

Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document

Project

Dampier Salt Port Hedland

18 June 2026

RTIO-1162715

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1 Permit Application Details

1.1 Scope and Purpose

Dampier Salt Limited (DSL) proposes to undertake repair and reinstatement works to existing seawall levees associated with Concentrator Ponds 3, 4 and 5 and the diversion/flood protection levee located south of the Concentrator Ponds at the Port Hedland Salt Operations.

The works are required to repair infrastructure damage resulting from Cyclone Sean (2024) and Cyclone Zelia (2025) and are necessary to maintain the operational integrity of existing salt production infrastructure and associated flood protection systems. The works is scheduled to be completed prior to commencement of the 2026 cyclone season in October.

The proposed works occur within an established industrial footprint that has been subject to previous construction, maintenance and operational activities. Existing roads, tracks, levees and disturbed corridors occur throughout the application area and immediate surrounds.

1.2 Proponent Details

DSL is the landowner, applicant and is to be the permit holder.

1.3 Tenure & Land Ownership

Table 1: Tenements and status within the Clearing Area

Tenement	Status	Holder	Commencement Date	Expiry Date
Mineral Lease S.A				
ML242SA	Live	Dampier Salt Limited	18/10/1966	17/10/2029
Miscellaneous licence				
L45/370	Live	Dampier Salt Limited	11/11/2015	10/11/2036

1.4 Part V (Div 2) – Relevant Clearing Permit Decisions

Six Native Vegetation Clearing Permits (NVCPs) have been approved within 10 km of the application area. A summary of these instruments is provided in below Table 2.

Table 2: Relevant Clearing Permit Decisions

CPS Number	Status	Holder	Commencement Date	Expiry Date	Details	Conditions imposed to manage impacts
6331	Live	Dampier Salt Limited	20/12/2014	31/12/2030	Clearing up to 47.96 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 47.96 hectares, for the purpose of constructing borrow pits	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control • Retain, revegetate and rehabilitate
5334	Live	Dampier Salt Limited	12/01/2013	12/01/2033	Clearing up to 15.91 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 20 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (specifically for the purpose of a borrow pit to assist with repairs to roads and levees as a result of ongoing cyclone activity)	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control - Retain, revegetate and rehabilitate
2263	Expired	Dampier Salt Limited	15/03/2008	31/07/2012	Clearing of up to 20 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of a mineral production (specifically for the purpose of a borrow pit to assist with repairs to roads and levees as a result of ongoing cyclone activity)	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control • Retain, revegetate and rehabilitate
9581	Live	Junja Solar Farm Pty Ltd	7/07/2022	7/07/2027	Clearing of 27.29 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of construction a solar farm.	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control Specific to Principle (b) • Directional clearing • Fauna management (Pre-clearance surveys) Specific to Principle (g) • Wind erosion
11119	Live	Regional Power Corporation, Trading as Horizon Power	21/12/2025	21/12/2030	Clearing up to 93.3 ha distributed across 38 sites within a 232.6-ha clearing envelope to facilitate the preliminary geotechnical and groundwater investigations to inform the final and detailed design of the Pilbara Green Link	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control • Retain, revegetate and rehabilitate Specific to Principle (b) • Timing and directional clearing • Fauna management (backfilling) • Fauna management (pre-clearance survey) Specific to Principle (g) • Wind erosion
2709	Expired	Boral Resources (WA) Ltd	20/02/2010	20/02/2015	Clearing up to 4.5 hectares of native vegetation on General Purpose Lease 45/257 at the Tabba Tabba Quarry operation. The proposed clearing area will be used as an additional product stockpile area.	General • Avoid minimise • Weed Control

1.5 Legislative Context

Legislation of relevance to 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)
- *Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966*

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

Other legislation of importance:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*

1.6 Description of Clearing Activities

A purpose permit is requested to allow the clearing of up to 27.57 ha of native vegetation within an application area of approximately 76.19 ha. The application area is located approximately 30 km east of the Town of Port Hedland.

The purpose of the proposed clearing is to undertake remedial works and re-establish seawall and flood protection levees that were damaged during cyclone events. A standard permit duration of five years is requested.

Clearing will be undertaken using mechanised equipment, primarily an excavator of an appropriate size for the levee infrastructure. The excavator will traverse existing access tracks located along the crest of the levees and utilise its reach to repair and reconstruct damaged sections of the levee embankments. In undertaking these works, native vegetation occurring on or immediately adjacent to damaged sections of the levee may be removed.

The proposed clearing footprint has been calculated using a conservative spatial assessment based on the maximum potential disturbance envelope associated with levee remediation activities. Given the linear nature of the works and the difficulty in accurately predicting the extent of disturbance required at individual repair locations, the clearing extent represents a worst-case scenario and assumes that vegetation may be disturbed along the full reach of the excavator where repairs are required. Consequently, the approved clearing extent of 27.57 ha is considered the maximum area that may be cleared, and the actual extent of clearing is expected to be substantially less.

1.7 Measures to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage Clearing Impacts

Clearing impacts will be determined by the level of disturbance or damage to the seawall and flood protection bunds. Onsite environmental advisors will be present during clearing and construction activities to ensure that native vegetation is only cleared where bund repair works are necessary. All works will be undertaken in accordance with internal ground disturbing procedures and permits, as well as strict adherence to any and all relevant external approval instruments. Standard internal ground controls include, site inductions, prestart meetings, limiting clearing to the minimum amount required and implementing weed hygiene practises.

2 Biological Assessment

GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) undertook flora, vegetation and fauna habitat assessments to identify ecological values within the application area and assess the potential impacts of the proposed clearing. The assessment included a desktop review comprising database searches and likelihood of occurrence assessments, followed by a single-phase, post-wet season NVCP-level flora and vegetation survey and a basic fauna survey. The survey area encompassed approximately 76.19 ha and was subsequently adopted as the application area, ensuring all areas potentially subject to clearing were surveyed.

