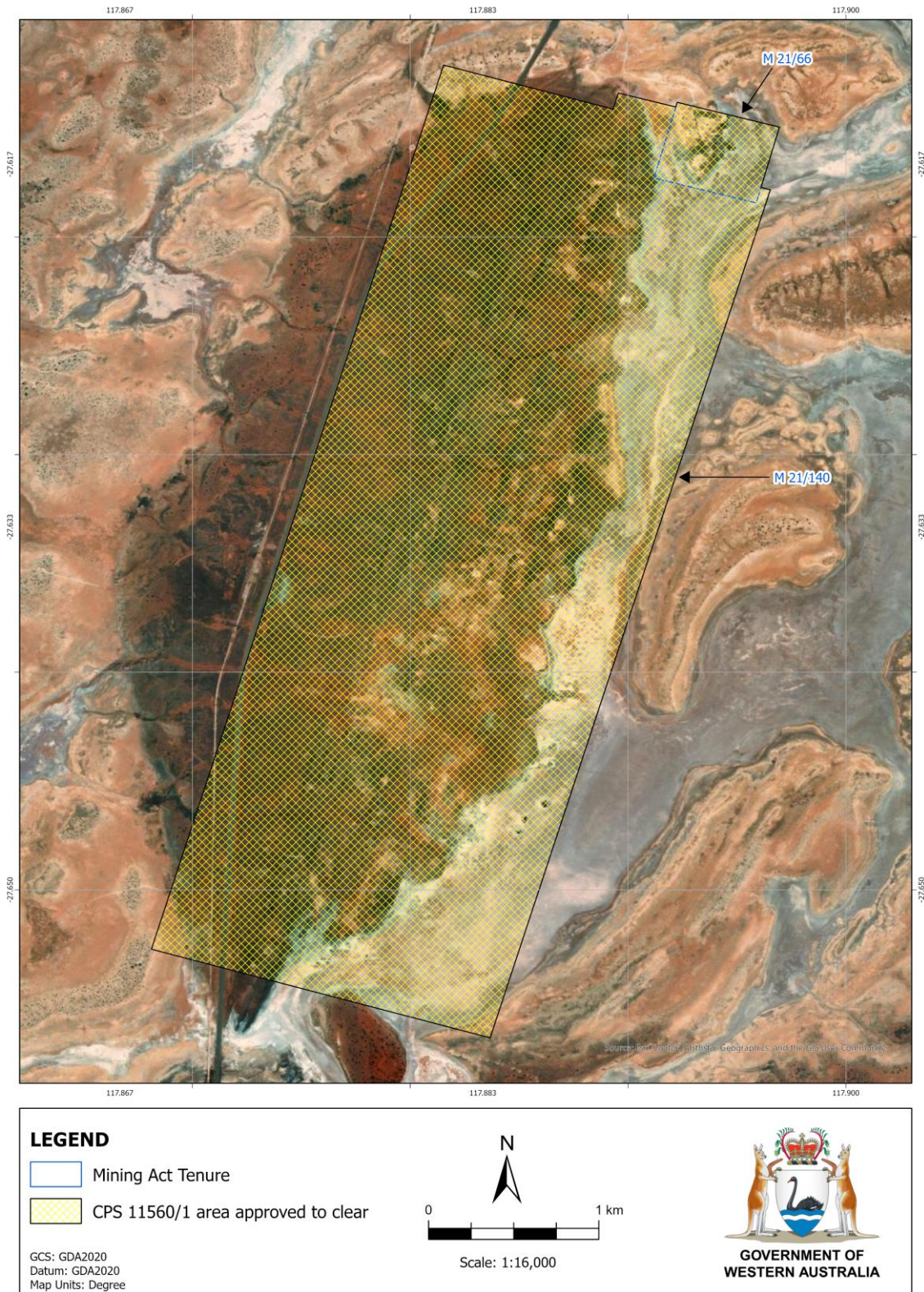


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The area cross-hatched yellow indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 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 adequately demonstrated that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values. Astill (2026) advised that:

