



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11561/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Valiant Gold Limited
Application received:	20 April 2026
Application area:	30 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Dewatering pipeline
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 51/92 Miscellaneous Licence 51/51
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Cue, and Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	Boomerang Pipeline Corridor

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Valiant Gold Limited proposes to clear up to 30 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 34 hectares, for the purpose of dewatering pipeline corridor. The project is located approximately 47 kilometres south of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra and the Shire of Cue.

The application is to allow for the construction of a dewatering pipeline corridor to support the Reedy Gold Project.

Clearing permit CPS 9573/1 was granted on 24 March 2022 for Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd (DMIRS, 2022). Following the acquisition of the project from Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd, Valiant Gold Limited has applied for a clearing permit over the same area, effecting a name reapplication. Consequently, clearing cannot proceed under CPS 9573/1 due to the change in project ownership.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 15 January 2026), no clearing of native vegetation has occurred under CPS 9573/1.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	18 August 2026
Decision area:	30 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 (see Appendix A).

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 Delegated Officer also took into consideration that this application is to replace existing clearing permit 9573/1.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential impacts to waterbird and migratory bird habitats; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind 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 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;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- avoid impacts to riparian vegetation where practicable and maintain surface water flow to minimise the potential for localised erosion and sedimentation, which can have adverse impacts on downstream water quality.

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

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise the potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that areas of existing disturbance will be utilised to limit further disturbance (Valiant Gold Limited, 2026). In addition to this avoidance measure, the impacts of clearing will be minimised by utilising raised blade clearing where practicable. The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix 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) - Clearing principle (a)

Assessment

A reconnaissance flora and fauna survey was undertaken over the Boomerang Open Pit discharge pipeline corridor by Stantec (2022) between 9 and 10 November 2021. This survey was submitted in line with an existing clearing permit on the same tenement (CPS 9573/1). It is noted that this survey was undertaken outside of the recommended survey period however, due to unseasonal rainfall patterns in recent years the majority of specimens were flowering at the time of the survey (Stantec, 2022).

Five flora species were unable to be unidentified as they were not flowering at the time however, these were not conservation significant species.

Stantec (2022) recorded one conservation significant flora species (*Tecticornia cymbiformis*) within close proximity to the application area. *Tecticornia cymbiformis* (Priority 3) is an erect perennial shrub that grows in saline soils along the edge of creek lines (Stantec, 2022; WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 16 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. This taxon was found in association with the 'TaffuTibFIAhh' vegetation type along the drainage line and open low shrubland habitat (see Appendix B.1). The species is considered to be locally abundant and likely to occur across the broader saline lake margins of Lake Annean (Stantec, 2022).

Four other conservation significant species had the potential to occur within the application area but were not recorded during the survey (Stantec, 2022).

Acacia sclerosperma subsp. *glaucescens* (Priority 3) is a spreading shrub that grows in sandy loam and stony soils (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 25 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Carnarvon and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is located approximately 10 kilometres north of the application area, beyond the Lake Annean system (GIS Database). While there are suitable soils and habitat within the application area, the species was not observed during the survey (Stantec, 2022). As the species has not previously been identified within the application area and is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to unacceptable environmental impacts.

Ptilotus lazaridis (Priority 3) is a herb or shrub that grows in clay loams in association with floodplains (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 15 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database). While there are suitable soils and habitat within the application area, the species was not observed during the survey (Stantec, 2022). As the species has not previously been identified within the application area and is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to unacceptable environmental impacts.

Hemigenia virescens, Priority 3, is a low shrub that grows in stony plains or clay loam (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 11 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). No records of the conservation significant species have been identified within the application area (Stantec, 2022). As the species has not previously been identified within the application area and is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to unacceptable environmental impacts.

Prostanthera petrophila, Priority 3, is a spreading shrub that grows in lateritic soils (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 45 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is located approximately 20 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database). No records of the conservation significant species have been identified within the application area (Stantec, 2022). As the species has not previously been identified within the application area and is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to unacceptable environmental impacts.