The field survey comprised a single-phase Detailed flora and vegetation survey and a Basic and Targeted fauna survey. The flora and fauna survey components were undertaken concurrently from 9 – 13 March 2026 with a total 8 person days for the flora and 3 person days for the fauna.

The field survey was undertaken by GHD Senior Botanist, Pali Jayasekara, Ecologist Tia Cochrane and Senior Zoologist Lucas Hurst. Both senior personnel have extensive experience undertaking flora and fauna surveys in the Pilbara region.

The survey methodology and data collection that GHD employed was consistent with the following regulatory guidance and standards:

- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA 2016)
- EPA Technical Guidance – Terrestrial vertebrate fauna surveys for environmental impact assessment (2020)
- DSEWPC Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Reptiles (DSEWPC 2011)
- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds (DEWHA 2010)
- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) (Superseded by DCCEEW) (2010) Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Bats.

GHD (2026) noted no major constraints which could have compromised the thoroughness of the survey findings.

3 Vegetation Proposed to be Cleared

The clearing of up to 27.57 ha of native vegetation is proposed within a clearing permit envelope/boundary of 76.19 ha. The clearing is to occur and be spread across a 58 km length, adjacent to and within an existing flood levee. Across the survey area, including cleared areas, a total of five vegetation types were identified (Table 3).

Table 3: Vegetation Descriptions

Veg Code	Veg Type	Vegetation Description
VT01	Plains – Spinifex with Acacias	Open <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low shrubland over an open <i>Triodia secunda</i> low hummock grassland over isolated tussock grasses of <i>Aristida contorta</i> over a sparse <i>Trianthema cusackianum</i> , <i>Ptilotus fusiformis</i> and <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> low herbland.
VT02	Coastal – Samphire and Halophytes	Open <i>Eremophea spinosa</i> and <i>Salsola australis</i> low chenopod shrubland over a sparse <i>Tecticornia</i> spp. low samphire shrubland, over isolated <i>Eragrostis setifolia</i> low tussock grasses over a sparse <i>Tribulus hirsutus</i> , <i>Trianthema</i> spp. and <i>Asteraceae</i> sp. low forbland. This vegetation type was located on modified road edges in the north of the Survey Area. The road is positioned between the seawall levees to the south and mangroves to the north.
VT03	Highly Modified Vegetation	Low <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i> and <i>Dactyloctenium radulans</i> tussock grassland over isolated <i>*Aerva javanica</i> , <i>Trianthema triquetrum</i> , and <i>Arivela viscosa</i> low forbs. This vegetation type was generally located on road edges and dominated by <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i> with isolated occurrences of native flora species.
VT04	Hummock Grasslands	Isolated to sparse <i>Indigofera linnaei</i> , <i>Gossypium australe</i> and <i>Senna notabilis</i> low shrubland over low <i>Triodia secunda</i> open hummock grassland over low <i>Dactyloctenium radulans</i> , <i>Sorghum plumosum</i> and <i>Eragrostis setifolia</i> sparse tussock grassland over a sparse <i>Euphorbia</i> spp., <i>Ptilotus fusiformis</i> and <i>Tribulus hirsutus</i> low forbland
Cleared	Existing disturbance/Cleared	Cleared areas devoid of native vegetation including cleared tracks, road verges and constructed rock walls.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared ranged in condition from Very Good to Completely Degraded. However, the vegetation was predominately found to be in a Completely Degraded condition, with cleared tracks, road verges and constructed rock walls present (GHD, 2026). A breakdown of the mapped vegetation types by condition is provided in below Table 4.

Given that the application area is situated in the Eremaean Botanical Province, the Trudgen Condition rating has been used to describe vegetation condition. A summary of the vegetation condition scales used for the relevant botanical provinces is provided in Appendix A.

Table 4: Vegetation Condition within the Application Area

Vegetation Condition	Cleared	VT01	VT02	VT03	VT04	Total (ha)	Total (%)
Excellent							
Very Good		0.47				0.47	0.8
Good		7.73	1.27	0.53	5.23	14.75	24.84
Poor					0.23	0.23	0.38
Degraded							
Completely Degraded	31.83			12.11		43.95	73.98
Total	31.83	8.20	1.27	12.64	45.46	59.40	100
Area proposed to be cleared (Total minus cleared areas)						27.57	

4 Assessment of Ten Clearing Principles

Clearing proposed within the application area has been assessed against the ten clearing principles.

The assessment has been completed based on findings within the GHD technical report titled “Dampier Salt Port Hedland, 2026 Cyclone Recovery Project-NVCP Support, Technical report”. All figures representing fauna, flora and vegetation values are presented within the GHD Technical Report. Figures showing the application area and area proposed to be cleared are provided as Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

In addition to the regulatory guidance documents noted within above Section 2, the assessment considered the following documents when addressing the ten clearing principles:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, December 2013)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2019)