- Clearing will be kept to the minimum required for mining activities and undertake progressively as required;
- Utilizing existing disturbed areas;
- Proposed clearing will be demarcated by a surveyor using high visibility tape/survey pegs to ensure clear visual boundaries for operators prior to clearing commencement or alternatively a spotter with handheld GPS will guide the clearing;
- A meeting will be held between the supervisor and clearing operator to ensure awareness of clearing areas and any areas to be avoided;
- Equipment required to undertake and support clearing activities may include a combination of a dozer, loader, excavator, water cart and service vehicles. Where practicable, raised blade clearing will be used. Where this is not practicable, topsoil will be stripped to 150 millimetres depth and stockpiled for use in rehabilitation, along with removed vegetation;
- Once clearing has been completed, surveyors will complete a pickup of cleared areas and provide the data for records and external reporting obligations; and
- Rehabilitation of cleared areas will occur in accordance with the relevant Approval Statement and Mine Closure Plan (MCP).

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and vegetation). 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 and fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Botanica (2025) conducted a reconnaissance flora and Vegetation survey, and basic fauna survey over the application area on 23 June 2025. No Threatened, Priority or otherwise significant flora species were recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2025).

Angianthus microcephalus (Priority 2) is found in the sandy or clayey soils, and within salt swamps and pans (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). This habitat occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). The nearest known record is approximately two kilometres north from the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, it is considered possible to occur within the application area. However, this species is known from 17 Western Australian Herbarium (WAH) records across four IBRA bioregions, indicating that it is not locally or regionally restricted (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). It is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the conservation of the species.

Tecticornia fimbriata (Priority 3) is found in clayey or loamy soil within margins of salt and gypsum lakes (WAH, 1998-). This habitat occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). The nearest known record is approximately seven

kilometres east from the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, it is considered possible to occur within the application area. However, the species is known from 31 Western Australian Herbarium records across two IBRA bioregions, indicating that it is not locally restricted (WAH, 1998-). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact on the conservation of this species.

Angianthus uniflorus (Priority 1) is found in margin of calcrete rise near gypseous salt lake (WAH, 1998-). There are only two records of this species, which is within Lake Austin, one record being less than one kilometre west and seven kilometres north of the application area, which indicates this species is locally restricted (WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). The application area provides suitable habitat for this species, however the flora survey conducted over the application area was not sufficient for the identification of this species as the flowering period for this species is during spring (Biogardens, 2026). Further surveys are required to determine whether *Angianthus uniflorus* occurs within the application area, given surveys have been inadequate to detect this species.

Minuria sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713) (Priority 1) prefers saline habitats, occurring on gypsum flats, saline clay pans, and around the margins of salt lakes, commonly in samphire and saline shrubland vegetation (WAH, 1998-). This species is distributed across the Great Victoria Desert and Murchison bioregions (WAH, 1998-). The application area provides suitable habitat for this species (Botanica, 2025; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). It was previously recorded along roadside within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). The flora survey conducted over the application area by Botanica (2025) during the month of June 2025 was not sufficient to identify this species. The flowering period of this species is from July to October (DBCA, 2026). Further surveys are required to determine whether *Minuria* sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713) occurs within the application area, given surveys have been inadequate to detect this species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in potentially significant impacts to *Angianthus uniflorus* and *Minuria* sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713).

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on priority flora can be managed by implementing flora management conditions and avoiding, minimising and reducing the impacts and extent of clearing.

Conditions

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

- prior to any clearing, a botanist shall be engaged to conduct a targeted flora survey for *Angianthus uniflorus* and *Minuria* sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713). These plants will be flagged and a 10 metre buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals; and
- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing.

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

Assessment

The basic fauna survey conducted over the application area did not record any conservation significant fauna species (Botanica, 2025). However, the survey and desktop assessment have considered *Calidris acuminata* (MI), *Tringa glareola* (MI), *Tringa nebularia* (MI), *Gelochelidon nilotica* (MI), *Calidris ferruginea* (CR), *Egernia stokesii badia* (VU), *Falco hypoleucos* (VU), *Leipoa ocellata* (VU), *Falco peregrinus* (OS) and *Charadrius cucullatus* (P4), *Lerista eupoda* (P1) of having possibility to occur within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS database).

