Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11615/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd
Application received:	27 May 2026
Application area:	96 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 24/960, 24/39, 24/208 Miscellaneous licence L24/224
Location (LGA area):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Siberia Gold Operations

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Permit holder name proposes to clear up to 96 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 258.14 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and construction of support infrastructure including a camp, roads, workshops, pipelines and laydown areas. The project is located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Ora Banda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The application is to allow for mineral production and associated activities, replacing expired clearing permit CPS 6968/4.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	3 September 2026
Decision area:	96 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 (Siberia Gold Corporation, 2026) including the results of multiple previous surveys conducted over the area (Biostat, 2020; Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019; Plant Ecology Consulting, 2015), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate mineral production and construction of support infrastructure including a camp, roads, workshops, pipelines and laydown areas.

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 land degradation in the form of erosion;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging habitat for central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*); and

- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for western mouse (*Pseudomys occidentalis*).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing may have long-term adverse impacts on environmental values. The impacts can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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 and dieback;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing with a fauna spotter present to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring area proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) and inactive malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds and a 50 metre buffer around identified inactive mounds;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak butterfly, and no clearing within 50 metres of associated host plants;
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (western mouse) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify western mouse, and to maintain a 100 metre buffer around identified active western mouse burrows.

1.5. Site map

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

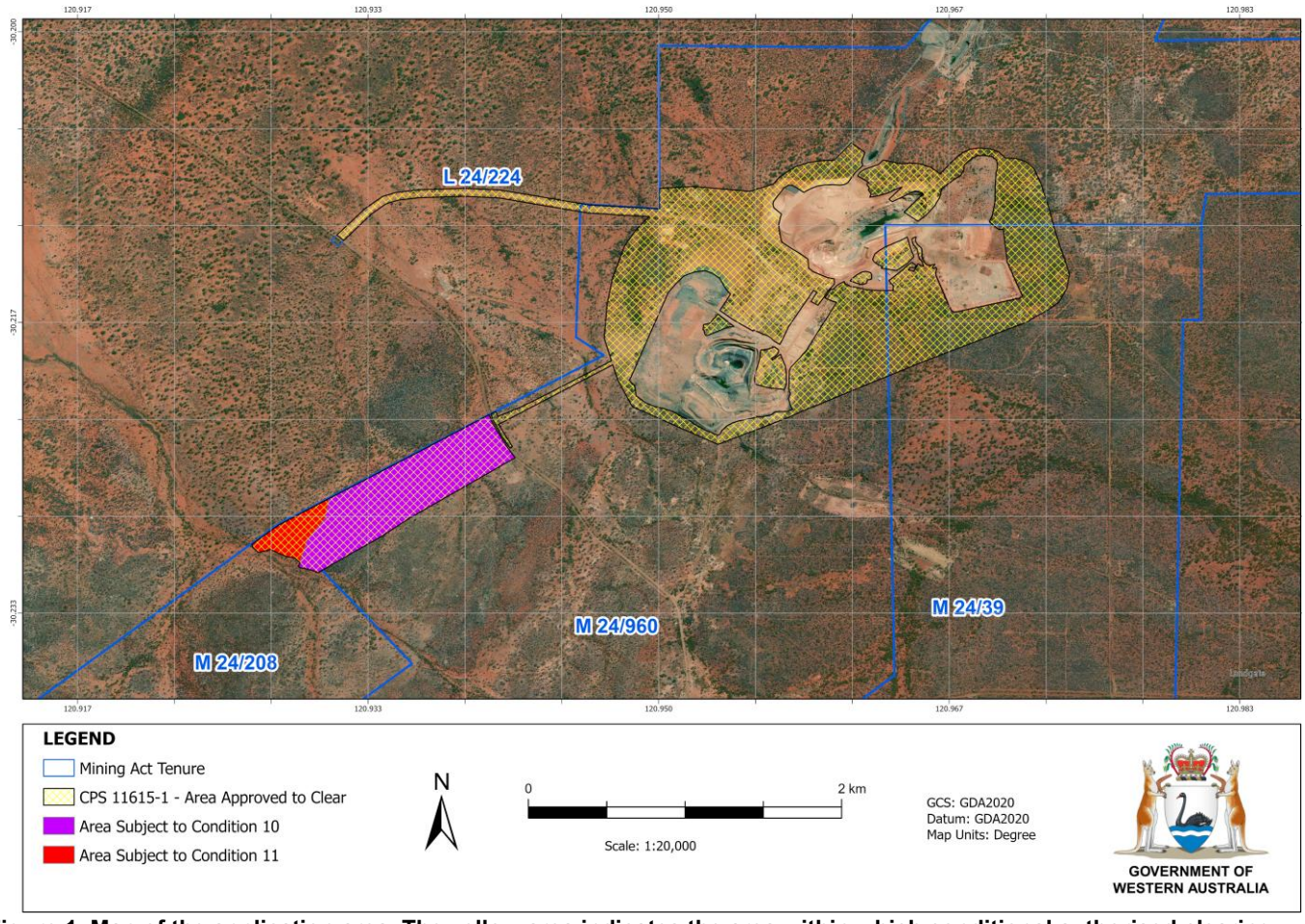

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 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 the following avoidance and mitigation measures would be implemented on site (Siberia Mining Corporation, 2026):

- utilisation of existing cleared areas to reduce requirement of new clearing;
- repurposing of redundant infrastructure;
- vehicle hygiene controls;
- weed management measures; and
- progressive rehabilitation programs.

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 (Appendix B) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited, however the proposed clearing may pose a potential risk to biological values (fauna). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) – Clearing principle (a)

Assessment

A fauna survey was conducted over the application area and other sites from 9 December 2019 to 11 December 2019 (Biostat, 2020). The survey covered approximately 52.1 hectares matching a small portion of the application area that has since been cleared (Biostat, 2020; GIS Database).