Table 5: Assessment against the Ten Clearing Principles

Assessment of Clearing Principle
Principle (a): Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity. Assessment The application area is located within the Roebourne sub-region of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Datasets). The Roebourne subregion is broadly described as quaternary alluvial plains with a grass savanna (typically <i>Triodia</i> hummock grasslands) and shrub steppe of <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i>, <i>A. pyrifolia</i> and <i>A. inaequilatera</i>. Areas of samphire, <i>Sporobolus</i> and mangal occur on marine alluvial flats (Kendrick and Stanley, 2003). The application area consists of a 76.19 ha area where up to 27.57 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared. GHD (2026) completed a single-phase Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey and a Basic and Targeted Fauna Survey over the entire application area. The flora survey recorded 79 vascular flora taxa from 59 genera and 25 families. Species accumulation analysis indicated that survey effort adequately characterised the floristic diversity of the application area and that the flora assemblage recorded is representative of the vegetation present (GHD, 2026). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded during the field survey. Seven introduced flora (weed) species were recorded within the application area. Among the seven introduced taxa, two were identified as Declared Pests (DP) under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act): <i>Calotropis procera</i> and <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>. <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> is also listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) (DPIRD, 2026). Four vegetation types were described consisting of Plains - Spinifex Acacias (VT01), Coastal - Samphire and Halophytes (VT02), Special Cases – Highly Modified (VT03) and Plain – Hummock Grassland (VT04). A large proportion (73.98%) of the application area was mapped as being in a Completely Degraded condition. No vegetation types were considered to be of elevated conservation significance within the application area, largely due to their condition and modified context. The Samphire and Halophytes vegetation type (VT02) is associated with the broader coastal wetland environment and is somewhat limited within the local area and region; however, within the application area it was predominantly recorded in highly modified environments along road edges and disturbed infrastructure corridors. In addition, a maximum of 1.27 ha of VT02 is proposed to be cleared. Given the small scale of impact and the extensive occurrence of samphire vegetation associated with the surrounding Leslie Saltfields System and coastal environments, impacts to this vegetation type are unlikely to be significant at a local or regional scale.

The application area occurs within the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) associated with the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA) (GIS Datasets). The ESA designation reflects the presence of nationally important wetland values within the broader saltfields system; however, the ESA itself is a regulatory designation rather than a biodiversity value. The application area is located within a highly modified section of the operating saltworks and contains vegetation that has been substantially altered by historical clearing, roads, levees, saltworks infrastructure and weed invasion. Consequently, the assessment of biodiversity values has focused on the flora, vegetation and fauna habitats present within the proposed clearing footprint and the extent to which clearing may impact those values. Weed species were predominantly recorded along the edges of levees and adjacent to roads, often in high concentrations. Where vegetation was present in Poor or Completely Degraded condition, it was dominated by *Cenchrus ciliaris*, accounting for up to 30% of the ground cover at some sites.

No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded during the field survey. Post-survey flora likelihood of occurrence assessments confirmed that flora species of conservation significance are unlikely to occur within the application area (GHD, 2026). Desktop and field surveys also confirmed the absence of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the application. However, it is noted that the Eighty Mile Land System (a Priority 3 PEC) is located approximately 1.8 km north (GIS Datasets).

The fauna survey identified three broad habitat types comprising Sandplain Habitat (30.51 ha – Moderate habitat value), Disturbed Infrastructure Habitat (19.77 ha - Low habitat quality) and Tracks/Cleared Habitat (25.90 ha) within the application area. The fauna habitats are generally considered to be in a degraded condition across the majority of the application area. These habitats support fauna typical of the Pilbara coastal environment and are contiguous with extensive areas of similar habitat occurring throughout the surrounding landscape (GHD, 2026).

Of the mapped habitats where native vegetation persists, only 14.39 ha of Sandplain Habitat and 13.18 ha of Disturbed Infrastructure and tracks/cleared Habitat will be impacted by proposed clearing activities. The fauna habitats recorded align with the mapped vegetation types, with the Sandplain Habitat being comprised of VT01, VT02 and VT04, while Disturbed Infrastructure Habitat is largely associated with VT03 and other disturbed areas. As noted above, a substantial proportion of the vegetation forming these habitats is considered to be in a Completely Degraded condition. This reflects the highly modified setting where disturbance has affected habitats to varying degrees through vegetation clearing, roads and tracks, weeds, introduced fauna, grazing and infrastructure associated with the saltworks. The habitats within the application area remain largely contiguous with surrounding habitats in the local area and are well connected to the broader region.

GHD (2026) recorded 13 fauna species of conservation significance during the fauna survey, all of which are protected as Listed Migratory Species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). In addition to recorded species, GHD identified an additional 34 species considered likely or possible to occur within the application area. Of the species recorded or identified as potentially occurring within the application area (47 species in total), 25 are migratory shorebird species known to frequent the surrounding Port Hedland coastal environment and utilise tidal mudflats, mangroves, salt ponds and coastal habitats. The Port Hedland Saltworks is recognised as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

The remaining vertebrate fauna species identified as potentially utilising the application area, but not recorded during field investigations, consisted of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* - OS), Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos* - VU), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus* - EN), Lakeland Downs Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis* – P4), Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi* – P4), Airlie Island Ctenotus (*Ctenotus angusticeps* – P3) and North-coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus* – P1) (DBCA, 2025a)

While migratory shorebirds and other fauna species of conservation significance may occasionally utilise the application area as foraging habitat, the application area is unlikely to represent habitat necessary for the continued existence of these species given the extensive areas of similar or higher quality habitat available within the surrounding Leslie Saltfields System, Port Hedland coastal environment and broader region. Furthermore, key breeding, roosting and refuge features required by fauna species of conservation significance were not identified within the application area.

Taking into account the degraded condition of much of the application area, the absence of Threatened and Priority flora, TECs and PECs, the highly modified nature of the vegetation and fauna habitats, the small scale of clearing proposed and the extensive availability of similar vegetation and habitat within the surrounding local area and region, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact to biodiversity values.

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

No features of elevated environmental significance have been identified as being adversely impacted by proposed clearing activities.

Mitigation Measures

DSL will implement standard site ground disturbing procedures outlined within Section 1.7. To further reduce the likelihood or potential for impacts, it is recommended that standard avoidance conditions (avoid, minimise and reduce) be imposed on the permit.

Assessment Outcome

Based on the above assessment and implemented mitigation measures, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (a).

