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WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6005

FORRESTANIA

Lounge Lizard NVCP Application Supporting Documentation

*(Western Australia)
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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose and document overview

The purpose of this document is to address the Department of Minerals, Petroleum and Environment (DMPE) information requirements for assessment of an application for a clearing permit (purpose permit) made by Medallion Metals.

This application replaces a number of already approved NVCPs that were only recently extinguished due to a change of ownership of the tenements. To streamline the process, the old NVCP areas have been amalgamated into this single replacement NVCP. The application relates to the proposed clearing of up to 30 Ha of native vegetation on mining tenements, M77/582, M77/545, M77/585, M77/912 and M77/911 and for the purposes of mineral exploration and mining infrastructure.

As per tenement conditions for clearing, and the DMPE's requirements, this document provides relevant information relating to: This application replaces a number of already approved NVCPs that were only recently extinguished due to a change of ownership of the tenements. To streamline the process, the old NVCP areas have been amalgamated into this single replacement NVCP.

- Background information;
- The location of the site;
- Ownership of the land, and site history;
- existing environment:
 - natural (biological/physical) values
 - climate
 - landscape
 - soils
 - hydrology
 - flora, fauna, ecological communities

The 10 'Clearing Principles' as defined by Schedule 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) are addressed in Section 3.0 of this document.

This document furthermore addresses the environmental management measures and rehabilitation practices that Medallion will undertake in regards to this proposal. Further management measures are outlined in Appendix A. Medallions Exploration Environmental Management Plan

2.2 Location and Access

The Forrestania Gold Project (FGP) is located within the Shire of Kondinin, Western Australia. The Flying Fox mine is located approximately 450 km east of Perth, 80 km east of Hyden, and 160 km south of Southern Cross.

The Cosmic Boy village is 15 km south of the Flying Fox mine. The location of the proposed clearing area overlays mining tenements M77/582, M77/545, M77/585, M77/912 and M77/911, also known as Lounge Lizard.

These mining tenements lie within the Red Book Area 11.10, and are listed on the Register of the National Estate (Lake Cronin Area). Hence, this area is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) as defined by Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA).

Appendix 1 displays plans of the clearing area envelope both in a regional context and in relation to significant features, such as tenement boundaries, currently active clearing permit areas, contours, ESA's, PEC's, Threatened and priority flora, vegetation groups, priority fauna habitat etc.

Figure 1 outlines the location of the Forrestania Gold Project, within Western Australia

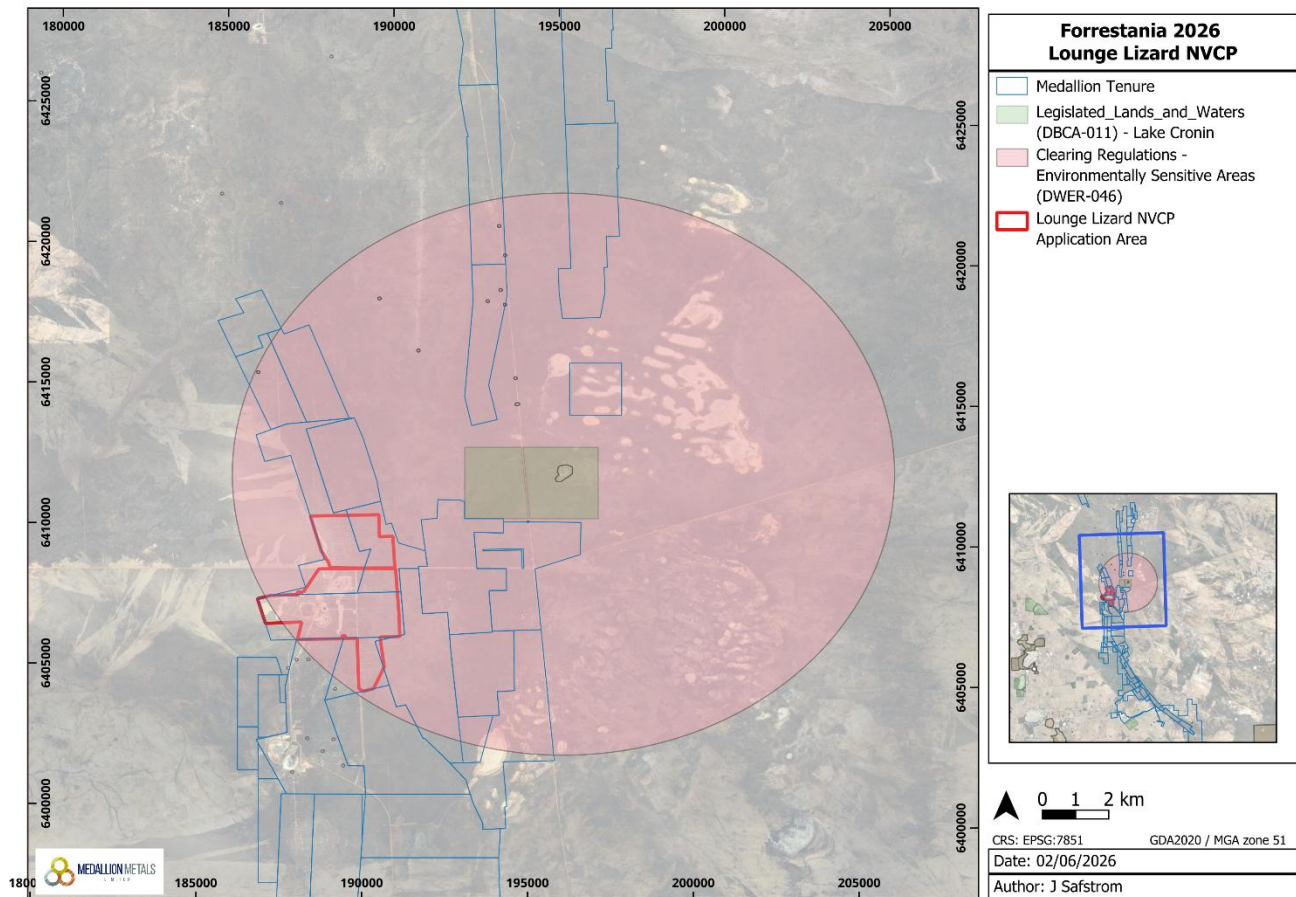


Figure 1. FGP Project Area

2.3 History

Between 1992 and 1999, Outokumpu Mining Australia Pty Ltd operated the FNO, which included mining and mineral processing operations.

In 2002, Western Areas Limited (WSA) entered into a joint venture with Sons of Gwalia Ltd (SOG) and Outokumpu at Forrestania, WSA having base metal rights and SOG the gold rights; subsequently WSA with consultants Newexco discovered the Flying Fox T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7 nickel deposits. The Spotted Quoll deposit was discovered by WSA in 2007. IGO bought out WSA in 2021/2022 and managed the WSA tenement portfolio and mine sites until January 2026.