A desktop review of current information shows that the application area provides suitable habitat for multiple conservation significant fauna species (GIS Database). While some of these species have been considered by previous surveys and the previous clearing permit over the application area, CPS 6968, other species have been listed as threatened or priority in the intervening time period, and as such were not previously considered. The following six conservation significant fauna species are considered to potentially occur within the application area:

- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) (Vulnerable);
- *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) (Vulnerable);
- *Jalmenus aridus* (inland hairstreak, desert blue butterfly) (Priority 2);
- *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly) (Critically endangered);
- *Nyctophilus major tor* (central long-eared bat) (Priority 2); and
- *Pseudomys occidentalis* (western mouse) (Priority 4).

Birds

Southern whiteface
Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface), Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), is a small bird similar to thornbills but with a stockier build, with brownish-grey upperparts with a pale white underside (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is widespread across the south of Australia but patchily distributed throughout its range, preferring woodlands and tall shrublands with grassy understorey or low shrub layer (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). While there is only one record of this species within 50 kilometres of the application area, it has only been listed as of March 2023, as such it is data deficient (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database). The open woodland over shrubs present in the remaining vegetation within the application area provides suitable foraging and breeding habitat for this species, with much of the remaining vegetation being in good to excellent condition. The proposed clearing is likely to impact suitable habitat for the southern whiteface, and if the species is present within the application area, then the effects of the proposed clearing on this species may be significant.

Malleefowl
Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl) occurs in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* and native pine *Callitris* spp. scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Malleefowl can also occur in scrubs of acacia in central Australia however this is less frequent (DCCEEW, 2024). Nesting habitat occurs in light sandy soil and where leaf litter is abundant, for the construction and heating of the incubation mound (DCCEEW, 2024). This species forages on the ground in leaf litter or among low vegetation, such as herbs and shrubs (DCCEEW, 2024).
The vegetation within the application area provides suitable habitat for this species, and one malleefowl mound has been recorded within the application area (Borger and Radovic, 2017). While this malleefowl mound is considered inactive, it shows that the species has historically utilised the application area, and as such the proposed clearing may impact on this species.

Invertebrates

Inland hairstreak butterfly
Jalmenus aridus (Inland hairstreak butterfly) is data deficient and previously known from only two locations near Kalgoorlie. However, it has recently been recorded from an additional 10 locations across an area extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species comprises of open woodland containing the hostplants *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and/or *Acacia tetragonophylla* alongside various nectar producing shrub species such as *Acacia*, *Eremophila*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Maireana* and *Scaevola*) and open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the hostplants (Eastwood et al., 2023).