There is one known record of Threatened flora (*Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata*) located approximately 35 kilometres south of the application area (Stantec, 2022). The preferred habitat for this species is quartzite loams, hills and flats, which is likely to occur within the southern portion of the application area. Targeted searches for this species were conducted during the field survey, which did not record any occurrences within the application area or surrounds (Stantec, 2022). *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* is considered unlikely to occur in the application area.

One introduced flora species (weed) was recorded within the application area during the field survey; *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area by competing with native vegetation for available resources.

Conclusion

There are no known records of Threatened and Priority flora or Threatened fauna within the application area. As the clearing area within Lake Annean is relatively small and the habitat is widely represented, it is considered that the potential impacts on biodiversity within the application area are unlikely to be significant.

There is a high likelihood of weeds being present within the application area and the proposed clearing has the potential to exacerbate the spread of weeds.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- avoid impacts to riparian vegetation where practicable and maintain surface water flow to minimise the potential for localised erosion and sedimentation, which can have adverse impacts on downstream water quality.

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

Assessment

A reconnaissance flora and fauna survey was undertaken over the Boomerang Open Pit discharge pipeline corridor by Stantec (2022) between 9 November and 10 November 2021. This survey was submitted in line with an existing clearing permit on the same tenement (CPS 9573/1).

The application area features ephemeral wetland habitat and salt lakes which are significant for migratory shorebird and waterbirds in the Murchison region (Stantec, 2022). Three conservation significant fauna species were considered likely to occur in the application area:

- Fairy shrimp (*Branchinella simplex*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- West coast mulga slider (*Lerista eupoda*)

Fairy shrimp (*Branchinella simplex*), P1, has the potential to occur within Lake Annean during the early stages of flooding when surface water is of lower salinity (Stantec, 2022). However, given Lake Annean is over 12,000 hectares in size, the proposed clearing of approximately 11 hectares of vegetation within the lake is unlikely to significantly impact this species.

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), OS, has been recorded numerous times within 50 kilometres of the application area (Stantec, 2022) and may utilise the application area as part of a larger home range; however, there is unlikely to be suitable breeding habitat within the application area, due to a lack of cliffs, gorges, wooded rivers, and large tree hollows.

West coast mulga slider (*Lerista eupoda*), P1, has been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (Stantec, 2022). The preferred habitat for this species is open Mulga areas, such as the Mulga Woodland habitat type. The condition of this habitat type is poor within the application area and this habitat is considered widespread within the region.

Several bird species were identified as possibly occurring within the application area (Stantec, 2022):

- Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)
- Pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), CR, has been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The species has a widespread inland distribution. They occur on tidal flats, freshwater and brackish and saline wetlands (Menkhorst et al., 2017). There is suitable habitat within the application area along the drainage lines however, this habitat well represented in the region and does not reduce a substantial amount of available habitat. As a result, the potential impacts to curlew sandpiper are likely to be minimal.

The application intersects with Lake Annean which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia due to it being an important breeding area for waterbirds and a good example of a seasonal saline lake and marsh system (DCCEEW, 1995). The application area is within approximately 11 hectares of the wetlands area which is over 12,000 hectares in size. Parts of the area intersecting the wetland contain no vegetation (lake bed) and unsuitable breeding habitat for waterbirds. Suitable breeding habitat within Lake Annean is limited to areas with riparian vegetation and samphire dune habitat, particularly when the lake is inundated. Impacts to bird breeding habitats within the application area are likely to be minimal.

There are several migratory bird species that may occur within the portion of the application area that intersects with Lake Annean. The habitat within the application area is well represented in the region and does not the habitat in this area is considered poor and as a result the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on these species.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing of fauna habitat within the application area is not likely to have a significant impact to fauna species in the local area.

Conditions

No specific fauna management conditions are required on the permit to address impacts to fauna.