Calidris acuminata (MI), *Gelochelidon nilotica* (MI), *Tringa glareola* (MI) and *Tringa nebularia* (MI) are classified as migratory species under *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The habitats present within the application area are considered to be utilised by these species occasionally (Botanica, 2025). Lake Austin covers a surface area of approximately 98,000 hectares (JDA, 2011), out of which approximately 178.78 hectares is covered by the application area (GIS Database). Lake Austin forms part of a network of salt lakes in the Mid-West region of Western Australia (JDA, 2011; GIS Database). Suitable habitat for these species is widely spread across the region; therefore, proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact on these conservation significant species.

Calidris ferruginea (CR) is a non-breeding visitor of Australia that inhabits inland ephemeral and permanent lakes, dams and bore drains (Botanica, 2025; Driessen et al., 2025). The species occurs widely across coastal and subcoastal Western Australia, including major wetland sites, and is only occasionally recorded inland (Driessen et al., 2025). While suitable habitat may occur within the application area, the species is rarely recorded around ephemeral lakes (Botanica, 2025). Given the limited extent of the proposed clearing and the availability of similar habitat within the broader Lake Austin system, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Falco hypoleucos (VU) is sparsely recorded throughout inland Australia (Botanica, 2025; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Suitable habitat may be present within the application area; however, it is unlikely to represent critical habitat for this species (Botanica, 2025). *Falco peregrinus* (OS) inhabits in open grassland, wooded areas and tall structures in urban areas (ALA, 2026a). This species may utilise parts of the application area as part of a much larger home range; however, records in this area are uncommon (Botanica, 2025). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact on these species.

Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl) (VU) inhabits a variety of environments but is mainly associated with semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee vegetation, as well as related habitats such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris* species) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Nests are constructed in sandy soil and leaf litter, with birds building large incubation mounds for egg laying (DCCEEW, 2024). The basic fauna survey conducted by Botanica (2025) did not record any evidence (including nesting mounds, tracks or other signs) of this species within the application area. Suitable habitat is widespread locally and regionally, and the habitat within the application area is considered unsuitable for breeding due to a 'relatively high level of disturbance' (Botanica, 2025). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact to this species.

Charadrius cucullatus (Hooded Plover) (P4) prefers broad, flat, open sandy beaches and occasionally utilises inland salt lakes and saline wetlands (BirdLife, 2026; Botanica, 2025). The application area is within an ephemeral salt lake, which may provide suitable habitat for the species, particularly following substantial rainfall events (Botanica, 2025). Given the widespread availability of, suitable habitat locally and regionally (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact to this species.

Egernia stokesii badia (western spiny-tailed skink) (VU), inhabits open Eucalypt woodlands and Acacia dominated shrublands and shelters in fallen logs, hollow trunks and other refugia (Botanica, 2025; DEC, 2012). The “black form” occurs in an area approximately bounded by Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Cue and Murchison Settlements (DEC, 2012). *Egernia stokesii badia* has been recorded approximately 45 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). Suitable habitat may occur within the application area; however, the species was not recorded during the fauna survey, and no known populations occur within the proposed clearing footprint (Botanica, 2025; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database). The suitable habitat for this species is prevalent throughout the region (Botanica, 2025; DEC, 2012). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact on this species.

Lerista eupoda (West Coast Mulga Slider) (P1) is known from the Murchison bioregion and is poorly known, with only 13 records of occurrence currently available (ALA, 2026b). This species inhabits open mulga areas on loamy soils within arid environments, particularly when leaf litter accumulates on loamy soil along the drainage lines (Smith, 1996). The nearest record is approximately 35 kilometres north from the application area (GIS Database). This species is restricted to the Murchison region, occurring in an area between Meekatharra and Cue (Wilson & Swan, 2021). Suitable habitat for this species occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025). As proposed clearing impacts the habitat suitable for west coast mulga slider a targeted survey is required to determine the presence of this species within the application area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of suitable habitat of West Coast Mulga Slider.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant fauna can be managed by implementing fauna management conditions on the granted permit.

Conditions

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

- a fauna management (west coast mulga slider) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed for signs of west coast mulga slider; and to relocate identified individuals.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 5 May 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was 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 determined by the Federal Court 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.