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

Kendrick and Stanley (2003)
GHD (2026)
DBCA (2025a)
(DPIRD) (2026)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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 fauna survey identified three broad habitat types comprising Sandplain Habitat (30.51 ha – Moderate habitat value), Disturbed Infrastructure Habitat (19.77 ha - Low habitat quality) and Tracks/Cleared Habitat (25.90 ha) within the application area. The fauna habitats are generally considered to be in a degraded condition across the majority of the application area. These habitats support fauna typical of the Pilbara coastal environment and are contiguous with extensive areas of similar habitat occurring throughout the surrounding landscape (GHD, 2026).

Of the mapped habitats where native vegetation persists, only 14.39 ha of Sandplain Habitat and 13.18 ha of Disturbed Infrastructure and tracks/cleared Habitat will be impacted by proposed clearing activities. The fauna habitats recorded align with the mapped vegetation types, with the Sandplain Habitat being comprised of VT01, VT02 and VT04, while Disturbed Infrastructure Habitat is largely associated with VT03 and other disturbed areas. As noted above, a substantial proportion of the vegetation forming these habitats is considered to be in a Completely Degraded condition. This reflects the highly modified setting where disturbance has affected habitats to varying degrees through vegetation clearing, roads and tracks, weeds, introduced fauna, grazing and infrastructure associated with the saltworks. The habitats within the application area remain largely contiguous with surrounding habitats in the local area and are well connected to the broader region.

GHD (2026) recorded 13 fauna species of conservation significance during the completed fauna survey, all of which are protected as Listed Migratory Species under the EPBC Act. Recorded species are listed in the below table.

Species	WA (BC Act) Conservation Status	Commonwealth (EPBC Act) Conservation Status
Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	Not listed	Endangered (EN)
Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	Not listed	Critically Endangered (CR), Migratory (MI)
Common Sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Gull-billed Tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Little Curlew (<i>Numenius minutus</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)

Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Red-necked Stint (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)
Eastern Osprey (<i>Pandion cristatus</i>)	Migratory (MI)	Migratory (MI)

The majority of these species are migratory shorebirds associated with coastal habitats, tidal mudflats, mangroves, evaporation ponds and saltworks habitats surrounding Port Hedland.

In addition to the species recorded during field investigations, GHD identified a further 34 conservation significant fauna species as likely or possible to occur within the application area. Of the total 47 conservation significant species recorded or identified as potentially occurring, 25 are migratory shorebird species known to utilise the broader Port Hedland coastal environment, including the Leslie Saltfields System, tidal mudflats, mangrove communities and salt ponds surrounding the application area. The Port Hedland Saltworks is recognised as an Important Bird Area and supports regionally significant populations of migratory shorebirds. However, the habitats present within the application area are largely restricted to degraded sandplain habitat and disturbed infrastructure corridors and do not comprise the primary foraging, roosting or breeding habitats utilised by these species.

The remaining vertebrate fauna species identified as potentially utilising the application area, but not recorded during field investigations, consisted of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* - OS), Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos* - VU), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus* - EN), Lakeland Downs Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis* – P4), Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasymercus blythi* – P4), Airlie Island Ctenotus (*Ctenotus angusticeps* – P3) and North-coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus* – P1) (DBCA, 2025a). A brief description of the habitat preferences for remaining fauna is provided below:

Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is a highly mobile raptor that occupies a wide range of habitats including coastal areas, woodlands, grasslands, shrublands and arid regions. The species primarily feeds on medium-sized birds captured in flight and generally requires elevated landforms, cliffs, gorges, large trees or artificial structures that provide suitable nesting and roosting sites (DCCEEW, 2026).

Grey Falcon

The Grey Falcon is an arid-zone raptor typically associated with open shrublands, grasslands and lightly timbered woodlands throughout inland Australia. The species feeds predominantly on birds and generally nests in large trees, often utilising old stick nests constructed by other bird species. Habitat suitability is therefore largely influenced by the availability of suitable nesting structures and foraging habitat (DCCEEW, 2026).

Northern Quoll

The Northern Quoll is typically associated with rocky habitats that provide suitable denning and refuge opportunities, including escarpments, mesas, breakaways, boulder fields, tor fields and rocky creek systems. These habitats are often associated with spinifex grasslands, shrublands and woodlands that provide foraging and movement habitat. The species is an opportunistic omnivore that feeds on a broad range of

invertebrates, small vertebrates, fruit, nectar and carrion, and may utilise a variety of vegetation communities for foraging. However, the availability of suitable shelter features, particularly rock crevices and other protected refuges, is generally considered the primary determinant of habitat suitability (DCCEEW, 2021; 2026).

Lakeland Downs Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis* – P4) is known to occur in a variety of habitats including spinifex grasslands, samphire communities, chenopod shrublands, *Melaleuca* woodlands and open savannah woodlands, typically on sandy-clay soils. The species forages on seeds and invertebrates and is generally associated with areas that provide ground cover and suitable shelter opportunities (DCCEEW, 2026)

Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi* – P4) is typically associated with *Triodia* (spinifex) grasslands on sandy plains and dune systems where it occupies burrow systems for shelter and breeding. The species is a carnivorous marsupial that forages on invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and other small vertebrates (DCCEEW, 2026)

Airlie Island Ctenotus (*Ctenotus angusticeps* – P3) is generally associated with samphire shrublands, salt marshes and habitats occurring along the landward margins of mangrove communities. The species forages within leaf litter and low vegetation for invertebrate prey and is typically associated with coastal saline environments (DCCEEW, 2026).