3.2.3. Land and water resources - Clearing principles (f) and (g)

Assessment

There are no permanent watercourses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Lake Annean is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia due to it being an important breeding area for waterbirds and a good example of a seasonal saline lake and marsh system (DCCEEW, 1995). It is largely dry and fills every five to ten years (DCCEEW, 1995). The samphire communities associated with Lake Annean are important as foraging and breeding habitat for migratory birds visiting Lake Annean (Stantec, 2022). The proposed clearing will impact approximately 11 hectares within Lake Annean, however, a portion of this area is unvegetated lake bed (Stantec, 2022).

The clearing of riparian vegetation has the potential to cause localised erosion and degrade faunal habitats. However, given the proposed clearing is a relatively small area in a local and regional context, it is not anticipated that it will have a significant impact on Lake Annean, which is over 12,000 hectares in size (DCCEEW, 1995). Provided disturbance to riparian habitats is avoided or minimised where possible, and weed hygiene procedures are followed, the proposed works are not expected to substantially impact these vegetation units.

Wetland values can be concentrated to specific areas and as a result cannot solely rely on a proportion based method of assessment. For this reason the wetland values located with the proposed area of clearing were compared with the surrounds. The wetland values located in the proposed area of clearing were compared with

The application area lies within the Carnegie and Yanganoo land systems, which are mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and outlined in Appendix B.1.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing has the potential to impact land and water resources if avoidance, mitigation and/or management measures are not implemented.

It is considered that the potential impacts of the proposed clearing on land and water resources can be managed with conditions to be environmentally acceptable.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- avoid impacts to riparian vegetation where practicable and maintain surface water flow to minimise the potential for localised erosion and sedimentation, which can have adverse impacts on downstream water quality.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 1 May 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission (2026) 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. There is one Indigenous Land Use Agreement (WI2012/001) registered between Sandfire Resources Limited and Yugunga-Nya People. However, 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 (Place 8888) within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is noted that Lake Annean has been logged with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage as a potential Aboriginal site of significance and remains under assessment under Section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Submission, 2026). The proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the ecological function of Lake Annean or limit access and use of the lake. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on Curlew sandpiper and Grey falcon which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

One public submission (2026) was received. Matters raised were addressed throughout the assessment in regards to impacts to an Environmentally Sensitive Area, regenerated native vegetation, wetland values, drainage pathways, significant flora, and unresolved Aboriginal cultural heritage. The details are outlined below:

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The submitting party requested that the applicant demonstrated that the proposed clearing remains appropriate based on current information and that impacts have been avoided and minimised where possible (Submission, 2026).	Impacts to significant flora are addressed in the assessment of impacts on environmental values (Section 3.2.1). Impacts to significant fauna are addressed in the assessment of impacts on environmental values (Section 3.2.2).
The submitting party request that the applicant demonstrates that the proposed clearing remains appropriate based on current information and that impacts have been avoided and minimised where possible (Submission, 2026).	Evidence of avoidance and mitigation has been addressed in Section 3.1.
Confirm the status of CPS 9573/1 and address any potential overlapping authorisations.	The current status of CPS 9573/1 is addressed in Section 1.2).
Require up to date mapping and targeted environmental verification along with evidence of avoidance and mitigation.	Current mapping and targeted environmental verification is addressed throughout Section 3.2.
Clarify the clearing width, operational width and decommissioning approach as well as rehabilitation obligations.	The majority of the corridor is between approximately 18 and 36 metres wide, with one section approximately 102 metres wide. As this is a purpose permit, a maximum of 30 hectares within the 34 hectares boundary may be cleared. Decommissioning obligations and rehabilitation operations are managed under relevant approvals of the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> .
Confirm that biodiversity surveys submitted with the clearing permit application area appropriately linked to CPS 11561/1.	Biodiversity surveys completed for CPS 9573/1 have been linked to clearing permit application CPS 11561/1.
Address the potential impacts to Lake Annean and the related wetland values.	Impacts to Lake Annean and wetland values are addressed in the assessment of impacts on environmental values (Section 3.2.3).
Confirm the approval pathway and status of the linked dewatering activities.	Matters related to the dewatering activity and pit voids are managed under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> and relevant licences under Part V, Division 3 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
Consider related approvals and environmental assessments before determining the clearing permit.	All relevant approvals and environmental assessments are considered before determine the decision of the clearing permit application.
Note the unresolved cultural heritage risks and require the applicant to obtain advice from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage regarding the applicable heritage approval pathway before clearing commences.	Unresolved Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity is considered in the planning and other matters related to this assessment (Section 3.3).
Consider whether the proposal appears to be a significant proposal and whether it shall be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under section 38 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .	The broader proposal does not meet the criteria to be considered a significant proposal and as a result, is not required to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 38 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion. Historical mine sites are located throughout the region, including within the southern portion of the application area.
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details									
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any formally listed conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest DBCA managed land is the former Lakeside pastoral lease, which is approximately 80 kilometres south-west of the application area. Lake Annean, which intersects the north of the application area, is a non-perennial salt lake that is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands (GIS Database).									
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: • 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and • 1128: Mosaic: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered <i>Acacia sclerosperma</i> & bowgada over saltbush & bluebush/Succulent steppe; samphire (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Stantec during November 2021. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Stantec, 2022): • TaffuTibFIAhh – <i>Tecticornia</i> aff. <i>undulata</i> and <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i> open samphire over <i>Frankenia laxiflora</i> open low shrubland over <i>Aristida holathera</i> var. <i>holathera</i> (<i>Eragrostis pergamalis</i>) very open tussock grassland; • MspCsAaTd – <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. tall shrubland over <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> and <i>Atriplex amnicola</i> open low shrubland over <i>Tecticornia doliiformis</i> open samphire; • DvaA?IEcfSahCsA?vMpMt – <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> subsp. <i>angustissima</i> and <i>Acacia ligulata</i> open shrubland over <i>Eremophila compacta</i> subsp. <i>fecunda</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> and <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> open low shrubland; • AcA?pEg – <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i>, <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Acacia</i> sp. (<i>aneura</i> complex) tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> open low shrubland; • AcSas – <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>, <i>Acacia</i> sp. (<i>aneura</i> complex), <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> and <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> open scrub over <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>sturtii</i> open shrubland; • ApSsp – <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> open tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Sclerolaena cornisheana</i> and <i>Sclerolaena</i> sp. open low shrubland; and • Lake Bed – Bare lake bed. Representative photos are available in Figure 2-7 of Appendix E.									
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in Degraded, Good, Very Good and Excellent condition (see Appendix E) (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. The full survey mapping is available in Appendix E.									
Climate and landform	The application area is located within the arid climate of the Murchison bioregion. The area experiences an average annual rainfall of 233.5 millilitres (BoM, 2026).									
Soil description	The soil is mapped in the majority as red-brown hardpan shallow loam and red loamy earth (DPIRD, 2026). The northern portion of the application area is mapped as salt lake soil (DPIRD, 2026).									
Land degradation risk	The application area lies within the Yanganoo and Carnegie land systems (GIS Database). These systems have been mapped and described as (Curry et al., 1994): <table><tr><th>Land systems</th><th>Description</th><th>Risk of land degradation</th></tr><tr><td>Yanganoo system</td><td>Almost flat hardpan wash plains, with or without small wanderie banks and showing variable development of weak grooving; supports mulga shrublands.</td><td>The major unit is locally susceptible to accelerated erosion when severely degraded, but much more susceptible to degradation and water starvation arising from inappropriately maintained roads and tracks.</td></tr><tr><td>Carnegie system</td><td>Salt lakes with extensive fringing saline plains, dunes and sandy banks, supporting low halophytic shrublands and scattered tall acacia shrublands; lake beds are</td><td>Generally presents a low susceptibility to erosion.</td></tr></table>	Land systems	Description	Risk of land degradation	Yanganoo system	Almost flat hardpan wash plains, with or without small wanderie banks and showing variable development of weak grooving; supports mulga shrublands.	The major unit is locally susceptible to accelerated erosion when severely degraded, but much more susceptible to degradation and water starvation arising from inappropriately maintained roads and tracks.	Carnegie system	Salt lakes with extensive fringing saline plains, dunes and sandy banks, supporting low halophytic shrublands and scattered tall acacia shrublands; lake beds are	Generally presents a low susceptibility to erosion.
Land systems	Description	Risk of land degradation								
Yanganoo system	Almost flat hardpan wash plains, with or without small wanderie banks and showing variable development of weak grooving; supports mulga shrublands.	The major unit is locally susceptible to accelerated erosion when severely degraded, but much more susceptible to degradation and water starvation arising from inappropriately maintained roads and tracks.								
Carnegie system	Salt lakes with extensive fringing saline plains, dunes and sandy banks, supporting low halophytic shrublands and scattered tall acacia shrublands; lake beds are	Generally presents a low susceptibility to erosion.								