This species was not considered in previous surveys or assessments undertaken over the application area. Both host plants have been recorded within the application area, along with mixed *Eremophila*, *Grevillea*, *Maireana* and *Scaevola* species, indicating the presence of suitable habitat for this species. Additionally, a population of inland hairstreak butterfly has been recorded less than a kilometre from the southwest section of the application area, where most of the suitable habitat for this species is located. As such, it is considered highly likely that this species may be present within the application area. If present, the proposed clearing on this species may be considered significant.

Arid bronze azure butterfly
Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly) (ABAB) populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range, and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils with an open understorey. However, this species can occur in association with a range of other smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* species (DBCA, 2020).

ABAB has an obligate association with a sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* (DBCA, 2020). This species was not considered in previous surveys or assessments undertaken within the application area. Suitable *Eucalyptus* species have been recorded in the southwestern extent of the application area, indicating the presence of potentially suitable habitat for this species. As such, this species may be present within the application area. If present, the effects of the proposed clearing on this species may be considered significant due to the rarity and isolated populations of this species.

Mammals

Central long-eared bat
Nyctophilus major tor (central long-eared bat) is known to be widespread in the Coolgardie bioregion, commonly found in mixed eucalypt woodlands with prominent shrub strata and the fringes of she-oak and wattle thickets surrounding granite outcrops (McKenzie and Parnaby, 2008). The central long-eared bat has a preferred habitat of *Eucalyptus oleosa*, *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*, mixed *Eremophila* species and mixed *Exocarpos* species, all of which except *E. oleosa* are present within the application area (Borger and Radovic, 2017; McKenzie and Parnaby, 2008) Within these habitats it roosts in tree crevices, foliage or under loose bark, emerging to forage at night where it has been recorded feeding on spiders and insects, either ambushing them in the air from perches or gleaning them from surfaces while in flight (McKenzie and Parnaby, 2008).
While this species may utilise the application area for foraging, the area does not represent critical foraging or roosting habitat for this species as the vegetation associations are well represented in the surrounding area, and the majority of the application area has already been impacted by historic mining.

Western mouse
Pseudomys occidentalis (western mouse) is a small burrowing rodent that was historically widespread across the south of Australia but has become extinct across most of its range, now being restricted to the southwest of Australia (DBCA, n.d.). This species prefers long unburnt habitat on sandy clay loam or sandy loam, with vegetation being variable including sparse low shrubland, tall dense shrubland, sparse to dense shrub mallee and mid-dense woodland (DBCA, n.d.). Recorded populations are typically associated with areas containing patches of highly dense vegetation, *Santalum acuminatum* and other sedge

species (DBCA, n.d.). The remaining vegetation within the application area includes sparse to dense woodland that may be suitable for this species, and no fires have been recorded within the area since 1985 (GIS Database). Additionally, there are records of *Santalum spicatum* present within or immediately adjacent to the application area, particularly around the southwest section of the application area. As such, the western mouse may utilise the application area and the proposed clearing is likely to result in the loss of habitat suitable for this species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may have significant impacts on the aforementioned fauna species and the it is recommended that conditions should be implemented to mitigate the impacts from the proposed clearing.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing with a fauna spotter present to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring area proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) and inactive malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds and a 50 metre buffer around identified inactive mounds;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak butterfly, and no clearing within 50 metres of associated host plants; and
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 5 June 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to southern whiteface, malleefowl and arid bronze azure butterfly and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics.