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. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
One submission was received, relating to the cultural, historical and archaeological significance of Austin Island (Shire of Cue, 2026).	The Department issued a written response, advising that this is outside of the scope of assessment. It is advised that the submitter should engage directly with the Department concerned for the heritage site and liaise with the applicant to negotiate these requests.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details																				
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of seasonally flooded zone of Lake Austin and is an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of Eastern Murchison of the Murchison bioregion as described in Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is grazing native pastures (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 application area is not located within any DBCA legislated conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is the Lakeside Conservation Park, approximately six kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).																				
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 240: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered <i>Acacia sclerosperma</i> & bowgada over saltbush & bluebush; and 1127: Mosaic: Saltbush & bluebush/samphire (GIS Database). A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted on 23 June 2025 over the application area by Botanica. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2025): <table><tr><th>Landform</th><th>NVIS Vegetation Group</th><th>Code</th><th>Vegetation Type</th><th>Area (ha)</th><th>Area (%)</th><th>Photos</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Clay-Loam Plain</td><td>Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)</td><td>CLP-AOW1</td><td>Mixed tall Shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> with a mixed shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i>, <i>E. galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. <i>Meekatharra</i> and mixed isolated low shrubs mainly of <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>, <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> and <i>Maireana</i> sp. on a clay-loam plain.</td><td>18.52</td><td>2.44</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)</td><td>CLP-CS1</td><td>Mixed low samphire shrubland mainly of <i>Tecticornia pruinosa</i> with isolated tussock grasses on a clay-loam plain.</td><td>23.80</td><td>3.13</td><td></td></tr></table>	Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos	Clay-Loam Plain	Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)	CLP-AOW1	Mixed tall Shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> with a mixed shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> , <i>E. galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. <i>Meekatharra</i> and mixed isolated low shrubs mainly of <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> , <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> and <i>Maireana</i> sp. on a clay-loam plain.	18.52	2.44		Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)	CLP-CS1	Mixed low samphire shrubland mainly of <i>Tecticornia pruinosa</i> with isolated tussock grasses on a clay-loam plain.	23.80	3.13	
Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos															
Clay-Loam Plain	Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)	CLP-AOW1	Mixed tall Shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> with a mixed shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> , <i>E. galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. <i>Meekatharra</i> and mixed isolated low shrubs mainly of <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> , <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> and <i>Maireana</i> sp. on a clay-loam plain.	18.52	2.44																
	Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)	CLP-CS1	Mixed low samphire shrubland mainly of <i>Tecticornia pruinosa</i> with isolated tussock grasses on a clay-loam plain.	23.80	3.13																

Characteristic	Details						
	Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos
	Drainage Depression	Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)	DD-CS1	Mixed sparse shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> with a mixed low sparse shrubland mainly of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Atriplex</i> sp. in a drainage depression.	11.07	1.46	
		Acacia Forrest Woodland (MVG 6)	DD-AFW1	Mixed <i>Acacia</i> tall shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> and <i>A. mulganeura</i> with a mixed sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila</i> sp. and isolated low shrubs of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> in a drainage depression.	21.67	2.85	
	Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos
		Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)	DD-AOW1	Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over low open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> sp. over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> in drainage depression.	22.27	2.93	
	Rocky Hill	Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)	RH-AOW1	Mixed tall <i>Acacia</i> shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia mulganeura</i> and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> with a sparse low shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Sclerolaena densiflora</i> on a rocky hillslope.	339.09	44.59	
	Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos
		Acacia Open Woodland (MVG 13)	RH-AOW2	Mixed <i>Acacia</i> tall shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> with a sparse mixed shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila</i> sp. and a low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>P. rotundifolius</i> on a rocky hillslope.	30.27	3.98	
				Lake	193.32	25.42	