Characteristic	Details
	highly saline, gypsiferous and mainly unvegetated.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared, and that the northern portion of the application area intersects Lake Annean (GIS Database). Lake Annean has a total mapped area of approximately 12,000 hectares and approximately 11 hectares of the application area falls within the mapped extent of Lake Annean (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Cue Water Reserve, located approximately 46 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Eastern Murchison proclaimed groundwater area under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity ranges from 1,000 to 7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is described as brackish to saline.
Flora	There is one record (<i>Tecticornia cymbiformis</i>) of conservation significant flora within the application area (Stantec, 2022). There are nine other conservation significant flora species within the local area (20 kilometres) of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is part of the Priority 1 Ecological Community 'Polelle calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Murchison palaeodrainage on Polelle Station' located approximately six kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no records of conservation significant fauna within the application area (Stantec, 2022; GIS Database). There are 11 conservation significant fauna species within the local area (20 kilometres) of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	A fauna habitat field assessment was conducted by Stantec (2022) in November 2021. Four broad habitat types were identified (Stantec, 2022). • Mulga Woodland; • Samphire Dune Adjacent to Saline Drainage (Samphire Dune); • Inland Sand Dune; and • Sandy Plain.

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	28,120,586.77	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. 1128	18,657.56	18,349.24	98.35	-	-
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. 1128	18,657.56	18,349.24	98.35	-	-

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Tecticornia cymbiformis</i>	P3	Y	Y	0	16	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Acacia sclerosperma</i> subsp. <i>glaucescens</i>	P3	Y	N	<10	25	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Acacia speckii</i>	P4	N	N	<10	40	Unlikely
<i>Maireana prosthocochaeta</i>	P3	N	N	<10	24	Unlikely
<i>Ptilotus lazaridis</i>	P3	Y	Y	<15	15	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Eragrostis</i> sp. Erect spikelets (P.K. Latz 2122)	P3	N	N	<15	6	Unlikely
<i>Ptilotus luteolus</i>	P3	N	N	<20	20	Unlikely
<i>Hemigenia virescens</i>	P3	N	Y	<20	11	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Prostanthera petrophila</i>	P3	N	Y	<20	45	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Sida picklesiana</i>	P3	N	N	<20	32	Unlikely

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)	Likelihood of occurrence
West Coast mulga slider (<i>Lerista eupoda</i>)	P1	Y	<5	11	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Gull-billed tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	MI	Y	<5	8	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Fairy shrimp (inland WA) (<i>Branchinella simplex</i>)	P1	Y	<5	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Desert bettong (<i>Bettongia anhydra</i>)	EX	N/A	<10	1	Extinct
Pectoral sandpiper (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>)	MI	Y	<10	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	VU	N	<10	1	Unlikely
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	OS	Y	<10	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	MI	Y	<10	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Curlew sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	CR	Y	<10	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	MI	Y	<10	2	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Fork-tailed swift (<i>Apus pacificus</i>)	MI	Y	<15	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2