In August 2024, Medallion announced it had entered exclusive negotiations with IGO to acquire key assets from IGO's Forrestania Nickel Operation (FNO), including the Cosmic Boy Process Plant and related infrastructure, which would see the accelerated commencement of gold mining at their Ravensthorpe Gold Project under a sulphide gold development scenario. Additionally, both companies are exploring the acquisition of gold and silver rights across the broader FNO tenure on a non-exclusive basis.

This agreement was finalised in March 2026. The tenements are now operated by Myamba Minerals which is a subsidiary of Medallion Metals.

2.4 Previous NVCPs over the Lounge Lizard NVCP Application Area

The proposed clearing area has historically been used mostly for nickel and gold exploration. This application replaces a number of already approved NVCPs that were only recently extinguished due to a change of ownership of the tenements. To streamline the process, the old NVCP areas have been amalgamated into this single replacement NVCP Table 1, Figure 2). Approval documentation are located in Appendix 5. CPS5505/4 has been truncated to the south to avoid flora species, *Eucalyptus steedmanii*, which is listed as Vulnerable, as per Medallion disturbance policy and adhering to Clearing Principal C: Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Table 1. Previously approved NVCP Permits over the application Area

	Permit Duration	Land Description (Tenements)	Authorized Purpose	Max (ha)	Disturbed (ha)	Rehabbed (ha)
CPS 2271/5	17 May 2008 to 30 June 2028.	M 77/545, M 77/582, M 77/911	Mineral exploration and mine infrastructure.	21.02	8.7	10.8
CPS 4330/3	9 July 2011 to 30 April 2026.	M 77/582, M 77/911	Mineral production and mineral exploration.	9.01	1.321	0.227
CPS 5505/4	8 June 2013 to 7 June 2027.	M 77/545, M 77/582, M 77/583, M 77/584, M 77/912	Mineral exploration and mineral production.	30	1.77	12.49
CPS 6571/2	4 July 2015 to 31 July 2026.	M 77/582, M 77/911	Mineral exploration.	9.3	0.44	1.36
CPS 6654/4*	12 September 2015 to 31 October 2030.	M 77/545	Mineral production and associated activities.	32	4.64	14.46
CPS 6705/2	31 October 2015 to 31 October 2025.	M 77/545, M 77/585, M 77/912	Mineral exploration.	10	0	0

* CPS5505/4 has been truncated to the south to avoid flora species, *Eucalyptus steedmanii*, which is listed as Vulnerable.

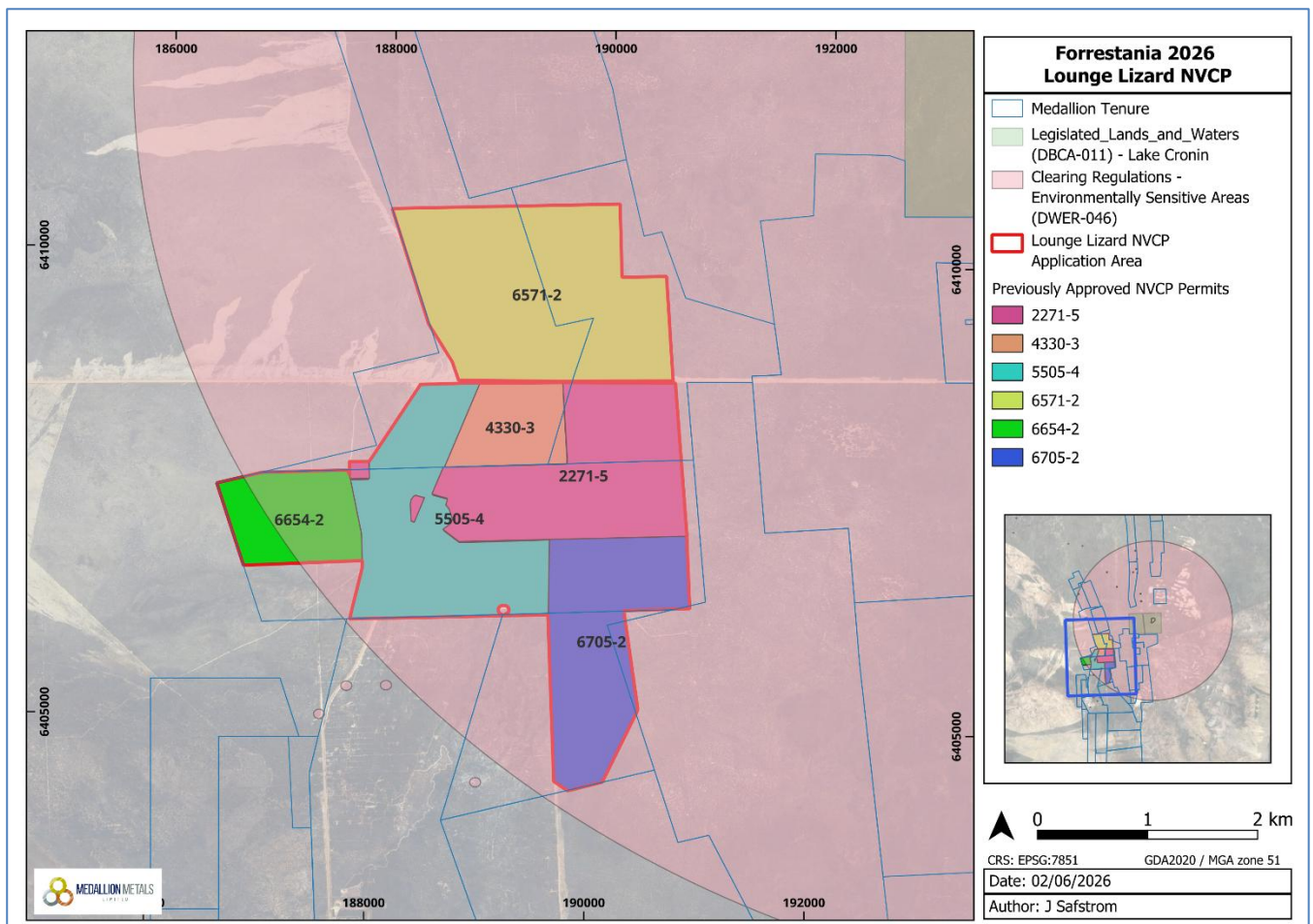


Figure 2. Previously approved NVCP permits

3.0 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Topography and hydrology

The FGP has a low to moderate relief and lies 300 to 500 metres above sea level. It is located within the Salt Lake, or Salinaland, physiographic division, which includes most of the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. This division is characterised by chains of salt lakes, which are relic river systems. Normally the salt lakes act as surface water sinks, but in exceptionally wet years, floodwaters move along the paleodrainages.

A major topographic divide passes through Forresteria that separates paleodrainages that lead westwards towards the Avon drainage system and those that lead eastwards to the Eucla Basin. The clearing permit area straddles the divide and is at the extreme upper catchment of the Avon drainage system.