Characteristic	Details																				
	<table><tr><th>Landform</th><th>NVIS Vegetation Group</th><th>Code</th><th>Vegetation Type</th><th>Area (ha)</th><th>Area (%)</th><th>Photos</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Disturbed</td><td>100.53</td><td>13.22</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Total</td><td>760.54</td><td>100</td></tr></table>	Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos				Disturbed	100.53	13.22		Total				760.54	100
Landform	NVIS Vegetation Group	Code	Vegetation Type	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Photos															
			Disturbed	100.53	13.22																
Total				760.54	100																
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2025) of the application area found the vegetation to be in good to completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Mapping of vegetation condition is provided in Appendix E.																				
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid to semi-arid with predominantly winter rainfall (CALM, 2002). The application area receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 232.3 millimetres (BoM, 2026).																				
Soil description & Land degradation risk	The soils of the application area are broadly mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database): - The Carnegie land system is characterised by extensive salt lakes fringed by sandy plains, dunes and banks supporting halophytic shrublands and scattered acacia shrublands. Sandy and alluvial landforms provide high pastoral value and are generally stable with low erosion susceptibility, while the highly saline lake beds are largely unvegetated and have little grazing value (Payne et al., 1998). - The Gabanintha land system is described as greenstone ridges and hills supporting sparse acacia shrublands. Stone mantles afford protection against soil erosion, the exception being narrow drainage tracts which are mildly susceptible to water erosion (Payne et al., 1998).																				
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the application area intersects Lake Austin (GIS Database).																				
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Cue Water Reserve located approximately 17 kilometres south 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). The groundwater salinity is mapped as >35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as hyper saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).																				
Flora	The flora and vegetation survey conducted by Botanica (2025) did not record any conservation significant flora species within the application area. However, there has been previous record of <i>Minuria</i> sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713) (Priority 1) flora species within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).																				
Ecological communities	There are no known records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). However, the Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) (Priority 1) PEC and Austin Land System (Priority 3) PEC are recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).																				
Fauna	The basic terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey conducted by Botanica (2025) did not record any conservation significant fauna species within the application area. However, the desktop assessment recorded 25 conservation significant fauna species in the vicinity of the application area (50 kilometres) (GIS Database).																				
Fauna habitat	A basic terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey conducted by Botanica (2025) over the application area on 23 June 2025. Six broad habitat types were identified within the application area (Botanica, 2025): - Acacia Open Woodland on clay-loam plain; - Acacia Forest and Woodland in drainage depression; - Acacia Open Woodland on rocky hillslopes; - Chenopod shrubland on clay loam plain; - Chenopod Shrublands in a drainage depression; and - Lake																				

B.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	28,044,823	~99	2,185,987	7.77

Beard vegetation associations - State					
- 240	119,107	119,107	~100	43,393	36.43
- 1127	69,078	69,078	~100	12,443	18.01
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
- 240	106,950	106,950	~100	42,572	39.81
- 1127	69,078	69,078	~100	12,443	18.01

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within a 20 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information (Botanica, 2025; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Angianthus microcephalus</i>	P2	Y	<5	Possibly	17	Y
<i>Angianthus uniflorus</i>	P1	Y	<1	Possibly	2	Y
<i>Drummondia miniata</i>	P3	N	<20	Unlikely	26	Y
<i>Eremophila rostrata</i> subsp. <i>rostrata</i>	T	N	<20	Unlikely	7	Y
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	N	<20	Unlikely	63	Y
<i>Minuria</i> sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713)	P1	Y	0	Likely (Previously recorded)	14	Y
<i>Tecticornia fimbriata</i>	P3	Y	<10	Possibly	31	Y

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have records within a 50 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability, likelihood of occurrence and impact was determined utilising biological survey information (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Likelihood of occurrence	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
		EPBC	WA				
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<45	N
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	southern whiteface	VU	VU	N	Unlikely	<45	Y
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<50	N
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	sharp-tailed sandpiper	MI	MI	Y	Possibly	<1	Y
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	curlew sandpiper	CR & MI	CR	Y	Possibly	<5	Y
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	hooded plover, hooded dotterel	-	P4	Y	Possibly	<1	Y

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Likelihood of occurrence	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
		EPBC	WA				
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	white-winged black tern	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<15	N
<i>Cyclodomorphus branchialis</i>	gilled slender blue-tongue	-	VU	N	Unlikely	<50	N/A
<i>Egernia stokesii badia</i>	western spiny-tailed skink	EN	VU	Y	Possibly	<45	Y
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	grey falcon		VU	Y	Possibly	<45	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon		OS	Y	Possibly	<35	Y
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	gull-billed tern	MI	MI	Y	Possibly	<1	N
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i>	northern shield-backed trapdoor spider	-	P3	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	malleefowl	VU	VU	Y	Possibly	<20	Y
<i>Lerista eupoda</i>	West Coast mulga slider, meekatharra slider	-	P1	Y	Possibly	<35	Y
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<35	N/A
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	blue-billed duck	-	P4	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	black-flanked rock-wallaby, black-footed rock-wallaby, moororong	EN	EN	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	night parrot	EN	CR	N	Unlikely	<30	Y
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	wood sandpiper	MI	MI	Y	Possibly	<5	N
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	EN & MI	MI	Y	Possibly	<5	Y
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	marsh sandpiper	MI	MI	N	Unlikely	<45	N/A