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Ora Banda on crown land within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is situated in a tract of native vegetation centred on the historic Sand Kind gold project (GIS Database). The majority of the application area is in the Coolgardie IBRA bioregion and the Eastern Goldfield IBRA subregion, with a small section at the north of the application area crossing into the Murchison IBRA Bioregion (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Crown reserves, grazing native pasture leasehold, freehold, conservation and mining leases (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Goongarrie National Park located approximately 46 kilometres east-northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 468: Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. *Eucalyptus loxophleba, E. salmonophloia*, Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc, *E. salubris, E. oleosa*. Riverine; rivergum *E. camaldulensis*. Tropical; messmate, woolybush (GIS Database). Multiple flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over sections of the application area, in 2015 by Plant Ecology Consulting; 2017 by Jenny Borger and Daniel Radovic; and in November 2019 by Jenny Borger Botanical Consulting (JBBC). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (PEC, 2015; Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019): Plant Ecology Consulting: 1. *Acacia hemiteles* open shrubland – Open shrubland of *Acacia hemiteles* with emergent *Casuarina obesa* and scattered groves of *Eucalyptus* spp. over low open shrubland of *Acacia erinacea*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifiolia* on red brown silty loams on broad flats; 2. *Acacia burkittii* tall shrubland – High shrubland of *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia incurvaneura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* on red-brown silty loams on flats; 3. *Acacia incurvaneura* tall open shrubland – Open scrub of *Acacia incurvaneura*, *Acacia mulganeura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* on red sandy loams on flats; 4. *Acacia quadrimarginea* tall open shrubland – Open scrub of *Acacia quadrimarginea* over low open shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* on red loams on low stony rises; 5. *Acacia* spp. closed scrub - Closed scrub of mainly *Acacia* species such as *Acacia acuminata*, *Acacia mulganeura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* with *Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *supraplana*, *Eremophila ionantha* and *Prostanthera grylloana* on red sandy loams on flats; 6. *Allocasuarina eriochlamys* subsp. *eriochlamys* open shrubland - Open scrub of *Allocasuarina eriochlamys* subsp. *eriochlamys*, *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* over *Dodonaea microzyga*, *Phebalium lepidotum* and *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei* on shallow red earths on ironstone outcropping of low rises; 7. *Chenopod* low open shrubland – Low open shrubland of *Atriplex bunburyana*, *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *nummularia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over herbland of *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Eriochiton sclerolaenoides* with occasional emergent *Casuarina obesa* and *Eucalyptus griffithsii* on brown silty loams on flats; 8. *Chenopod* low open shrubland – Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over *Ptilotus obovatus* with emergent *Casuarina obesa* and *Eucalyptus salubris* on red-brown loams on low stony rises; 9. *Eucalyptus griffithsii* low open woodland with *Triodia scariosa* – Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia burkittii* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* over low open hummock grassland of *Triodia scariosa* on red sandy loams on flats; 10. *Eucalyptus lesouefii* low open woodland – Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia*, *Eremophila ionantha* and *Dodonaea lobulata* over *Olearia muelleri* on red-brown loams on flats and simple slopes Borger and Radovic: 1. *Casuarina pauper* and *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens* low open woodland to isolated trees over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Pittosporum angustifolium* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila* and *Acacia* species open shrubland; 2. *Santalum spicatum*, *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *glabra*, *Acacia burkittii*, *Dodonaea lobulata* shrubland to tall shrubland over *Solarium nummularium*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low sparse shrubland;

