



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11563/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Dampier (Plutonic) Pty Ltd
Application received:	20 April 2026
Application area:	63 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 52/183, 52/217, 52/218, 52/233, 52/269
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	Trident and K2 Projects

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Dampier (Plutonic) Pty Ltd (Dampier) proposes to clear up to 63 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,314.96 hectares for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Dampier, 2026). The project is located approximately 200 kilometres south of Newman, within the Shire of Meekatharra (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for Catalyst Metals Ltd (Catalyst) to expand its operations at the Keillor 2 (K2) Project and the Trident Complex (the Project) through its subsidiary company, Dampier (Plutonic) Pty Ltd, and Vango Mining Limited (Vango) (Dampier, 2026). Both Project areas have existing infrastructure from the previous operators and are currently operating under the relevant approvals. Catalyst has applied for the relevant approvals to commence mining of K2 Stage 2 and Trident Stage 3 as the next stages of mining. These next stages will require additional vegetation clearing under this NVCP application (Dampier, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	27 August 2026
Decision area:	63 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

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

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- impacts to conservation significant fauna;
- potential land degradation in the form of erosion; and
- impacts to riparian vegetation.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- pre-clearance targeted surveys for *Eremophila lanata*;
- no clearing within 10 metres of recorded Priority flora; and
- avoid clearing riparian vegetation where possible and maintain water flows.

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)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant demonstrating that avoidance / mitigation measures such as the following will be implemented (Dampier, 2026):

- Infrastructure has been designed to avoid priority flora species as far as practicable and where priority flora is within 50 metres of the disturbance boundary, the flora will be demarcated with a 10 metres buffer flagged around the species, however some priority species may be disturbed by the development of this proposal.
- Clearing will only be undertaken where necessary, and activities will be managed to avoid unnecessary disturbance to vegetation. Due to the historical disturbance from the project's previous operators, the existing disturbed areas (such as existing access and haul roads) will be used as far as possible, no disturbance outside of the approved purpose permit area will be undertaken.
- Hygiene inspections of vehicles prior to entering the project area, seasonal weed inspection and ongoing management during operations will be undertaken to prevent the spread of weeds.
- Clearing will be progressive to support mining operations.
- Rehabilitation will be undertaken progressively throughout the projects life of mine and monitored for erosion, sedimentation and vegetation regrowth success.
- Dust suppression activities will be undertaken to reduce disturbance to vegetation.
- Topsoil will be stored on several topsoil stockpiles located outside of drainage areas and adjacent to waste rock landforms.
- Catalyst's Ground Clearing Permit (GDP) will be implemented before any clearing is undertaken and clearing is to be recorded within a Clearing Tracker.
- During rehabilitation, topsoil will be spread over the area and seeded with locally endemic species. Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure sustainable plant growth; intervention will occur where required.

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

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

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

Assessment

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Onshore Environmental Consultants during November 2018 and May 2019 (Onshore, 2019). The survey recorded a total of 209 plant taxa (including varieties and subspecies) from 35 families and 89 genera. Seven conservation significant flora species were recorded within the application area:

- *Calytrix praecipua*;
- *Eremophila demissa*;
- *Eremophila lanata*;
- *Goodenia virgata*;
- *Maireana prosthochaeta*;
- *Sauropus sp. Woolgorong*; and
- *Sporobolus blakei*.

The project layout was adjusted to ensure that the priority flora species are avoided where possible (Green, 2026). The Permit Holder has implemented management measures to ensure that these priority flora species are not disturbed, and erecting a 10 metre buffer around the priority flora (Green, 2026). Several individuals of *Eremophila lanata* (P3) will be disturbed, which is unavoidable due to the location of existing historical disturbance and currently approved mining activities (Green, 2026).

Eremophila lanata, Priority 3, is a low compact to spreading shrub that grows between 0.1 to 0.3 metres in height and is found growing in red clayey sand soils on stony flats and rocky slopes underlain by quartz (WAH, 1998-). The only documented populations of *E. lanata* are located approximately 180 km to the southwest of the study area near Meekatharra in the Gascoyne bioregion (WAH, 1998-). However, a number of populations have been documented in unpublished reports and via opportunistic observations as occurring within and adjacent to the wider study area (Onshore, 2019).