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

Appendix C. 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 clear represents likely potential habitat for conservation significant flora species as well as conservation significant fauna (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). The desktop assessment and flora survey did not record any TEC/PEC within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).	May be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.
<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> No evidence of conservation significant fauna was observed during the survey by Botanica (2025).	Not likely to be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The application area contains habitat that may support conservation significant (Botanica, 2025).		
<u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<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> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species or a vegetation community that represents a threatened ecological community (Botanica, 2025). No threatened ecological communities are mapped within 100 kilometres of 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 extent of the mapped vegetation type 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 (GIS Database).	Not likely to be 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 to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<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 the application area is located within Lake Austin, which forms part of a network of salt lakes in the Mid-West region of Western Australia, and is an ephemeral salt lake (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). The proposed clearing is likely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality (GIS Database). Potential impacts to the lake can be minimised by the implementation of vegetation management condition.	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 and Carnegie land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). These land systems are generally stable and characterised by protective stone mantles, rocky surfaces, vegetation cover and saline soil crusts that assists in minimizing erosion (Payne et al., 1998). The proposed clearing of 350 hectares is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to 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>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given the application area is within an ephemeral salt lake, it is naturally highly saline and support a specialised salt tolerant vegetation. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database).		
Principle (j): <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> The area proposed to be cleared is located within a salt lake, and floods intermitted as a natural function of its ecology. The clearing of native vegetation is therefore unlikely to exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding (Astill, 2026; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. 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.

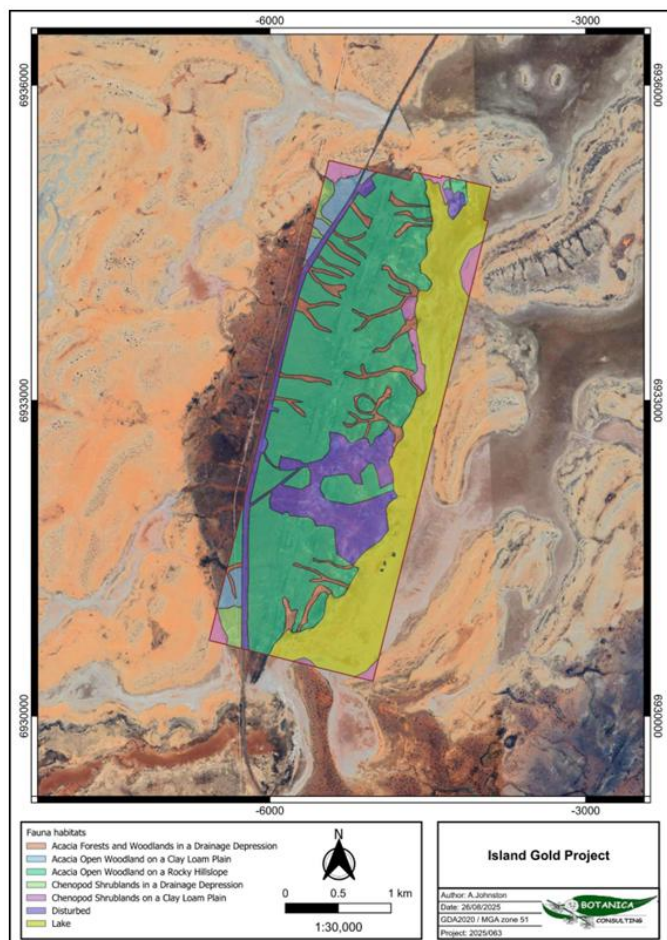


Figure 2: Fauna habitats within the survey area (Botanica, 2025).



Figure 3: Vegetation condition within the survey area (Botanica, 2025).