Characteristic	Details
	3. *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *subluta*, E. *concinna*, *Casuarina pauper* isolated low mallee or trees over *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Eremophila alternifolia*, *Acacia prainii*, A. *tetragonophylla* open to sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Atriplex vesicaria* open shrubland; 4. *Grevillea juncifolia* subsp. *temulenta*, *Alectryon oleifolius* or *Casuarina pauper* low isolated trees over *Eremophila* species, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Acacia burkittii*, A. *ramulosa*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* isolated low shrubs; 5. *Casuarina pauper* isolated low trees over *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Acacia burkittii* shrubland to open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland; 6. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, E. *transcontinentalis*, E. *clelandii* woodland over *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens* isolated tall shrubs over *Scaevola spinescens*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, E. *glabra* subsp. *glabra* open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* low open shrubland over *Sclerolaena diacantha* low isolated forbs JBBC: 1. ***Eucalyptus oleosa* isolated mallee over *Acacia caesaneura, Acacia incurvaneura* tall shrubland on low hills –** *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa isolated* mallee trees in *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa, Acacia caesaneura, Acacia incurvaneura, Acacia aneura, Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla, Acacia burkittii* tall shrubland / low woodland over *Eremophila granitica, Eremophila eriocalyx, Prostanthera grylloana, Grevillea didymobotrya* subsp. *didymobotrya, Dodonaea lobulata* open shrubland over *Eremophila granitica, Eremophila eriocalyx, Prostanthera grylloana, Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa, Scaevola spinescens, Dodonaea lobulata* low sparse shrubland over *Waitzia acuminata* low isolated forbs and low grass tussocks; 2. ***Eucalyptus griffithsii, Eucalyptus oleosa* low open mallee woodland over *Acacia* and *Grevillea* open shrubland on low hills –** *Eucalyptus griffithsii, Eucalyptus oleosa* low open mallee woodland over *Acacia aneura, Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla, Casuarina pauper, Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* tall open shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla, Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla, Scaevola spinescens, Dodonaea lobulata, Acacia aneura, Eremophila eriocalyx* open shrubland over *Scaevola spinescens, Dodonaea lobulata* low sparse shrubland; 3. ***Acacia aneura* shrubland over *Grevillea, Phebalium, Philotheca* and *Prostanthera* shrubland on rocky outcrop on hills –** *Acacia aneura* tall open shrubland over *Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla, Phebalium filifolium, Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei, Exocarpos aphyllus, Prostanthera grylloana* and *Dodonaea lobulata, Eremophila clarkei* shrubland; 4. ***Eucalyptus griffithsii* low open woodland over *Acacia* and *Grevillea* tall open shrubland on plains –** *Eucalyptus griffithsii* and *Casuarina pauper* low open forest to open woodland over *Acacia caesaneura, Acacia hemiteles, Acacia colletioides, nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla, Acacia burkittii* tall open shrubland over *Acacia hemiteles, Acacia burkittii, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa, Eremophila scoparia, Dodonaea rigida, Dodonaea lobulata* open shrubland over *Acacia hemiteles, Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa, Scaevola spinescens, Eremophila scoparia, Acacia colletioides, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* low open shrubland over *Triodia scariosa* and *Austrostipa elegantissima* low isolated tussock grasses; 5. ***Eucalyptus salmonophloia* open woodland over *Eremophila, Acacia* and *Exocarpos* sparse shrubland on plains –** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* open woodland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* tall sparse shrubland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans*, *Exocarpos aphyllus*, *Eremophila scoparia, Acacia hemiteles* sparse shrubland over *Acacia erinacea, Sclerolaena cuneata, Scaevola spinescens, Dissocarpus paradoxus*, *Sclerolaena diacantha* low sparse shrubland over *Roepera ovata* low isolated forbs; and 6. **Eucalyptus woodlands over *Eremophila*, *Dodonaea* and *Acacia* open to sparse shrublands on hills –** *Eucalyptus clelandiorum, Eucalyptus griffithsii, Eucalyptus salubris* woodland over *Eremophila* sp. Mt Jackson, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Dodonaea lobulata, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Casuarina pauper, Exocarpos aphyllus, Acacia effusifolia, Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia burkittii* open shrubland over *Eremophila* sp. Mt Jackson, *Casuarina pauper, Olearia muelleri, Scaevola spinescens, Dodonaea lobulata, Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland over *Austrostipa nitida, Roepera aurantiaca, Sclerolaena* species, *Sida calyxhymenia* low isolated grass tussocks and forbs.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in completely degraded to excellent condition (Keighery, 1994). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Goldfield subregion is described as arid to semi-arid warm mediterranean, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 265.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 480-490 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Soil description and land degradation risk	The soil is mapped as part of the following land systems and soil descriptions (DPIRD, 2026; Waddell and Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). • **Bunyip Land System (265By)** alluvial tracts, commonly with gilgai, draining greenstone hills, supporting mixed halophytic shrublands occasionally with a black oak or eucalypt overstorey. Soils associated with this land system are hard cracking clay on plains remote from gilgai, self-mulching cracking clay in gilgai mounds and depressions, cracking and non-cracking clay, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous shallow loam and red-brown hardpan shallow loam. Alluvial plains are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Impeding natural drainage features can accelerate soil loss. • **Coolgardie Land System (265Co)** uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous stony soil, calcareous loamy earth, calcareous clay loam, self-mulching cracking clay, calcareous shallow loam, calcareous gravelly loamy earth and red loamy earth. Where not protected by a stony mantle, footslopes and valley floors are susceptible to water erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed. The vegetation is prone to overgrazing and subsequent degradation. • **Coolgardie Disturbed Land System (265CoX)** disturbed and degraded areas of the Coolgardie Land System • **Doney Land System (265Do)** calcareous sheetwash plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands with non-halophytic shrub understoreys. Soils associated with this land system are red loamy earth, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, occasionally calcareous gravelly shallow loam and calcareous gravelly loamy earth. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion with the exception of drainage tracts, particularly if perennial plant cover is substantially reduced. • **Gumland Land System (265Gm)** alluvial plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic shrub understoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous loamy earth, red loamy earth, Alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous shallow loam, calcareous clay loam, self-mulching cracking clay and calcareous loamy ironstone gravel. Alluvial plains, drainage tracts and foci are susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, as are footslopes if protective mantles are disturbed. Infrastructure across sheetwash and alluvial plains can result in concentrated water flows and cause erosion incision. Halophytic vegetation is prone to overgrazing and subsequent degradation. • **Illaara Land System (265Il)** low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga-casuarina shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are loamy gravel, calcareous shallow loam, red loamy earth, very shallow soil over ferruginous duricrust, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, shallow loamy gravel, calcareous loamy ironstone gravel, calcareous loamy earth and red loamy earth. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion. • **Illaara Disturbed Land Phase (265ILX)** disturbed and degraded areas of the Illaara Land System. • **Moriarty Land System (265Mo)** low greenstone rises and stony plains, supporting mixed shrublands with eucalypt or casuarina overstoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous stony soil, very shallow calcrete soil, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, calcareous gravelly shallow loam, calcareous loamy ironstone gravel, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, red loamy earth, red-brown non-cracking clay, rarely self-mulching cracking clay. Slopes of low rises without protective stone mantles, alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced of the soil surface is disturbed. • **Moriarty Disturbed Land System (265MoX)** disturbed and degraded areas of the Moriarty Land System.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no known watercourses or waterbodies intersect the application area (GIS Database). The nearest Wetland of National or International Importance is the Rowles Lagoon System located approximately 17 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 34 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Raeside Ponton Salt Lake basin (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 11 priority flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	There are no Priority Ecological Communities or Threatened Ecological Communities (PECs/TECs) intersecting the application area. The closest recorded PEC is the Emu Land System (Priority 3) approximately 5.5 kilometres northwest of the application area.
Fauna	There are records of 18 conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Four habitats were identified within the application area (Ora Banda, 2026): • EH - *Eucalyptus* woodland over shrubs on low stony/rocky hills • EMH - *Eucalyptus* mallee over shrublands on low stony hills • EP - *Eucalyptus* woodland over low shrubs on sheetwash plains • MH - mulga woodland on low stony hills • D – degraded/cleared areas with some regrowth