The land on which the proposed clearing areas overlay does not feature any significant topographical features, and for the most part are of low relief. The topography is gently undulating uplands with slopes generally ranging between 1.5-3.5% gradient and dissected by broad valleys, with some sections of ridges having a gradient of up to 9%. Clearing within the envelope is proposed to be restricted to the flat areas as a preference.

There are no natural defined/incised drainage channels (i.e., creeks or streams) ephemeral or otherwise within the proposed clearing envelope. However broad scale regional drainage lines are present within the clearing

envelope. Surface water would only flow through this area during extreme rainfall events. The undisturbed areas surrounding the proposed clearing would serve to act as an effective erosion retardant.

3.2 Regional geology of the Forrestania area

According to Beard (1979), the geology of the Forrestania area largely consists of a greenstone belt running on an axis from Mt Holland in the north to Hatters Hill in the south and includes many types of ancient metamorphic rocks.

3.3 Soils

The Forrestania greenstone belt lies within the Western Mallee and Southern Cross Biogeographical sub-regions. According to Beard (1979), the soils of the Forrestania greenstone belt are largely red sandy soils with mottled yellow clayey sub-soils. Beard notes that there are also minor areas of calcareous loamy soil and brown calcareous earth present.

The soils of the Forrestania area are a function of the geomorphology of the region. The western and southern sections of the project area are located on high ground developed on cream to light yellow sands of variable depths over lateritic soil; and a broad shallow valley in the northeast section is developed over brown clay loams. Soils in the clearing envelope area are mostly of duplex composition consisting of sand over clay.

3.4 Regional hydrology

Groundwater in the Forrestania area occurs in weathered and fractured bedrock aquifers. Groundwater salinity ranges from generally saline to hypersaline and is on average around 40 000 mg/L TDS. Groundwater movement is generally from higher parts of the landscape, often where greenstone belts occur, to discharge at salt lakes, which may indicate the presence of paleochannel systems. Recharge is mostly by widespread infiltration of rainfall, probably at low rates as indicated by the high prevailing groundwater salinities. Groundwater depth in the Forrestania area is typically around 40m below ground level.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) includes biological assemblages of species such as wetlands or woodlands that use groundwater either opportunistically or as their primary water source. For the purposes of this report, a GDE is defined as any vegetation community that derives part of its water budget from groundwater and must be assumed to have some degree of groundwater dependency. According to the BoM Atlas of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (BoM, 2021b) database, there are no known aquatic or terrestrial GDEs located within the Project area.

3.5 Climate

The climate at the Holt Rock Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) monitoring station (Site 10565) is characterised as semi-arid with a strong winter rainfall influence. Long-term climatic records indicate a mean annual maximum temperature of approximately 24–25 °C and a mean annual minimum temperature of approximately 10–11 °C. Summers (December to February) are typically hot, with average maximum temperatures exceeding 30 °C, while winters (June to August) are mild to cool, with average maximum temperatures of around 15–18 °C and minimum temperatures frequently falling below 5 °C, resulting in regular frost occurrence. Recorded temperature extremes at the station include highs of approximately 46 °C and lows near freezing. Average annual rainfall is approximately 326 mm, with the majority occurring during the winter months between May and August, and comparatively dry conditions prevailing during summer. On average, rainfall is recorded on approximately 70 days per year.

The climatic data averages for the Holt Rock Station are shown in Figure 3, below.

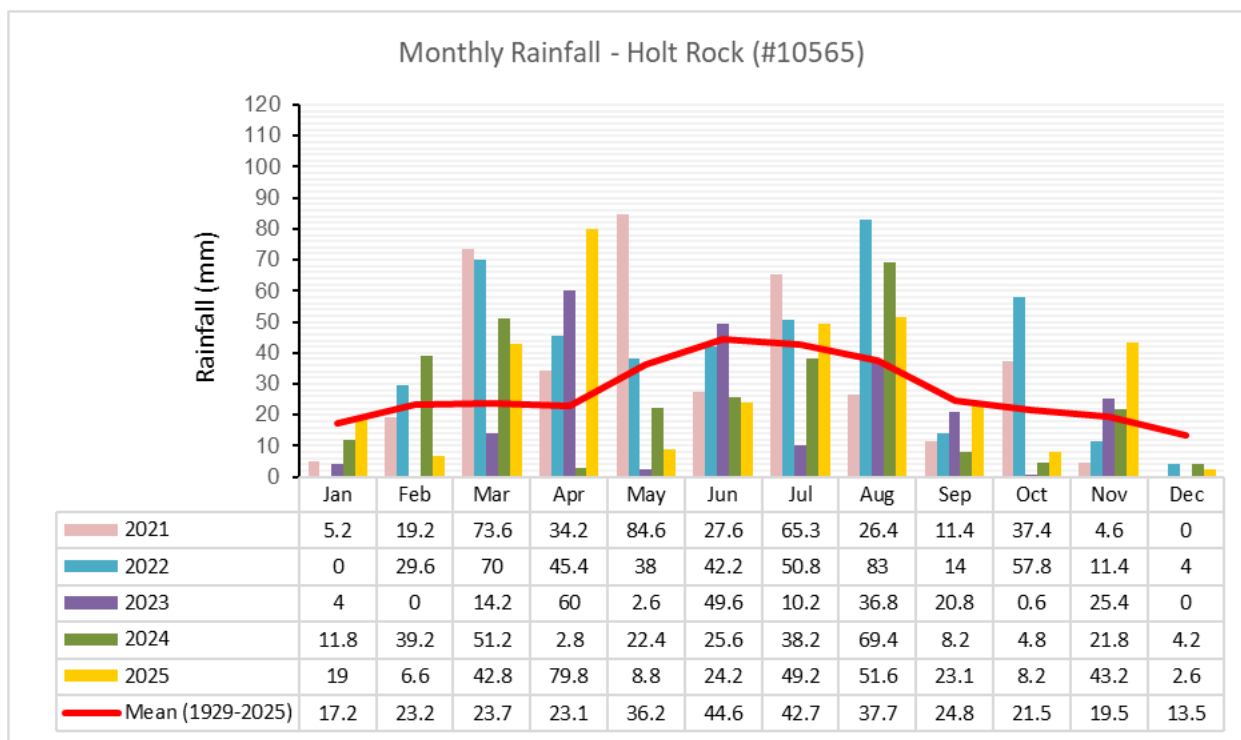


Figure 3. Monthly Rainfall for Holt Rock Station

4.0 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Flora and Fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area from a period from early 2000's to 2025 to support environmental approvals over the Lounge Lizard NVCP Application Area. The most recent survey was undertaken by Botanica in Spring 2025, which included level 1 flora survey and targeted flora survey, with a desktop study with a 40km buffer area. This information has been used to inform and update the existing environment within the Lounge Lizard NVCP Application Area. The surveys undertaken in the vicinity are outlined in Table 2, and the 2013 Botanica, 2007 Biota and 2025 Botanica surveys are attached within Appendix C.

Table 2. Flora and Fauna reports conducted over the Lounge Lizard NVCP Application Area.