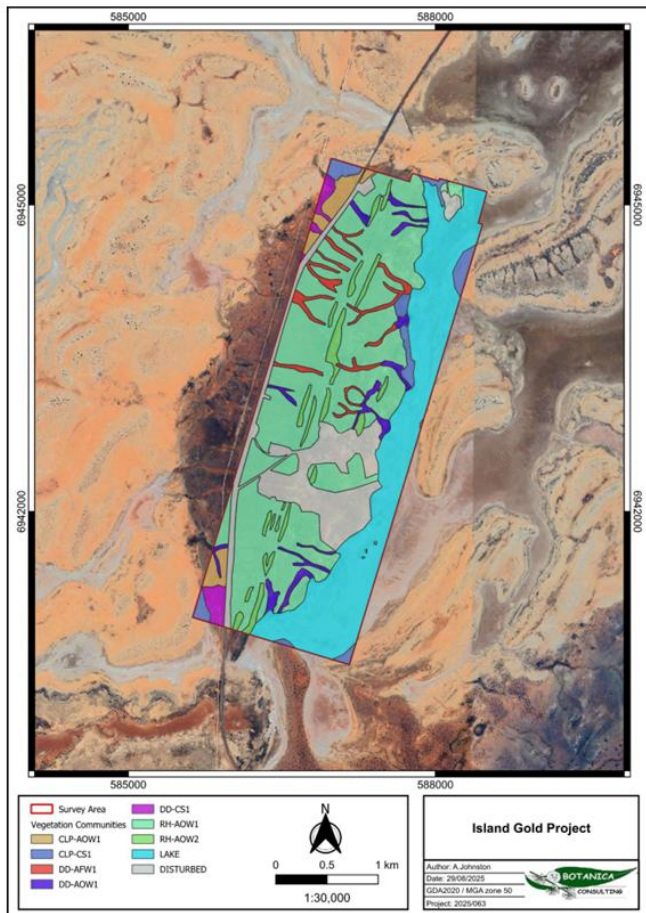


Figure 4: Vegetation communities within the survey area (Botanica, 2025).

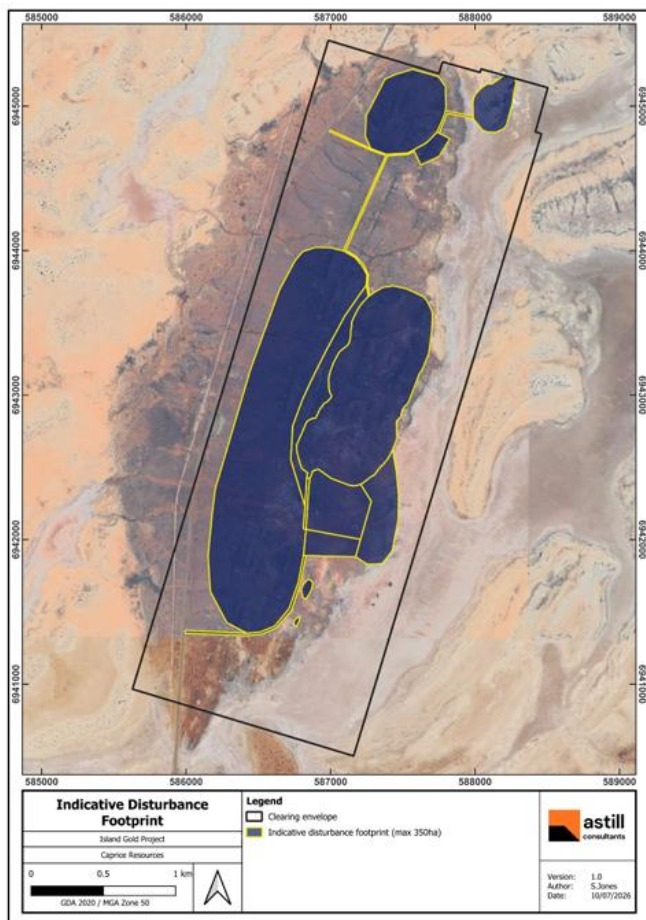


Figure 5: Indicative Disturbance Footprint (Astil, 2026b).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.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)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- 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

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)

F.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.