North-coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus* – P1) is closely associated with mangrove communities and adjacent coastal habitats where it roosts within tree hollows, fissures and crevices. The species is insectivorous and forages aerially over mangroves, mudflats and surrounding coastal habitats (DCCEEW, 2026)

As noted above, potentially suitable habitat for some conservation significant fauna species may occur within portions of the Sandplain Habitat present within the application area. However, similar habitat is widespread throughout the surrounding local area and region, and no more than 47% of the mapped Sandplain Habitat within the application area will be cleared. Potential shelter habitat for the Northern Quoll is discussed further below. No breeding habitat, critical refuge habitat, roosting habitat or other key habitat features considered necessary for the persistence of other conservation significant fauna species considered to be potentially present were identified within the application area. Given the extent of similar habitat available in the surrounding landscape, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant reduction in habitat availability for these species.

The Northern Quoll may utilise the application area for foraging and movement through the broader landscape. GHD (2026) identified that sections of the rock-armoured seawall levee may provide potential shelter habitat where artificial rockwork contains suitable crevices. In some locations, the seawall has the potential to mimic aspects of the species' preferred rocky habitat. To further investigate the suitability of this habitat, Dampier Salt Limited engaged Curtin University to undertake targeted camera trapping of the most prospective shelter locations along the seawall levee. Twenty-four cameras were deployed at approximately 100 metre intervals between 16 July and 20 August 2025. No Northern Quolls were recorded during the survey, despite feral cats being detected on multiple occasions.

While the seawall may provide opportunistic shelter habitat, these features occur within a highly modified operational environment that is subject to ongoing disturbance and edge effects and are isolated from more extensive areas of natural rocky habitat. The application area also contains limited native vegetation cover and reduced foraging resources relative to habitat available elsewhere in the region. Taking these factors into account, together with the absence of Northern Quoll records during targeted surveys, the habitat present within the application area is unlikely to represent significant habitat or habitat critical to the persistence of the species. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on Northern Quoll habitat values (GHD, 2026).

While migratory shorebirds and other conservation significant fauna species may occasionally utilise the application area, the habitats proposed to be cleared are unlikely to represent habitat necessary for the continued existence of these species. Similar or higher quality habitat remains extensive throughout the surrounding Leslie Saltfields System, Port Hedland Saltworks, adjacent coastal habitats and the broader Pilbara region. Furthermore, no breeding habitat, significant roosting habitat, critical refuge habitat or other habitat features considered necessary for the persistence of conservation significant fauna species were identified within the application area.

Given the degraded condition of much of the habitat proposed to be cleared, the limited scale of clearing, the extensive availability of similar habitat within the surrounding landscape and the absence of habitat considered significant or critical to the persistence of conservation significant fauna, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

No areas of significant habitat have been identified as being adversely impacted by proposed clearing activities.

Mitigation Measures

DSL will implement standard site ground disturbing procedures outlined within Section 1.7. To further reduce the likelihood or potential for impacts, it is recommended that standard avoidance conditions (avoid, minimise and reduce) be imposed on the permit.

Assessment Outcome

Based on the above assessment and implemented mitigation measures, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (b)

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)
DCCEEW (2021)
DCCEEW (2026)

DAWE (2016).
DBCA (2025b)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

Principle (c): “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”

Assessment

GHD (2026) completed a single-phase detailed flora and vegetation survey over the entire application area. No Threatened flora species, or habitat on which Threatened flora species depends, was recorded within the application area.

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

No Threatened flora species or suitable habitat was recorded or identified as being adversely impacted by proposed clearing activities.

Mitigation Measures

No management measures have been deemed necessary or directly relevant with respect to managing potential impacts related to this principle.

Assessment Outcome

The proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance with this principle.

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)

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

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified during desktop assessment or field surveys completed over the application area (GHD, 2026). The closest known TEC is located more than 40 km from the application area (GIS Datasets).

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

No TECs were recorded or identified as being adversely impacted by proposed clearing activities.

Mitigation Measures

No management measures have been deemed necessary or directly relevant with respect to managing potential impacts related to this principle.

Assessment Outcome

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance with principle (d).

Relevant Dataset

Give the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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 vegetation proposed to be cleared intersects three mapped Beard (1975) Vegetation Associations; 125, 127 and 647 (GIS Datasets). As shown in the below tables, Vegetation Association 125 retains approximately 24.35% of its pre-European extent within the Pilbara bioregion, Roebourne subregion and Town of Port Hedland local government area, while Vegetation Associations 127 and 647 remain well represented

across all assessment scales, retaining at least 82% and 97% of their pre-European extent, respectively. Vegetation Association 125 retains less than 30% of its mapped pre-European extent within the bioregion, subregion and local government area. The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation recognise that biodiversity loss may accelerate where ecological communities have been reduced below 30% of their pre-European extent and therefore additional clearing within such associations warrants careful consideration (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; DER, 2014). However, a maximum of only 4.85 ha of Vegetation Association 125 is proposed to be cleared, accounting for 0.56% of the remaining extent of this community within the Pilbara. Given the limited scale of clearing relative to the extent of the association remaining within the region, and noting that the application area occurs within an existing operational saltworks environment that has been subject to historical disturbance, the proposed clearing is unlikely to materially reduce the representation or long-term viability of Vegetation Association 125 at a local or regional scale. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is not expected to significantly affect the extent or conservation status of any of the mapped Beard vegetation associations.