The	Year	Author	Survey Type	Prospect
Flora and vegetation of the Eastern Goldfield Ranges: Part 7. Middle and South Ironcap, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill	2004	Gibson, N	Published flora & vegetation study	Ironcap / Digger Rock / Hatter Hill (regional)
Fauna and fauna Assemblages Report Phase 1 and 2	2006	Bota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd	Fauna habitat and fauna assemblage	Forretainia Project – Flying Fox Area
Fauna and fauna Assemblages Report Phase 3 and 4	2007	Bota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd	Fauna habitat and fauna assemblage	Forretainia Project – Flying Fox Area
Sibeliuss Area, Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Tenements M77/545, M77/585, M77/912	2010	Botanica Consulting	Level 1 flora and vegetation survey	Sibeliuss
Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Greater Fox Area. M77/582, M77911 and M77/545	2013	Botanica Consulting	Level 1 flora and vegetation survey	Greater Flying Fox area

Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Greater New Morning/Spotted Quoll area. M77/158, M77/912, M77/1866, M77/584, M77/283 and E77/1865	2013	Botanica Consulting	Level 1 flora and vegetation survey	Greater Flying Fox area
Forrestania Nickel Operation - Lounge Lizard Vegetation, Flora and Fauna Biological Assessment	2014	Astron Environmental Services (Astron)	Reconnaissance Flora, basic fauna	Lounge Lizard
Reconnaissance Flora and Basic Fauna Assessment	2020	Botanica Consulting	Reconnaissance flora; basic fauna	Forrestania (general)
Reconnaissance Flora/Vegetation Survey & Basic Fauna Survey – Lounge Lizard East Sand Pit Extension	2021	Botanica Consulting	Reconnaissance flora/vegetation; basic fauna	Lounge Lizard
Lady Lila Project: Targeted Flora and Basic Fauna Assessment	2022	Botanica Consulting	Targeted flora; basic fauna	Lady Lila
Reconnaissance Flora/Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey	2025	Botanica Consulting	Reconnaissance flora/vegetation; basic fauna	Forrestania (general)

4.1 Flora and Vegetation

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classifies Australia into regions or bioregions on the basis of similar geology, landform, vegetation, fauna and climate characteristics (Australian Government, 2012).

The western portion of the application area is situated within the Mallee Region (Western Mallee sub region) and eastern portion within the Coolgardie (Southern Cross sub region) (Table 1, Figure 9).

The Western Mallee subregion contains two wetlands of national importance: the Lake Grace system and Lake Bryde, and also contains five wetlands of subregional importance (Beecham & Danks, 2001). It also contains restricted habitat, such as granite outcrops and gypsum dunes, which provide refuge for rare or endemic flora and fauna species. In addition, Lake Cronin is known to support a variety of restricted and/or endemic species, including the Lake Cronin snake (*Paroplocephalus atriceps*).

Table 3. IBRA Regions for the Application Area

IBRA Region	IBRA Sub-Region	Description
-------------	-----------------	-------------

Mallee	Western Mallee	The south-eastern part of Yilgarn Craton is gently undulating, with partially occluded drainage. Mainly mallee over myrtaceous-proteaceous heaths on duplex (sand over clay) soils. Melaleuca shrublands characterise alluvia, and Halosarcia low shrublands occur on saline alluvium. A mosaic of mixed eucalypt woodlands and mallee occur on calcareous earth plains and sandplains overlying Eocene limestone strata in the east. Semi-arid (Dry) Warm Mediterranean. Extensively cleared for agriculture.
Coolgardie	Southern Cross	Granite Strata of Yilgarn Craton with Archaean Greenstone intrusions in parallel belts. Drainage is occluded. Mallees and scrubs on sandplains associated with lateritised uplands, playas and granite outcrops. Diverse woodlands rich in endemic eucalypts, on low greenstone hills, valley alluvials and broad plains of calcareous earths. In the west, the scrubs are rich in endemic Proteaceae, in the east they are rich in endemic acacias. Arid to Semi-arid Warm Mediterranean.

The Pre-European vegetation association spatial mapping dataset (DPIRD, 2019) identified three vegetation associations within two IBRA sub regions as occurring within the Project Area. The association descriptions and their remaining extent, as specified in the 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions [DBCA], 2019) are provided in Table 4 with reference to their IBRA subregion. Areas retaining less than 30% of their pre-European vegetation extent generally experience exponentially accelerated species loss, while areas with less than 10% are considered “endangered” (EPA, 2000).

Table 4. Pre-European vegetation associations for the Application Area

IBRA Sub-Region Name*	System	Vegetation Association	System Association Sub-Regional Extent	Pre-European Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Description
Southern Cross	Forrestania	511	153,641.65	153,641.65	153,002.24	99.58	Medium woodland; salmon gum & morrel
Western Mallee	Forrestania	511	10,277.82	10,277.82	10,253.27	99.76	Medium woodland; salmon gum & morrel
Southern Cross	Forrestania	519	77,225.13	196.88	196.88	100.00	Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus eremophila
Western Mallee	Forrestania	519	302,484.08	17,763.58	17,173.42	96.68	Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus eremophila
Southern Cross	Forrestania	2048	2,093.75	2,093.75	2,070.85	98.91	Shrublands; scrub-heath in the Mallee Region
Western Mallee	Forrestania	2048	18,130.89	5,735.92	5,595.69	97.56	Shrublands; scrub-heath in the Mallee Region

4.2 Vegetation Communities and Vegetation Condition

The DBCA Priority/Threatened Ecological Communities Database Search (DBCA, 2025c) identified no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) as occurring within the survey area. The TEC, Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, is recorded as occurring at many locations within 40 km of the survey area. One Priority Ecological Community (PEC), Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages, intersects the survey area in the southern portion. No other PEC occurs within 40 km of the survey area. Field surveys demonstrated that no TEC or PEC, restricted vegetation, highly disturbed vegetation, or vegetation providing important refuge or significant ecological function was identified within the survey area. No potential GDE vegetation has been identified.

Vegetation in the area has been recorded as very good, to completely degraded in areas that have been disturbed for mining operations, previous exploration activities, access roads and existing clearing for sand pit.

Table 5 and outlines the vegetation units outlined by Botanica (2006 to 2013) and the % of occurrence across the majority of the application area.

Table 5. Vegetation coverage over the application area.