Eremophila lanata was found at 59 locations within the Trident and Mar-east Prospects and along the proposed tailings pipeline and tails dam areas within the application area (Onshore, 2019). Approximately 2,700 plants were recorded from stony plains, hardpan plains, hillslopes and undulating low hills (Onshore, 2019). Approximately 143 individuals are proposed to be cleared which would result in a 5% impact to the known local population. In addition to the 143 individuals proposed to be cleared under this clearing permit, 200 individuals (7.4%) were identified as being susceptible to indirect impacts due to their close proximity to the clearing. Approximately an additional 297 individuals (11%) are expected to be cleared as part of the adjacent exploration activities, resulting in the total loss of 440 individuals. Approximately 16% of the local population will be impacted by mineral activities, 5% relating to this native vegetation clearing permit. At some survey sites, the abundance of *E. lanata* were estimated and individual plant counts were not undertaken (Onshore, 2019). Further surveys of the application area and surrounding areas will be necessary to determine the proposed impacts and to verify the existence of this population in the surrounding areas.

Conclusion

The cumulative impact of clearing of this species will have significant impact on the local population. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on priority flora can be managed through the implementing a flora management condition, that limits the clearing of Priority flora.

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;
- undertake a pre-clearance targeted survey for *Eremophila lanata* within areas not previously disturbed; and
- avoid clearing within 10 metres of recorded Priority flora.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

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

There is one native title claim (WAD6002/2003) 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 some registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details																																																		
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by native vegetation and the landscape of the Gascoyne region (GIS Database). The dominant land use is native pasture grazing with small areas of mining, Unallocated Crown Land, and Crown Reserves (Onshore, 2019)..																																																		
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).																																																		
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest mapped conservation area is Collier Range National Park located 53 kilometres northwest of the application area. An unofficial Unallocated Crown Land with Department interest is located 36 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).																																																		
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: • 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); • 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups; and • 111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; <i>Eucalyptus gamophylla</i> over hard spinifex (GIS Database). The following 19 vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Onshore, 2019): <table><tr><th>Vegetation Vegetation Code</th><th>Sites</th><th>Vegetation Association Description</th><th>Surveyed Total (ha)</th><th>Intersecting Application area (ha)</th></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Hill Crests</td></tr><tr><td>HC AsuAi TslAsu SeElIPs</td><td>Acacia High Open Shrubland</td><td>High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia subcontorta</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Thryptomene</i> sp. Leinster (B.J. Lepschi & L.A. Craven 4362) and <i>Acacia subcontorta</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Sida</i> cf. <i>ectogama</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Eriachne mucronata</i>, <i>Thyridolepis xerophila</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on orange sandy loam on weathered ironstone ridges and hill crests.</td><td>30.7</td><td>21.7</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Hill Slopes</td></tr><tr><td>HS Apt SglSs Ema</td><td>Acacia Low Open Woodland</td><td>Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. x <i>luerssenii</i> and <i>Senna stricta</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> on brown sandy loam on hillslopes.</td><td>44.2</td><td>13.3</td></tr><tr><td>HS AptAi EmPrPo Tb</td><td>Acacia Low Open Woodland</td><td>Low Open Woodland (or Low Woodland) of <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over Low Shrubland of <i>Eremophila margarethae</i>, <i>Ptilotus rotundifolius</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and Scattered Hummock Grasses of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on orange sandy clay loam on hillslopes.</td><td>10.0</td><td>5.3</td></tr><tr><td>HS CdPr EfGbAf</td><td><i>Calytrix</i> Low Shrubland</td><td>Low Shrubland of <i>Calytrix</i> cf. <i>desolata</i> and <i>Ptilotus rotundifolius</i> with Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila fraseri</i>, <i>Grevillea berryana</i> and <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> (<i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. x <i>luerssenii</i>) on brown sandy loam on hillslopes.</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Minor Drainage Lines</td></tr><tr><td>MI AptAcGb DpAc SeShSsp</td><td>Acacia Low Open Woodland</td><td>Low Woodland of <i>Acacia pteraneura</i>, <i>Acacia citrinoviridis</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> (<i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i>) over High Open Shrubland of <i>Dodonaea pachyneura</i> and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Sida</i> cf. <i>ectogamma</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> (with an Open Shrubland of <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>luerssenii</i>) on brown sandy loam on minor drainage lines.</td><td>9.0</td><td>8.1</td></tr><tr><td>MI AcApt DpAtSsp Tb</td><td>Acacia Low Open Woodland</td><td>Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia citrinoviridis</i> (<i>Acacia pteraneura</i>) over Open Shrubland of <i>Dodonaea pachyneura</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> over Very Open</td><td>2.2</td><td>2.2</td></tr></table>	Vegetation Vegetation Code	Sites	Vegetation Association Description	Surveyed Total (ha)	Intersecting Application area (ha)	Hill Crests					HC AsuAi TslAsu SeElIPs	Acacia High Open Shrubland	High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia subcontorta</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Thryptomene</i> sp. 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Characteristic	Details				
			Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on orange silty loam on hillslopes and minor drainage lines.		
	Medium Drainage Lines				
	ME AapAan EffTt	Acacia Low Open Forest	Low Open Forest of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> and <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Themeda triandra</i> on brown sandy clay loam on medium drainage lines.	17.8	14.8
	Floodplains				
	FP Ai AriPIGb EffSeEf TxEe Cs	Acacia Low Open Forest	Low Open Forest (to Low Closed Forest) of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> (<i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> , <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i>) over High Shrubland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> , <i>Psyrax latifolia</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> over Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Sida</i> cf. <i>ectogama</i> and <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Thyridolepis xerophila</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> and Very Open Herbs of <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on brown sandy clay loam on floodplains.	64.5	38.5
	Hardpan Plains				
	HP Ai EffEsb Tb	Acacia Low Woodland	Low Woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i> over Very Open Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on brown sandy clay loam on hardpan plains.	11.1	7.6
	HP AiGbApt AiAth EffPsEsb	Acacia Low Open Woodland	Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> , <i>Grevillea berryana</i> and <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> over High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia thoma</i> and Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> and <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i> (over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>) on brown clay loam on hardpan plains.	85.0	45.0
	HP Tb AiAth EffEIPs	<i>Triodia</i> Hummock Grassland	Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> with High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia thoma</i> and Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Eremophila lanata</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> (with Scattered Low Trees of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i>) on orange sandy clay loam on hardpan plains.	38.7	6.7
	Stony Plains				
	SPAptAiAp AsuAthAi SeEIPs	Acacia Low Open Woodland	Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> , <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> over High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia subcontorta</i> , <i>Acacia thoma</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Sida</i> cf. <i>ectogamma</i> , <i>Eremophila lanata</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> (with Scattered Tussock Grassland of <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>) on brown sandy clay loam on stony plans.	56.8	34.8
	SP Ai EfSgEff PsPoSI	Acacia High Open Shrubland	High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> (<i>Acacia pteraneura</i> , <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i>) over Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> , <i>Senna glaucifolia</i> and <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> (<i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>) over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> on brown sandy loam on stony plains.	311.2	205.4
	SP AptAi AclSgl EmSsPo	Acacia Low Closed Forest	High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> (<i>Acacia macraneura</i> , <i>Hakea preissii</i>) over Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia cuthbertsonii</i> subsp. <i>linearis</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>x luerssenii</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> , <i>Senna stricta</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on brown sandy loam on stony plains.	110.2	42.0