Pre-European Vegetation Association(s)	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition
Vegetation Association 125 is described as bare areas; salt lakes	Clearing of up to 4.85 ha in the application area	Good to Completely Degraded
Vegetation Association 127 is described as bare areas and mud flats	Clearing of up to 4.28 ha in the application area.	Good to Completely Degraded
Vegetation Association 647 is described as Hummock grassland, dwarf-shrub steppe; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex	Clearing of up to 18.76 ha in the application area.	Very Good to Completely Degraded

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA managed lands
125	State: WA	3,485,785.49	3,146,487.22	90.27	8.45
	IBRA Bioregion (PIL)	3574.35	870.31	24.35	0.00
	IBRA Subregion ; Roebourne (PIL04)	3574.35	870.31	24.35	0.00
	LGA: Town of Port Hedland	3574.35	870.31	24.35	0.00
127	State: WA	737,724.05	697,871.38	94.60	12.30
	IBRA Bioregion (PIL)	177,749.75	159,595.04	89.79	2.32
	IBRA Subregion ; Roebourne (PIL04)	177,178.87	159,024.16	89.75	2.33

	LGA: Town of Port Hedland	67,213.79	55,276.38	82.24	0.08
647	State: WA	195,860.89	191,711.41	97.88	0.00
	IBRA Bioregion (PIL)	195,859.95	191,710.92	97.88	0.00
	IBRA Subregion ; Roebourne (PIL04)	188,901.32	184,774.70	97.82	0.00
	LGA: Town of Port Hedland	188,908.49	176,759.02	97.71	0.00

Source: Government of Western Australia. (2019)

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

Vegetation Association 125 is the only association with remaining extents below the recommended 30% retention threshold. The proposed clearing is unlikely to materially reduce the representation or long-term viability of Vegetation Association 125 at a local or regional scale. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is not expected to significantly affect the extent or conservation status of any of the mapped Beard vegetation associations.

Mitigation Measures

DSL will implement standard site ground disturbing procedures outlined within Section 1.7. To further reduce the likelihood or potential for impacts, it is recommended that standard avoidance conditions (avoid, minimise and reduce) be imposed on the permit.

Assessment Outcome

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be variance with principle (e).

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DER (2014)
GHD (2026)
Government of Western Australia (2019)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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

There is one significant stream mapped as terminating at the application area boundary. The stream is associated with the Ridley River located to the east (GIS Datasets). Parts of the application area and surrounding region comprises of tidal creeks and mudflats and ephemeral drainage areas (creeks/rivers) which are known to be periodically inundated after extreme tides or extended heavy rainfall (GHD, 2026).

GHD (2026) completed a search of the EPBC Act PMST database and did not identify any RAMSAR listed wetlands of international importance within the study area. However, the application area occurs within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) associated with the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA) (GIS Datasets). The ESA designation reflects the presence of nationally important wetland values within the broader saltfields system.

Vegetation Type VT02 (Coastal – Samphire and Halophytes) comprises low chenopod and samphire shrubland occurring adjacent to mangrove communities and the broader Leslie Saltfields System. Although the vegetation occurs in a modified environment associated with road verges and seawall infrastructure, the presence of halophytic species and its proximity to coastal wetland environments indicate that the vegetation remains ecologically associated with the surrounding saline wetland system. Accordingly, VT02 is considered to represent vegetation growing in association with a wetland. Notwithstanding this association, VT02 occurs in a highly modified setting adjacent to existing infrastructure and disturbance and a maximum of 1.27 ha is proposed to be cleared. Extensive areas of samphire and saline wetland vegetation remain within the surrounding Leslie Saltfields System and adjacent coastal environments. Consequently, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on wetland vegetation values or ecological function.

Significant Environmental Value Potentially Impacted

Vegetation type VT02 is the only mapped vegetation type that could be considered representative of wetland vegetation. Impacts to this vegetation are not significant in a local or regional context.

Mitigation Measures

DSL will implement standard site ground disturbing procedures outlined within Section 1.7. To further reduce the likelihood or potential for impacts, it is recommended that standard avoidance conditions (avoid, minimise and reduce) and vegetation management conditions (to specifically limit or avoid clearing riparian vegetation) be imposed on the permit.

Assessment Outcome

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance with principle (f).

Relevant Dataset

Give the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

Principle (g): “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”

Assessment

The application crosses two soil landscape mapping zones, the De Grey-Roebourne Lowlands Zone and the Karratha Coast Zone (GIS Datasets). The De Grey Roebourne Lowlands is characterised by Alluvial plains and sandplains on alluvial and marine deposits over the northern Pilbara Craton with Red deep sandy duplexes, Red loamy earths, Red/brown non-cracking clays, Cracking clays, Red sandy earths and Red deep loamy duplexes.

The Karratha Coast zone is described as consisting of Coastal mudflats (with sandy coastal plains and some hills) on marine deposits over the Pilbara Craton with Tidal soils, Calcareous loamy earths, Salt lake soils and Red/brown non-cracking clays

Land zones have been further classified into soil-landscape systems. Portions of the application area are located within the Uaroo (281Ua) Cheerawarra (286Ch) and Littoral Systems (286Li) (GIS Datasets). The Uaroo system consists of broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrub, the Cheerawarra system is described as Sandy coastal plains and saline clay plains supporting soft and hard spinifex grasslands and minor tussock grasslands, while the Littoral system is characterised by Bare coastal mudflats (unvegetated), samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches, supporting samphire low shrublands, sparse acacia shrublands and mangrove forests.

Land Quality Risk Category	Land System		
	Uaroo	Cheerawarra	Littoral

Wind Erosion	High to extreme risk	High to extreme risk	High to extreme risk
Water Erosion	Very high to extreme	Very high to extreme	Very high to extreme
Salinity	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Moderate risk
Subsurface Acidification	No known risk	No known risk	No known risk
Water logging and Inundation Risk	Moderate to very high risk	Moderate to very high risk	Moderate to very high risk
Phosphorus export risk	High to extreme risk	High to extreme risk	High to extreme risk

As shown in the above table, the application area is located within land systems that have known risks associated with a number of land quality risk categories. However, given that the proposed clearing of up to 27.57 ha of native vegetation (predominately in a Completely Degraded condition) associated with an existing flood levee that extends over a linear distance of 58 km, it unlikely to result in an increased risk of land degradation.

Mitigation Measures

DSL will implement standard site ground disturbing procedures outlined within Section 1.7. To further reduce the likelihood or potential for impacts, it is recommended that standard avoidance conditions (avoid, minimise and reduce) be imposed on the permit.