Vegetation	% Coverage
Cleared vegetation	10.8
E. salmon over mallee of E. cylindrocarpa/E. cylindroflora and E. pileata	0.3
E. salmonophloia over mixed low scrub of Melaleuca	9.5
Heath of Mel hamata/Allocas acut over Microcybe multi	0.4
Heath of mixed Acacia/Allocasuarina/Melaleuca	35.9
Low scrub of mixed Allocasuarina over mixed dwarf scrub	8.9
Low woodland of E.polita/E.platy/E. horistes over Mel hamata and Mic multi/Acacia intricata	0.0
Open shrub mallee of E. erem/ E. caly/E. celast over low heath of mixed Mel	12.1
Open tree mallee of E. eremophila over scrub of Mel hamata	0.1
Regrowth forest of E. salmon/E. salubris over melaleuca	0.8
Shrub mallee of E. erem/E. pileata over mixed acacia/melaleuca	21.2

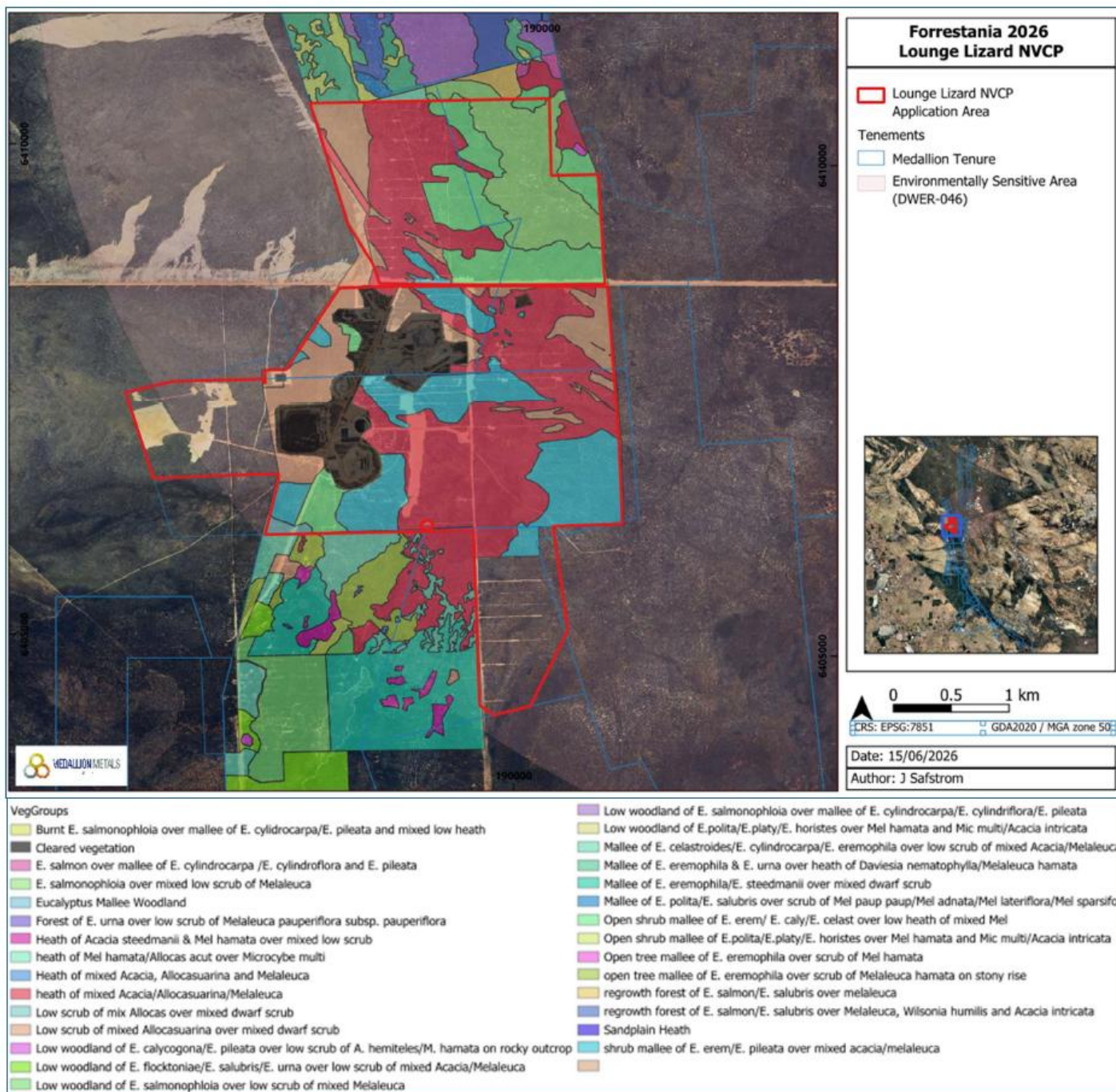


Figure 4. Vegetation Groups over the NVCP Application Area

4.3 Significant Flora

The surveys over the area have not identified any Threatened flora species listed under section 178 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) and gazetted by DBCA.

Surveys have identified eleven priority species within the within Lounge Lizard NVCP application area (Table 6). Species listed as Vu have been identified outside the NVCP application area, but within previously approved NVCP 5505-4. This area has been removed from the NVCP application area, to avoid this species

Table 6. Priority Flora Species identified within the application area

Botanical Name	Current WA Priority Status	Short Description	Previous Botanical Name / Synonym
Balaustion sp. North Ironcap (<i>R.J. Cranfield 10580</i>)	Priority 1 (P1)	Low-growing or prostrate matted shrub featuring vibrant orange-red flowers; restricted largely to specialized ironstone ridges.	<i>Baeckea</i> sp. North Ironcap (<i>R.J. Cranfield 10580</i>)
Grevillea lullfitzii	Priority 1 (P1)	Spreading, rigid, and prickly shrub reaching up to 1.5 meters high with clusters of cream-white flowers; highly localized endemic.	N/A (No major generic revision)
Cyanothamnus westringioides	Priority 2 (P2)	Erect shrub growing up to 75 cm tall with narrow, crowded leaves resembling <i>Westringia</i> and single pale pink flowers.	<i>Boronia westringioides</i>
Eutaxia hirsuta	Priority 2 (P2)	Spindly, broom-like shrub up to 1 meter tall with hairy leaves and bi-colored yellow and red pea-like flowers.	N/A
Daviesia implexa	Priority 3 (P3)	Dense, mound-shaped shrub with a complex network of tangled, ridged branches and striking yellow, apricot, and reddish-brown pea flowers.	<i>Daviesia elongata</i> subsp. <i>implexa</i>
Grevillea insignis subsp. elliotii	Priority 3 (P3)	Prickly, rigid shrub featuring deeply lobed, spine-tipped leaves and showy axillary clusters of pinkish-red flowers.	N/A
Pityrodia scabra subsp. dendrotricha	Priority 3 (P3)	Small mint-family shrub with highly textured, sticky, and rough foliage paired with tubular white or pale pink flowers.	N/A
Rinzia triplex	Priority 3 (P3)	Low, highly branched Myrtaceae shrub with tiny opposite leaves and delicate, widely spacing pinkish-white flowers.	N/A
Verticordia mitodes	Priority 3 (P3)	Upright feather-flower shrub with fine, narrow foliage and vibrant clusters of fringed pinkish-purple flowers.	N/A
Eremophila racemosa	Priority 4 (P4)	Known as the "Showy Poverty Bush," this erect shrub features flowers that dynamically transition in color from yellow/orange buds to deep pinkish-purple open blooms.	N/A
Microcorys sp. Forrestania (<i>V. English 2004</i>)	Priority 4 (P4)	Dense, compact shrub with tiny whorled leaves and delicate white-and-purple flowers, highly specific to localized sandplain and gravel zones.	N/A