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

Appendix 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> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Priority flora has been identified within proximity to the application area (Stantec, 2022), and the application area contains suitable habitat for these species to occur.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (b):</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 significant habitat for fauna."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Lake Annean contains riparian vegetation and vegetation types that provide habitats for migratory birds, and breeding habitats for waterbirds.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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> There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). The flora survey of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Stantec, 2022). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened (rare) flora.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database). Native vegetation within the application area is not necessary for the maintenance of any nearby TECs.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u>	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
A portion of the application area is situated over part of the non-perennial Lake Annean, which is an important breeding area for waterbirds and a good example of a seasonal saline lake and marsh system.		
Principle (g): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Carnegie and Yanganoo land systems (GIS Database). The Yanganoo land system can be susceptible to soil erosion where land has been severely degraded. As a result, native vegetation clearing should be staged where possible to minimise the area of land exposed to land degradation at any one time.	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i>
Principle (i): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The closest Public Drinking Water Course Area (PDWSA) is located approximately 46 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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> As the average annual rainfall within the area is 233.4 millimetres and the average annual evaporation rate is 2,800 millimetres, there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains (BoM, 2026; GIS Database). Given the likelihood of low surface flow, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding. The application area sits partially within Lake Annean, where temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events, with the whole lake filling during episodic flooding every five to ten years (DCCEEW, 1995; GIS Database). Given the low average rainfall, high evaporation rate, and relatively small clearing area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.	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.

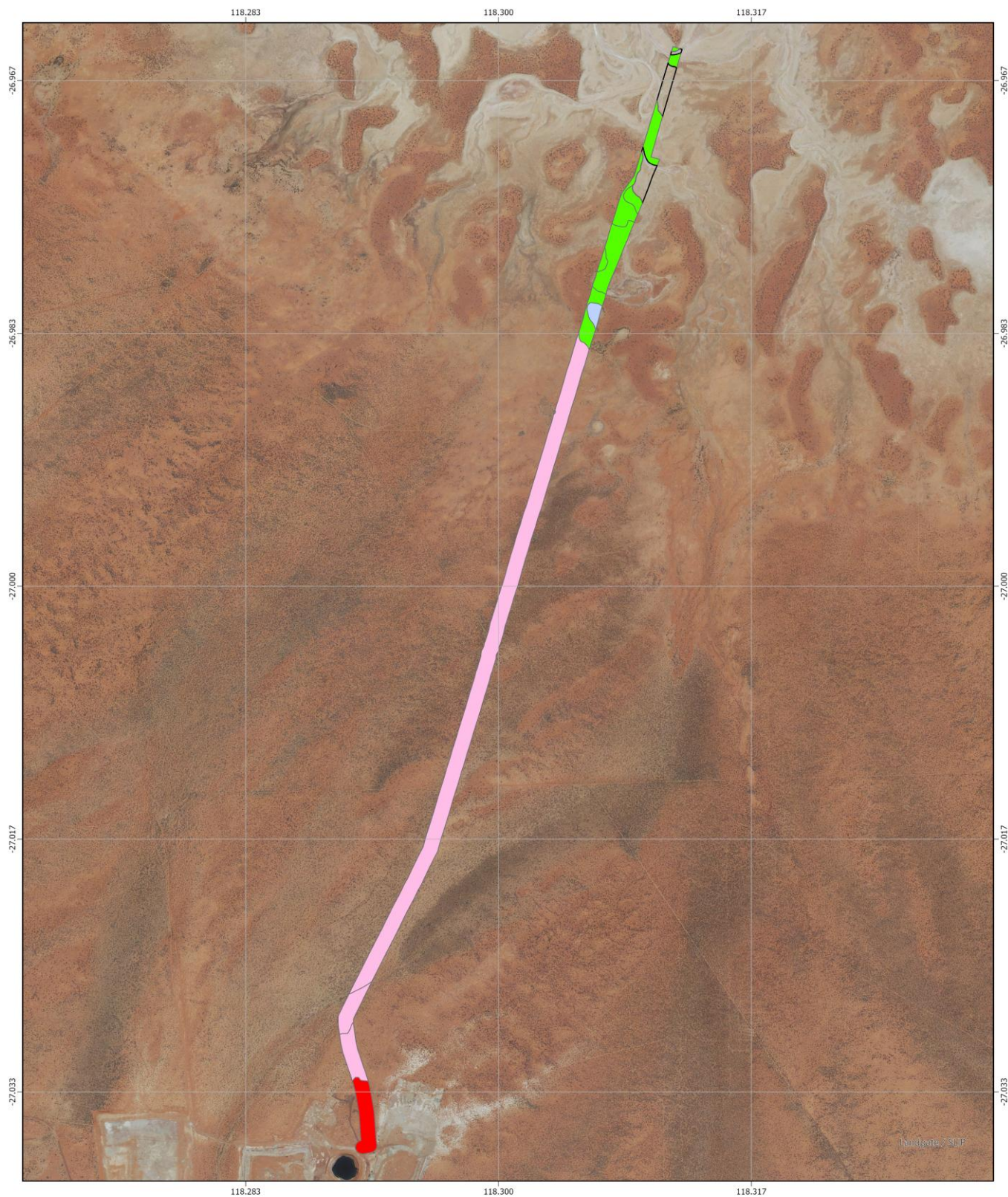
Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society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