Assessment Outcome

The proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance with Principle (g).

Relevant Dataset

Give the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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

The application area does not occur within, or immediately adjacent to, a conservation area. The nearest conservation area is Eighty Mile Marine Park, located more than 50 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Datasets).

While the application area occurs within the broader Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System and Important Bird Area (IBA), the proposed works are confined to existing levees and disturbed infrastructure corridors within an operational saltworks environment. The proposed clearing is not expected to alter hydrological processes, habitat connectivity or ecological function in a manner that would adversely impact the environmental values of any conservation area. Given the separation distance to the nearest conservation area, the highly modified nature of the application area and the limited scale of clearing proposed, indirect impacts to conservation area values are unlikely.

Assessment Outcome

The proposed clearing is not at variance with Principle (h).

Mitigation Measures

No management measures have been deemed necessary or directly relevant with respect to managing potential impacts related to this principle.

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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 with a Public Drinking Water Source Area, the closest PDWSA is situated more than 13 km east (GIS Datasets).

The application area is located within the proclaimed Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Groundwater Area under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RiWI Act) (GIS Datasets). Groundwater salinity is mapped as ranging from 1000-3000 TDS/mg/L. Potential impacts to water

quality resulting from the clearing of native vegetation may occur through increased sediment mobilisation, erosion, altered surface water runoff characteristics or changes to groundwater processes. However, the proposed clearing is of a limited scale relative to the broader catchment and is largely confined to vegetation that is already in a degraded or highly modified condition. The majority of the vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a Completely Degraded condition and occurs within an existing operational infrastructure corridor that has been subject to historical disturbance.

The proposed clearing is not expected to remove substantial areas of intact vegetation that currently provide an important water quality function, nor is it expected to alter groundwater recharge processes or surface water flow patterns at a scale that would result in deterioration of surface water or groundwater quality. Given the limited extent of clearing and the disturbed nature of the application area, a credible pathway by which the clearing of native vegetation itself would result in deterioration of surface water or groundwater quality has not been identified.

Mitigation Measures

No management measures have been deemed necessary or directly relevant with respect to managing potential impacts related to this principle.

Assessment Outcome

The proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance with Clearing Principle (i).

Relevant Dataset

Give the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

References

GHD (2026)

Information Sources

GIS Datasets

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 Port Hedland region experiences an arid to semi-arid tropical climate characterised by highly variable rainfall, with the majority of rainfall occurring during summer and autumn as a result of tropical low-pressure systems and cyclonic activity. Significant rainfall events can result in temporary inundation and flooding of local drainage systems, floodplains and low-lying areas (BoM, 2026).

The proposal involves the clearing of up to 27.57 ha of native vegetation associated with existing seawall and flood protection levee infrastructure within the Port Hedland Saltworks. The majority of the vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a Completely Degraded condition and occurs within a highly modified environment that has been subject to historical disturbance associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the saltworks.

The clearing of native vegetation may contribute to flooding where it results in a substantial reduction in vegetation cover, altered surface water flow paths, reduced infiltration capacity or increased surface water runoff. However, the proposed clearing is limited in scale relative to the surrounding catchment and is largely confined to vegetation that has already been significantly disturbed. The proposal is not expected to substantially alter local drainage characteristics, reduce floodwater storage capacity or increase runoff volumes to an extent that would influence flood behaviour.

Furthermore, the proposed clearing is confined to an existing operational infrastructure corridor and does not involve the removal of extensive areas of intact vegetation that currently provide a significant flood attenuation function. A credible pathway by which the clearing of native vegetation would significantly alter surface water movement, runoff characteristics or flood behaviour has not been identified.

Given the limited scale of clearing, the degraded condition of the vegetation proposed to be removed and the absence of a credible flooding impact pathway, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence, extent, duration or severity of flooding within the local area.

Mitigation Measures

The purpose of the proposed clearing is to facilitate the repair and reinstatement of existing flood protection levees and seawall infrastructure damaged during Cyclone Sean (2024) and Cyclone Zelia (2025). The works are intended to restore the integrity and existing flood management function of these structures and do not involve the construction of new flood protection infrastructure or expansion of the existing flood management network. No management measures have been deemed necessary or directly relevant with respect to managing potential impacts related to this principle.

Assessment Outcome

The proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance with Principle (j).

Relevant Dataset

Given the assessment findings, no spatial data linked to potential permit conditions has been deemed necessary with respect to this principle. Therefore, no spatial data for use in conditions setting has been provided.

<u>References</u>
GHD (2026)
<u>Information Sources</u>
GIS Datasets

5 Ten Clearing Principle Assessment Findings

Assessment of the proposal against the Ten Clearing Principles identified that the application area occurs within a highly modified operational saltworks environment that has been subject to historical disturbance associated with roads, levees, saltworks infrastructure and previous clearing activities. The majority of the vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a Completely Degraded condition and no Threatened flora, Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) were identified within the application area.

The proposed clearing is considered **not at variance** with Clearing Principles **(d)** and **(h)**, as no TECs occur within the application area and the proposal is not located within, or adjacent to, a conservation area.

The proposed clearing is considered **not likely to be at variance** with Clearing Principles **(a)**, **(b)**, **(c)**, **(e)**, **(g)**, **(i)** and **(j)**. This conclusion reflects the degraded condition of much of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, the absence of significant flora values, the limited extent of clearing relative to the surrounding landscape, the extensive availability of similar vegetation and fauna habitat within the local area and region, and the absence of a credible pathway for significant impacts to land degradation, water quality or flooding processes.