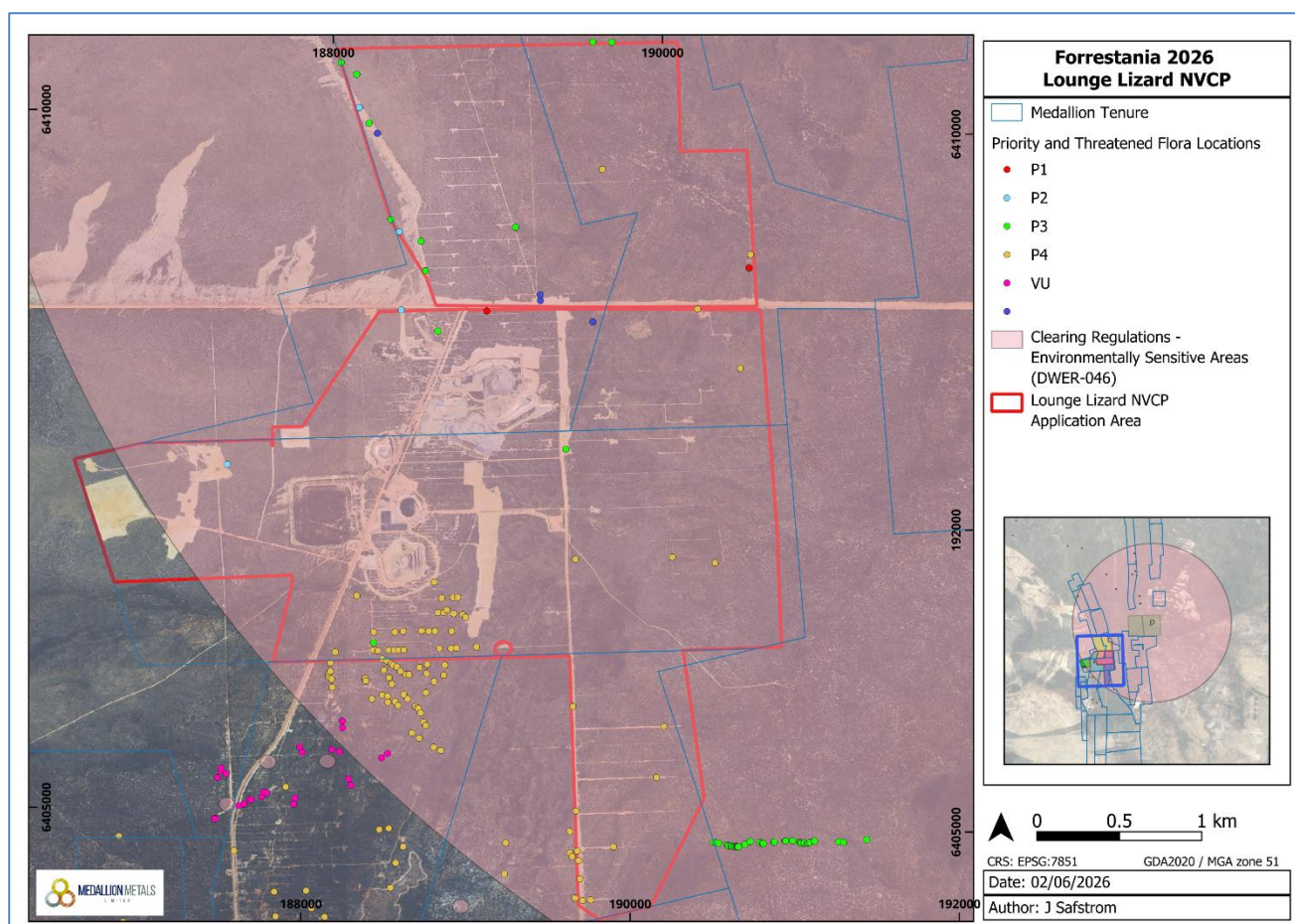


Figure 5. Threatened and Priority Flora species identified near the Application Area

4.4 Introduced flora species

The desktop review identified 52 introduced flora (weed) species as potentially occurring within 50 km of the Project area. Of these, one is listed as Declared Pests on the Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), and one is listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

A summary of the potentially occurring Declared Pests and WoNS occurring within 40 km of the Project area are listed in Table 7. The full list of potential weed species occurring within 40 km of the Project area is contained in Botanica, 2025. None have been identified within the application area.

Table 7. Potentially occurring Declared Pests and WoNS within 50 km of the project area

Family	Taxon	Common Name	WAOL Status	WoNS
Asteraceae	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Skeleton Weed	Declared Pest - s22(2)	No
Solanaceae	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Coral Cactus, Boxing Glove Cactus		Yes

4.5 Dieback

In July 2017, following a noticeable decline in vegetation health around Forresteria's Spotted Quoll operation, soil, root and collar tissue were sent for analysis and the novel soil pathogen, *Phytophthora boodjera* (*P. boodjera*)

was detected. Subsequent investigation by a dieback specialist confirmed the pathogen as partially responsible for contributing to plant health decline. The dieback specialist confirmed the presence of *P. boojera* in their survey area, which is located approximately 20km north of the SIC exploration area and 10km north of the Cosmic Boy accommodation village.

Subsequent testing in 2024 confirmed the presence of dieback within the same areas.

Many of the *Phytophthora* species recently uncovered in Australia's native ecosystems are newly described and until more is known, caution must be employed with regard to the spread and conservation management of these new species in Australia's unique ecosystems.

4.6 Conservation Significant Fauna

The recent desktop review by Botanica (2025) identified 20 terrestrial fauna species of conservation significance as previously being recorded within 20 km of the area. Eleven of these are listed as threatened under federal and/or state legislation, one is listed as Other Specially Protected, and six are listed as Priority under state legislation. The EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool also identified six migratory bird species, two of which are threatened. Habitat and distribution data were used to determine the likelihood of occurrence within the Project area. The desktop assessment identified 13 of these fauna species as possibly occurring in, or moving through, the Project area.

The fauna species of conservation significance that were identified from the desktop review to possibly occur in the survey area were further assessed for the likelihood of them utilising the areas based on direct on ground observations. These have been combined with observations from previous surveys.

The current status of some species on site and/or in the general area is difficult to determine; however, based on the habitats present and/or recent nearby records, the following species of conservation significance can be regarded as possibly occurring in the wider area and are outlined in Table 8. Of these, the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) may occur in the area. Management measures specifically for those species are outlined in the Exploration Environmental Management Plan.