Condition	Description
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

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



LEGEND

Vegetation Condition

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ■ Excellent | ■ Good | N/A |
| ■ Very Good | ■ Degraded | |

GCS: GDA2020
Datum: GDA2020
Map Units: Degree

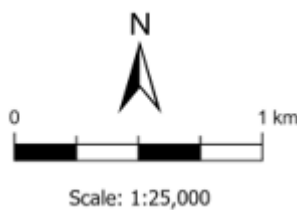


Figure 1. Map of the vegetation condition in the surveyed area (Stantec, 2022).

The following vegetation types were identified by Stantec (2022):



Figure 2. Veg Code: TaffuTibFIHh



Figure 3. Veg Code: MspCsAaTd



Figure 4. Veg Code: DvaA?IEcfSahCsA?vMpMt



Figure 5. Veg Code: AcA?pEg



Figure 6. Veg Code: AcSas



Figure 7. Veg Code: ApSsp

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 Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)

- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Basins (DWER-027)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

F.2. References

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- Curry, P J, Payne, A L, Leighton, K A, Hennig, P, and Blood, D A. (1994) An inventory and condition survey of the Murchison River catchment, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Perth. Technical Bulletin 84.
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (1995) Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Information Sheet. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra. [Australian Wetlands Database - Directory Wetland Information Sheet](#) (Accessed 24 June 2026).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) (2022) Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9573/1. Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Marc 2022.
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 23 June 2026).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 24 June 2026).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>

- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.
http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys.
https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D. I., Clarke, R., Davies, J. N., Marsack, P. and Franklin, K. (2017) *The Australian Bird Guide*. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton, South Victoria.
- Stantec (2022) Boomerang Open Pit Dewatering Discharge Pipeline Reconnaissance Flora and Fauna Survey. Unpublished report prepared for Westgold Resources by Stantec, January 2022.
- Submission (2026) Public submission in relation to clearing permit application CPS 11561/1, received 29 June 2026.
- 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.
- Valiant Gold Limited (2026) Clearing permit application form, CPS 11561/1, received 20 April 2026.
- Western Australian Herbarium (WA Herbarium) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 23 June 2026).

Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species**SP Specially protected species**

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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