Characteristic	Details				
	SP EIPs EmEe GbAiApt	<i>Eremophila</i> Low Open Shrubland	Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila lanata</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> with Scattered Tall Shrubs of <i>Grevillea berryana</i> , <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> on brown sandy loam on stony plains.	38.8	18.1
	SP EsEfPo	<i>Eremophila</i> Low Open Shrubland	Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila spathulata</i> , <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on orange sandy clay loam on stony plains.	5.0	1.9
	Sandy/ Stony Plains				
	SS EffEsEc Tb ApAaApt AiArl	<i>Eremophila</i> Shrubland	Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Eremophila spathulata</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> cf. <i>citrina</i> (<i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>) over Open Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> and <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> on brown loamy sand on sandy/stony plains.	221.9	160.3
	SS Tb AiAp Ar EcEs	<i>Triodia</i> Hummock Grassland	Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> (<i>Grevillea berryana</i> , <i>Acacia ayersiana</i>) and High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia rhodophloia</i> (<i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> , <i>Acacia thoma</i>) and Low Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila</i> cf. <i>citrina</i> and <i>Eremophila spathulata</i> (<i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>) on brown/orange sandy loam on sandy/stony plains and low rises.	72.9	43.9
	SS Tb ScSe AaAkeff	<i>Triodia</i> Hummock Grassland	Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> with Low Open Shrubland of <i>Sida cardiophylla</i> and <i>Seringia elliptica</i> with Scattered Shrubs of <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> , <i>Acacia kempeana</i> and <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> on brown loamy sand on sandy/stony plains.	73.0	39.8
	Disturbed				
			Disturbed.	332.1	317.2
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Onshore, 2019) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good to Very Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.				
Climate and landform	The climate of the Gascoyne region is described as arid with bimodal rainfall, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 231.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).				
Soil description and land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Thomas and Divide land systems (GIS Database). The Thomas land system is described as lateritised mesas among hills of granite and gneiss, with stony footslopes above short, gently sloping interfluvial plains, supporting sparse acacia-dominated shrublands. Drainage tracks and creeklines in this land system are susceptible to erosion when degraded; other areas are not normally susceptible to accelerated erosion (Curry et al., 1994). The Divide land system is characterised by sandplains with minor dunes with gently undulating terrain with predominantly internal drainage with vegetation not usually degraded although subject to fairly regular burning; some susceptibility to wind erosion immediately following burning but stabilisation occurs rapidly after rain (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).				
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that four minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).				
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within the East Murchison Groundwater Area which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 500-1,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal (GIS Database).				
Flora	There were seven Priority flora species recorded within the application area (Onshore, 2019). There are no records of Threatened flora species in the application area (Onshore, 2019; GIS Database).				
Ecological communities	The application area is not located within any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Onshore, 2019; GIS Database).				