Table 8. Species of Conservation Significance that may occur within the Application Area

Species	Status	Description
Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata)	Vulnerable (EPBC Act and BC Act)	Suitable habitat present in unburned mallee and woodlands. Inactive, mallee fowl mounds have been observed in the area.
Chuditch, Western Quoll (Dasyurus geoffroii)	Vulnerable (EPBC Act and BC Act)	This species range is occasionally recorded in the local region, with multiple previous records within/adjacent to the area. Populations are very scattered and of low density. Vegetation within the area may comprise part of the home range of individuals but are unlikely to represent critical habitat.
Fork-tailed Swift (Apus pacificus)	Migratory (EPBC Act and BC Act)	No evidence of Fork-tailed Swift activity was identified. Possibly occurs aerially over entire survey area on very rare occasions.
Grey Falcon (Falco hypoleucos)	Vulnerable (EPBC Act and BC Act)	No evidence of Grey Falcon activity was identified. This species is sparsely recorded throughout inland Australia. Suitable habitat may be present but is unlikely to represent critical habitat. No suitable nesting sites were observed during the field survey. The species may inhabit the area as part of its larger home range.
Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)	Other Specially Protected (BC Act)	This species is recorded throughout Australia. No suitable nesting sites were observed. The species may inhabit the area as part of its larger home range.
Western Rosella (Platycercus xanthogenys)	Priority 4 (DBCA Priority List)	No evidence of Western Rosella activity was identified. Listed as a potential species as it has infrequently been recorded in the general area. Expected to only occur very occasionally in small transient groups.
Carnaby's Cockatoo (Zanda latirostris)	Endangered (EPBC Act and BC Act)	This species range extends throughout the south-west, south coast and wheatbelt regions of Western Australia. Eucalyptus woodlands within the survey area are unlikely to provide breeding habitat for this species, with no suitable nesting hollows or tree species observed during the field survey. Clearing of significant trees (>500 mm d.b.h.) may cause local impacts to habitat for this species but are unlikely to significantly affect the long-term viability of this species.

Western Brush Wallaby (<i>Notamacropus irma</i>)	Priority 4 (DBCA Priority List)	No evidence of Western Brush Wallaby activity was identified. Listed as a potential species as it has infrequently been recorded in the general area. Expected to only occur very occasionally as individuals/pairs if at all.
Western Mouse (<i>Pseudomys occidentalis</i>)	Priority 4 (DBCA Priority List)	No evidence of Western Mouse activity identified. Potentially occurs in eucalypt and mallee woodland on sand-loam plain habitat in Lounge Lizard area. Regrowth areas unsuitable habitat due to the species' preference for long unburnt habitat.
Heath Mouse (<i>Pseudomys shortridgei</i>)	Endangered (EPBC Act), Vulnerable (BC Act)	No evidence of Heath Mouse activity identified. Regrowth areas unsuitable habitat due to the species' preference for long unburnt habitat.
Lake Cronin Snake (<i>Paroplocephalus atriceps</i>)	Priority 3 (DBCA Priority List)	No evidence of Lake Cronin Snake. Potentially occurs as survey area falls within/near the documented range, and suitable eucalypt habitat present in the North Iron Cap and Lounge Lizard areas.

4.7 Vegetation and land degradation issues

The area has historically been extensively explored and has extensive mining development. There are many old grid lines that are still assessable and/or have been rehabilitated previously. Where possible future disturbance will be restricted to these previously disturbed areas, however it is likely that some disturbance will be required in non-disturbed areas. Medallion intend to only clear the minimum amount of vegetation as is necessary and undertake to rehabilitate disturbed sites as part of mine closure plans.

Where possible around the site progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken on recently disturbed sites that are no longer required as a part of the operation (e.g., drill pads and access tracks). Rehabilitation will include spreading of topsoil and vegetative material if available, deep ripping and/or scarification on the contour to reduce water runoff and erosion. Direct seeding will be carried out on areas where seed is considered necessary to re-establish native vegetation. A provenance seed collection programme will be ongoing throughout the life of the mining operations at Forrestania.

Another potential risk is the spread of soil borne weeds and pathogens. Medallion will implement strict environmental management procedures including vehicle inspections and wash down prior to arrival on site and prior to any movement between sites at the FGP. These measures are outlined in the Exploration Environmental Management Plan.

5.0 RESPONSES TO THE 10 CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA), 10 clearing principles as specified in Schedule 5 of the Act must be regarded before a clearing permit can be issued. These 10 principles are addressed below for the proposed clearing:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

The clearing permit envelope comprises a range of vegetation communities, with the most extensive being heath of mixed *Acacia/Allocasuarina/Melaleuca* (35.9%) and shrub mallee of *Eucalyptus eremophila/Eucalyptus pileata* over mixed *Acacia/Melaleuca* (21.2%). Other mapped communities include open shrub mallee of *Eucalyptus eremophila/Eucalyptus calycogona/Eucalyptus celastroides* over low heath of mixed *Melaleuca* (12.1%), *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over mixed low scrub of *Melaleuca* (9.5%), low scrub of mixed *Allocasuarina* over mixed dwarf scrub (8.9%), regrowth forest of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia/Eucalyptus salubris* over *Melaleuca* (0.8%), heath of *Melaleuca hamata/Allocasuarina acutivalvis* over *Microcybe multiflora* (0.4%), *Eucalyptus salmon* over mallee of *Eucalyptus cylindrocarpa/Eucalyptus cylindriflora* and *Eucalyptus pileata* (0.3%), and open tree mallee of *Eucalyptus eremophila* over scrub of *Melaleuca hamata* (0.1%). Low woodland of *Eucalyptus polita/Eucalyptus platypus/Eucalyptus horistes* over *Melaleuca hamata* and *Microcybe multiflora/Acacia intricata* was mapped at a negligible extent (0.0%), while previously cleared vegetation accounts for 10.8% of the broader application

area. These results indicate that the vegetation communities within the proposed clearing envelope are consistent with those mapped across the wider application area and do not suggest an unusually high level of biological diversity within the area proposed for clearing.

The Greater New Morning/Spotted Quoll flora surveys conducted by Botanica Consulting (2013), revealed that 198 floral species were present in the survey area. Flora surveys in the Greater Flying Fox flora area revealed 278 floral species. These results indicate the level of species diversity is similar to the continuous adjacent vegetation surrounding the proposed clearing envelope.

(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 indigenous to Western Australia.

The recent flora surveys, and older fauna surveys, recorded the presence of significant fauna habitat, however these will be avoided.

Our internal ground disturbance procedures dictate that, prior to clearing, the proposed clearing area will be walked by a suitably qualified person to identify potential fauna habitat, which will be flagged, recorded and avoided or removed. As the proposed clearing is mainly for exploration, there should not be any reason to impact any potential habitat trees or logs or mallee fowl mounds. These measures are outlined in the Exploration Environmental Management Plan.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

In the surveys conducted no Threatened flora, pursuant to Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA), and as listed by DBCA, was identified within the clearing envelope.

Priority species have been identified within the area, and will be avoided from disturbance, as far as practicable. Additionally a 'Permit to Take' will be applied for to cover any incidental destruction of individual Priority species. However Medallion are confident that all priority plants can be avoided by following our ground disturbance procedures and by undertaking Level 1 flora surveys prior to clearing, as per the Exploration Environmental Management Plan (Section 4.5.A)

(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.