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 - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	97.96	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 468	592,022.32	583,902.76	98.63	135,197.44	22.84
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 468	583,357.71	575,360.61	98.63	130,719.16	22.41

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 the results of the 2019 JBBC survey of the application area, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019; Plant Ecology Consulting, 2015; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Priority 1			
Ricinocarpos digynus	Y	<5	10
Xanthoparmelia subbarbatica	N	<15	11
Priority 2			
Eucalyptus educta	N	<10	46
Priority 3			
Austrostipa vickeryana	N	<20	9
Eleocharis papillosa	N	<20	15
Homalocalyx grandiflorus	N	<20	16
Hysterobaeckea ochropetala subsp. *cometes*	N	<20	29
Notisia intonsa	N	<5	29
Phebalium brachycalyx	N	<5	25
Stackhousia muricata subsp. Perennial (W.R. Barker 3641)	N	<15	50
Priority 4			
Eucalyptus jutsonii subsp. *jutsonii*	Y	<15	36

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration (Biostat, 2020; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Birds			
Actitis hypoleucos (common sandpiper)	MI	N	<25
Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	<45
Apus pacificus (fork-tailed swift)	MI	N	<30
Arenaria interpres (ruddy turnstone)	MI	N	<25
Charadrius cucullatus (hooded plover, hooded dotterel)	P4	N	<30
Charadrius veredus (oriental plover)	MI	N	<30
Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon)	OS	N	<30
Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl)	VU	Y	<0
Oxyura australis (blue-billed duck)	P4	N	<20
Plegadis falcinellus (glossy ibis)	MI	N	<25
Tringa glareola (wood sandpiper)	MI	N	<25
Tringa nebularia (common greenshank)	MI	N	<25
Invertebrates			
Branchinella simplex (a fairy shrimp (inland WA))	P1	N	<50
Jalmenus aridus (inland hairstreak, desert blue butterfly)	P2	Y	<25
Ogyris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly)	CR	Y	<25
Mammals			
Dasyurus geoffroii (chuditch, western quoll))	VU	N	<25
Nyctophilus major tor (central long-eared bat)	P3	Y	<25
Pseudomys occidentalis (western mouse)	P4	Y	<5

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		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There were no priority ecological communities, or conservation significant flora or fauna species recorded within the application area (PEC, 2015; Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019; GIS Database). The application area contains suitable habitat for two priority flora species, *Ricinocarpos digynus* (P1) and *Eucalyptus jutsonii* subsp. *jutsonii* (P4). While both species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, the repeated flora surveys throughout sections of the application area have not recorded either species within the area proposed to be cleared. Additionally, the majority of the application area has already been cleared under CPS 6968, with the remaining clearing to be conducted over areas that have most recently been surveyed (Borger and Radovic, 2017). As such, there are unlikely to be any impacts to this species as a result of the proposed clearing.		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains potential habitat for conservation significant fauna.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: No threatened flora species have been identified within the application area or its surrounds (Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019; Plant Ecology Consulting, 2015; GIS Database). While the most recent biological survey information is outdated, it is unlikely that threatened flora species will have propagated into the application area as only one record of threatened flora has been identified within 50 kilometres of the application area that was recorded in 1929 (GIS Database). Additionally, most of the clearing permitted under CPS 6968 has been carried out with no threatened flora recorded within the remaining areas to be cleared.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The previous surveys carried out over the application area did not identify any TECs or vegetation associations synonymous with TECs (Borger and Radovic, 2017; JBBC, 2019; Plant Ecology Consulting, 2015).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area is approximately 45 kilometres (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment:	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). A number of seasonal creek line passes through the application area (GIS Database). Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with the watercourse may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.		
Principle (g): "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation." Assessment: Of the nine land systems present within the application area, five are susceptible to erosion (GIS Database): • Bunyip 265By - alluvial plains are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Impeding natural drainage features can accelerate soil loss; • Coolgardie 265Co - where not protected by a stony mantle, footslopes and valley floors are susceptible to water erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed. The vegetation is prone to overgrazing and subsequent degradation; • Doney 265Do - this land system is generally not susceptible to erosion with the exception of drainage tracts, particularly if perennial plant cover is substantially reduced; • Gumland 265Gm - alluvial plains, drainage tracts and foci are susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, as are footslopes if protective mantles are disturbed. Infrastructure across sheetwash and alluvial plains can result in concentrated water flows and cause erosion incision; and • Moriarty 265Mo - slopes of low rises without protective stone mantles, alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced of the soil surface is disturbed. The proposed clearing may cause appreciable land degradation. Potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised through the implementation of a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance	No
Principle (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." Assessment: The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). The application area is located within the proclaimed Goldfields groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Due to the climate and salinity of the area (BoM, 2026; GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or ground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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." Assessment: The application area occurs within the arid to semi-arid warm mediterranean Eastern Goldfields subregion, receiving an average rainfall of 265.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly following intermittent seasonal rainfall events (CALM, 2002). There is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains, and while larger rainfall events may result in flooding of the area the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased 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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing 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)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Basins (DWER-027)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

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)

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.