Characteristic	Details
Fauna and fauna habitat	A fauna survey was conducted over the application area by Bamford Environmental Consultants during November 2018 and August 2019. The following vegetation and substrate associations were recorded within the application area (Bamford, 2019): • Acacia shrubland over spinifex on slightly gravelly rises; • Mulga thickets often interspersed with open shrubland on gravelly soils; and • Drainage lines with tall and often dense Mulga. No conservation significant fauna were recorded during the fauna survey, however 14 species have been identified within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion Gascoyne	18,075,219.48	18,067,441.44	99.96	1.00	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 18	19,892,306.46	19,843,148.07	99.75	6.62	6.62
Veg Assoc No. 29	7,903,991.45	7,898,973.24	99.94	496,367.56	6.28
Veg Assoc No. 111	8,666,955.00	8,661,299.45	99.93	568,752.08	6.56
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 18	3,273,579.72	3,271,339.12	99.93	1.00	0.00
Veg Assoc No. 29	3,802,459.63	3,799,635.88	99.93	1.00	0.00
Veg Assoc No. 111	212,465.74	211,882.95	99.73	1.00	0.00

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Onshore, 2019; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Number of known records derived from Florabase (total)
<i>Calytrix praecipua</i>	P3	0	Y	28
<i>Eremophila demissa</i>	P1	0	Y	5
<i>Eremophila lanata</i>	P3	0	Y	1
<i>Goodenia virgata</i>	P2	0	Y	7
<i>Maireana prosthocochaeta</i>	P3	0	Y	24
<i>Sauropus</i> sp. Woolgorong	P3	0	Y	36
<i>Sporobolus blakei</i>	P3	0	Y	11

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Bamford, 2019; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Common name	Conservation Status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	MI	Y
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	MI	Y
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	great knot	CR	Y
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	lesser sand plover	EN	Y
<i>Dasyercus blythi</i>	brush-tailed mulgara	P4	Y - resident
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	grey falcon	VU	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS	Y - resident
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	gull-billed tern	MI	Y
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	MI	Y
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	MI	Y
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	MI	Y
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	night parrot	CR	Y
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	grey plover	MI	Y
<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	princess parrot	P4	Y

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." <u>Assessment:</u> There are two conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres of the application area that are expected to be residents of the application area (see section Error! Reference source not found.). The application area contains seven Priority flora species (see section Error! Reference source not found.). The application area does not intersect any known or mapped Priority Ecological Communities (GIS Database). Only two weed species were identified within the application area (Onshore, 2019). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.	At variance	Yes
<u>Principle (b):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna." <u>Assessment:</u> The application area contains three fauna habitats that are considered to be common and widespread in the local area and that extend well beyond the clearing boundary (Onshore, 2019). The proposed clearing may impact conservation significant fauna that occur in the application area as residents or visitors (see section Error! Reference source not found.). The application area doesn't represent critical breeding or foraging habitat for any known conservation significant fauna species. Potential impacts can be managed through the implementation of a fauna management condition requiring slow, one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.	May be at variance	No
<u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora." <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There are no records of threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database), and no threatened flora species were recorded during the vegetation and flora survey (Onshore, 2019; GIS Database).		
Principle (d): <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> There were no Threatened Ecological Communities recorded within the application area (Onshore, 2019; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): <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 Gascoyne Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Gascoyne Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 18, 29, and 111 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): <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 any conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): <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 four ephemeral drainage lines are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is likely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. This impact can be managed by placing a vegetation management condition on the clearing permit to avoid clearing riparian vegetation where possible and maintain water flows.	At variance	No
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 mapped soils are not generally susceptible to erosion, except for drainage lines (Curry et al., 1994). Noting the location of the application area and the drainage lined present in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing may cause appreciable land degradation. Potential impacts can be managed through the implementation of a staged clearing condition on the clearing permit to avoid leaving cleared areas exposed for long periods of time.	May be at variance	No
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> Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." <u>Assessment:</u> Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)

- 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)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

D.2. References

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- 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>
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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.