No 'Threatened Ecological Communities' as listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), or listed were identified in the survey area. The survey area is located within the boundary of two Priority 3 Ecological Communities; North Ironcap and Middle Ironcap. PEC's are not formally protected but are areas of conservation significance being considered for listing and formal protection under the EPBC Act 1999 as TEC's.

(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

According to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) pre-European vegetation mapping and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) statewide vegetation statistics, the Southern Cross and Western Mallee subregions of the Coolgardie Bioregion are represented by several Forrestania vegetation associations, including 511, 519 and 2048. Vegetation association 511 (medium woodland dominated by salmon gum and morrel) retains approximately 99.58% of its pre-European extent in the Southern Cross subregion and 99.76% in the Western Mallee subregion. Vegetation association 519 (mallee shrubland) retains 100% of its extent in the Southern Cross subregion and 96.68% in the Western Mallee subregion, while vegetation association 2048 (scrub-heath) retains 98.91% and 97.56% of its extent in the Southern Cross and Western Mallee subregions, respectively. These statistics demonstrate that

all relevant vegetation associations remain well above commonly applied representation thresholds. The proposed clearing by Medallion is therefore not expected to result in any meaningful reduction in the extent or representation of these vegetation associations at a subregional scale. The clearing envelope is situated within a largely intact native vegetation landscape, with the nearest broad-scale disturbance occurring at the Wheatbelt margin approximately 30 km to the west. Accordingly, the proposal will not impact vegetation considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared environment

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

No vegetation or will be cleared in any environments associated with a watercourse or wetland. The clearing permit envelope is outside of the Lake Cronin catchment boundary.

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

All infrastructure constructed in relation to this clearing permit will be designed to minimise the potential impacts of erosion. Clearing for exploration will employ the raised blade clearing method to allow for rapid regrowth following the temporary use of access tracks for exploration. Medallion is committed to adhering to environmental best practice, which includes the principle of minimal disturbance and aims to minimise land degradation. Given relatively small amount of clearing involved, and the linear nature of exploration disturbance, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would 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.

The clearing permit application area is approximately 5.5 kilometres south west of the Lake Cronin Class A Nature Reserve and 8 kilometres west of Lake Cronin, itself. Part of the proposed clearing envelope is listed on the RNE and hence, is classed as an ESA. Although the clearing permit area is in part within the Lake Cronin ESA boundary, given the minimal amount of potential clearing involved and the sufficient distance from this Nature Reserve the proposed clearing will not affect its Conservation values. The clearing permit envelope is also outside of the Lake Cronin catchment boundary.

(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.

The annual rainfall at Holt Rock is 326mm, based on current Bureau of Meteorology climate statistics for the Holt Rock station. Consequently, there is little surface water flow during normal seasonal rains. Furthermore, the low annual rainfall and high evaporation rate means that there would be little recharge to underground water.

Monitoring of the water levels in the Flying Fox area, indicate that the water levels in the vicinity of the proposed clearing envelope is in the order of at least 40 m below ground level. As the potential area to be cleared is relatively small and linear, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on surface or groundwater quality. Groundwater is regularly monitored in the area to discern the impact of dewatering operations on groundwater levels and quality.

(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.

As stated in (i), the area receives a low annual rainfall and has a high evaporation rate which implies that flooding in the proposed clearing area is unlikely, and only in major rainfall events. The vegetation in the

outlined area furthermore, is not associated with any watercourses or drainage lines. Given that the area to be cleared is relatively small, it is unlikely that clearing of this vegetation will cause, or exacerbate, flooding intensity or incidence.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

All FGP operations are undertaken in line with relevant state and federal legislation and a number of additional environmental management policies and procedures. These include:

- (1) The Department of Mines and Petroleum's (DMPE) publication: Guidelines for Mineral Exploration and Mining within Conservation Reserves and Other Environmentally Sensitive Lands in Western Australia published in 1998;
- (2) DMPE publication Conditions and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Mineral and Exploration Activities published in 2003;
- (3) Mining and Exploration Tenement Conditions;
- (4) FGP Exploration Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 4);
- (5) FGP Ground Disturbance Procedure (Appendix 5); and
- (6) Medallion's Environmental Policy (Appendix 6).

The clearing associated with exploration activities and the expansion of mine infrastructure will be undertaken in accordance with the above. Furthermore, the following environmental management measures will be undertaken where appropriate during any ground disturbance works and operation of infrastructure related to this proposed clearing permit as outlined in the FGP Exploration Environmental Management Plan including:

- Ground disturbance will be undertaken within accordance with relevant Mining Act approvals (i.e. Mining Proposals, PoW's);
- Clearing will be kept to the minimum required to allow access to exploration sites;
- Locations of any priority flora will be clearly marked on site and GIS database, and employees educated so as to reduce the risk of accidental damage to these species;
- The layout of infrastructure will be planned to avoid disturbance of priority species where possible; if unavoidable, Medallion will liaise with DBCA regarding the removal of these species;
- Where possible low impact clearing methods such as raised blade clearing will be used (i.e., for access tracks and drill sites);
- Where vegetation is cleared it will be appropriately stockpiled for re-use later and returned directly to the disturbed areas during rehabilitation operations. Any viable seed will be collected and returned to the site during rehabilitation operations;
- All topsoil removed will be appropriately stockpiled and returned directly to the disturbed areas during rehabilitation operations;
- Areas no longer being utilised will be progressively rehabilitated during the life of the operation, all remaining disturbed areas will be rehabilitated within 6 months of the expiry of the associated PoW's;
- If required, direct seeding using a suitable provenance native seed mix will be carried out. A provenance native seed collection program is currently underway for all sites at Forrestania;
- Appropriate surface water management earthworks will be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion or sedimentation;
- Medallion will ensure that all vehicles, tools and machinery are cleaned of all soil and plant material when entering or exiting the area of the proposed clearing;
- Clearing will be restricted to dry periods where possible;

- Vehicle access to, from and within the area are restricted to designated areas i.e. existing access tracks;

7.0 REPORTING AND AUDITING

Disturbance as a result of the proposed vegetation clearing will be reported yearly under the FGP Annual Environmental Report (AER), Clearing Permit Report and Mine Rehabilitation Fund (MRF) reporting. Upon approval of this Clearing Permit, subsequent environmental approvals will be sought to excavate and utilise the sand borrow pit. These approvals will include additional conditions and commitments relating to progressive clearing dependant on demand and depth of sand resource, rehabilitation design specifications and reporting.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The vegetation and habitats present within the proposed Clearing Permit Area are well represented on a regional scale. It is considered unlikely that there will be any impact on the conservation status of relevant flora and fauna species and there are likely be only minor local impacts from loss and fragmentation of vegetation.

The proposed clearing will not impact significantly upon the ten clearing principles and a range of environmental management procedures are in place to ensure that clearing will be managed to minimise any potential adverse impacts. Rehabilitation will minimise exposed areas and the long-term loss of vegetation cover.

9.0 REFERENCES

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10.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Plans

Appendix 2

Exploration Environmental Management Plan

Appendix 3

Forrestania Flora and Fauna Surveys

Appendix 5

Medallion Ground Disturbance Procedure