It is considered that the proposed clearing **may be at variance** with Clearing Principle **(f)** as a portion of the vegetation proposed to be cleared (VT02 – Coastal Samphire and Halophytes) is considered to be growing in association with the broader Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia and recognised as an Environmentally Sensitive Area under the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004. However, the vegetation occurs in a highly modified setting adjacent to existing infrastructure and disturbance. Only a small extent (1.27 ha) is proposed to be cleared, and extensive areas of similar wetland-associated vegetation remain within the surrounding saltfields system. Consequently, impacts to wetland values and ecological function are unlikely to be significant.

Overall, the assessment did not identify any significant residual environmental impacts arising from the proposed clearing. Given the limited scale of clearing, the degraded condition of much of the vegetation proposed to be removed and the absence of significant environmental values within the clearing footprint, no site-specific management measures or permit conditions are considered necessary beyond standard permit conditions relating to avoidance, minimisation and weed hygiene.

6 References

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- Hill B.M. and Ward S.J. (2010). National Recovery Plan for the Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus*. Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Darwin
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7 Appendices

Appendix A - Vegetation Condition Scale

Vegetation Condition	South West and Interzone Botanical Provinces	Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance or damage caused by human activities since European settlement	
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species. Damage to trees caused by fire, the presence of non-aggressive weeds and occasional vehicle tracks.	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement
Very Good	Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing	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	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing	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
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.	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	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 and shrubs	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

Source: EPA (2016) (adapted from Keighery 1994 and Trudgen 1988)

Appendix B – Sources of Information (GIS Datasets)

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au and dpiird.maps.arcgis.com):

- 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)
- Directory of Important Wetlands (DBCA 045)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD 007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography Linear Hierarchy (DWER 031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD 010)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Salinity Risk (DPIRD 009)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping (DPIRD 017)
- Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD 011)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- Water Erosion Risk (DPRID 013)
- Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD 015)
- Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD016)

Restricted data resources sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au via the paid service:

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

8 **Figures**



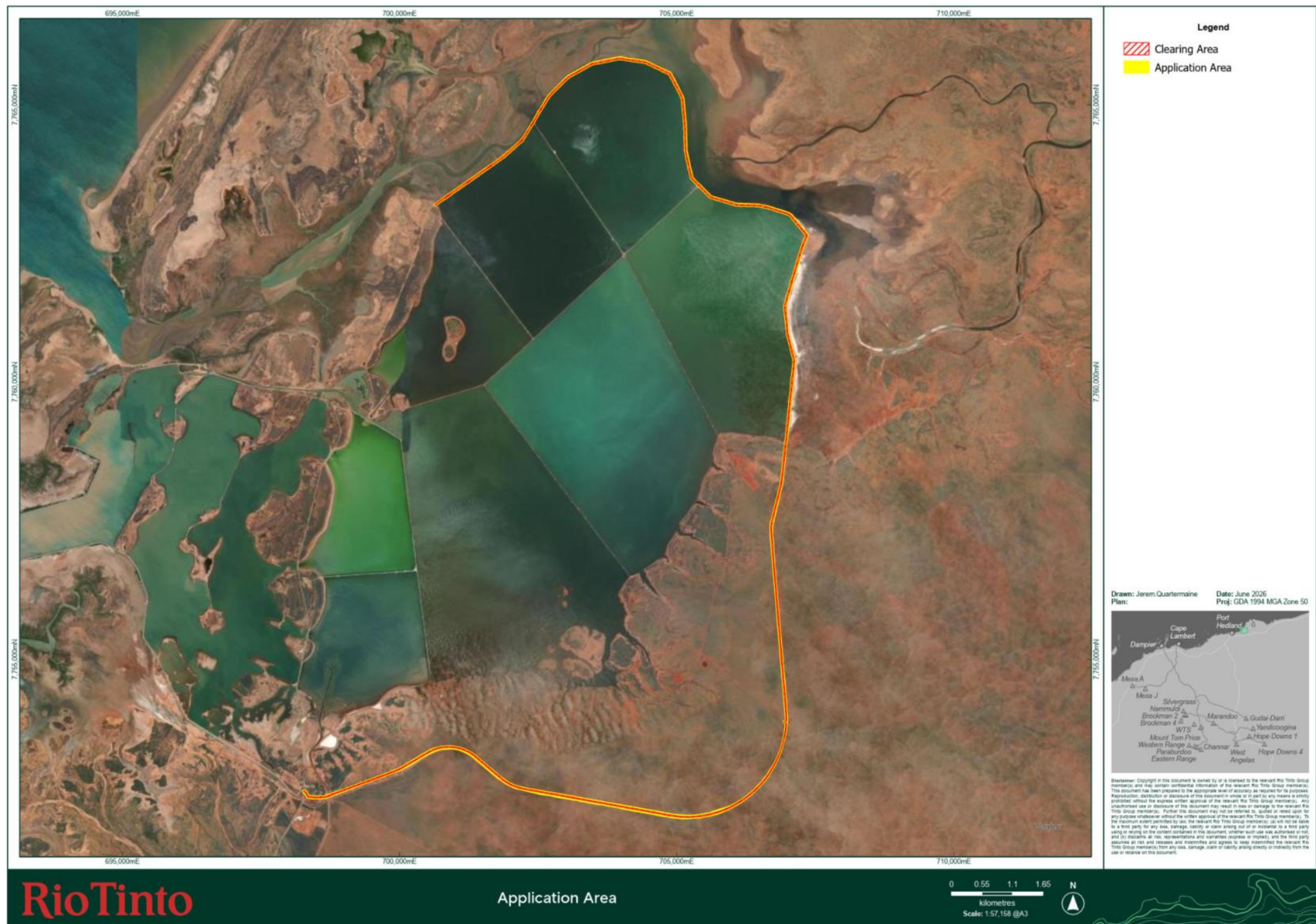


Figure 2: Clearing Area