



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose permit number:</b>	CPS 2685/2
<b>Permit holder:</b>	Collgar Wind Farm Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of permit:</b>	30 November 2008 – 30 November 2013

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

#### **1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purpose of transmission lines, wind turbine generators and hardstand areas and road construction.

#### **2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

LOT 20723 ON PLAN 229885 (BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20723 ON PLAN 229885 (BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20762 ON PLAN 229892 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20762 ON PLAN 229892 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20724 ON PLAN 229885 (BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20729 ON PLAN 229884 (House No. 565 BASSULA NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20730 ON PLAN 229888 (BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20730 ON PLAN 229888 (BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20725 ON PLAN 229884 (House No. 423 BASSULA NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20725 ON PLAN 229884 (House No. 423 BASSULA NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20771 ON PLAN 229892 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20772 ON PLAN 229892 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20727 ON PLAN 229884 (House No. 945 BULLS HEAD NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20726 ON PLAN 229884 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20211 ON PLAN 158236 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 86075 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 26665 ON PLAN 158236 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 25298 ON PLAN 158236 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20218 ON PLAN 229909 (Lot No. 20218 BULLS HEAD NORPA 6415)  
LOT 25271 ON PLAN 204455 (House No. 1536 BULLS HEAD SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20751 ON PLAN 229896 (House No. 241 GIRAUDO NORPA 6415)  
LOT 24768 ON PLAN 203239 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20750 ON PLAN 229896 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 27137 ON PLAN 205484 (House No. 1834 OLD MUNTADGIN NORPA 6415)  
LOT 27137 ON PLAN 205484 (House No. 1834 OLD MUNTADGIN NORPA 6415)  
LOT 27467 ON PLAN 204411 (House No. 116 KOONADGIN SOUTH SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 28125 ON PLAN 169229 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20753 ON PLAN 229896 (NORPA 6415)  
LOT 20754 ON PLAN 165031 (Lot No. 20754 SCOTT SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 25278 ON PLAN 204411 (SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 19112 ON PLAN 86953 (TANDEGIN 6415)

LOT 19112 ON PLAN 86953 (TANDEGIN 6415)  
LOT 18258 ON PLAN 229683 (TANDEGIN 6415)  
LOT 18258 ON PLAN 229683 (TANDEGIN 6415)  
AVON LOCATION 28107 (NORPA 6415)  
ROAD RESERVE (NORPA 6415)

**3. Area of Clearing**

The permit holder must not clear more than 6 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2685/2.

**4. Application**

This Permit allows the permit holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the permit holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

**5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the permit holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

**PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

**6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purpose of mineral exploration, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

**7. Weed control**

(a) When undertaking any clearing, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected *road building materials, mulch, fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

(b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit

**8. Fauna Management**

Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) are identified in relation to the Malleefowl Nesting Assessment Report by Ninox Wildlife Consulting (September, 2009), the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl).

**PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

**9. Records must be kept**

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, as relevant:

In relation to the clearing of native vegetation undertaken pursuant to conditions 1, 2 and 3:

- (a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System(GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings.
- (b) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).



## 10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 16 August 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a) of this Permit.

## DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

**fill** means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

**mulch** means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

**road building materials** means rock, gravel, soil, stone, timber, boulders and water;

**weed** means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976



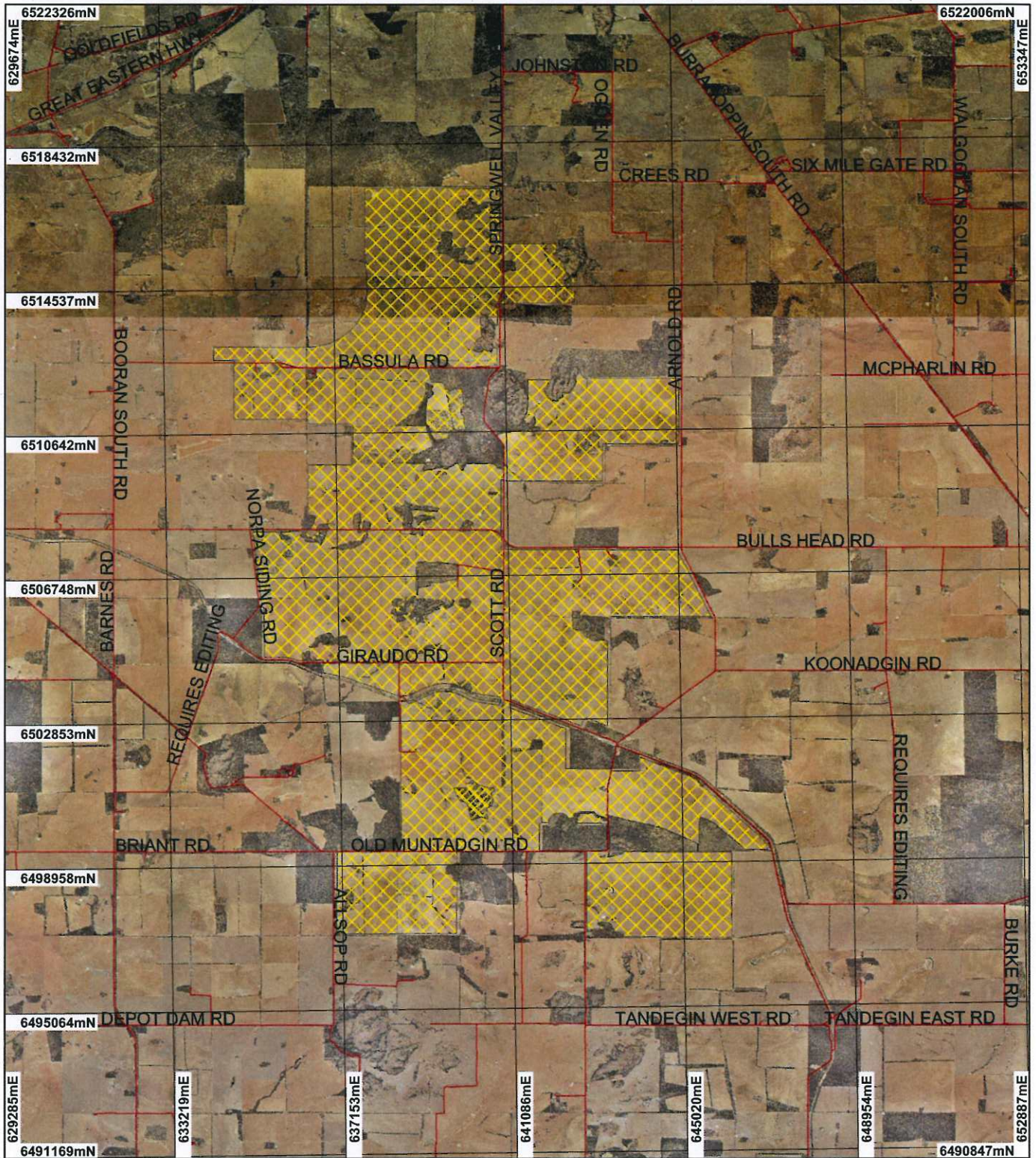
Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

26 August 2010



# Plan 2685/2



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Merredin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Merredin Westonia 1.4m  
Orthomosaic - Landgate  
1999

Bruce Rock - Muntadgin 1.4m  
Orthomosaic - Landgate  
2000/2001



0 3.75 km

Scale 1:138061

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion of measurement inaccuracies.

Date 26/8/10  
K Faulkner

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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Environment and Conservation  
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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2685/2  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Collgar Wind Farm Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 20723 ON PLAN 229885 ( BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20762 ON PLAN 229892 ( SOUTH BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
LOT 20724 ON PLAN 229885 ( BURRACOPPIN 6421)  
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LOT 18258 ON PLAN 229683 ( TANDEGIN 6415)  
AVON LOCATION 28107 ( NORPA 6415)  
ROAD RESERVE ( NORPA 6415)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
The vegetation applied to be cleared is comprised of the following Beard vegetation associations:	The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition. The vegetation is highly	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to	The description and condition of the vegetation was determined via the use of aerial mapping systems and a flora survey conducted by Mattiske Consulting (2008).

- Beard 36: Shrublands; thicket, acacia-casuarina alliance
- Beard 1055: Shrublands; York gum & Eucalyptus sheathiana mallee scrub
- Beard 1057: Mosaic: Shrublands; Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet / York gum & Eucalyptus sheathiana mallee scrub
- Beard 1081: Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus longicornis & E. sheathiana

fragmented with the majority of vegetation occurring in narrow strips along road verges or in localised remnant areas within farming properties (Mattiske Consulting, 2008).

regenerate (Keighery 1994)

The vegetation can also contain the following plant communities:

- Low open woodland of Eucalyptus capillosa, Eucalyptus pluricaulis over Allocasuarina acutivalvis, Allocasuarina corniculata, Acacia neurophylla, Gastrolobium spinosum and low subshrubs and grasses.
- Low open woodland of Eucalyptus loxophleba over Acacia acutaria, Allocasuarina acutivalvis, Exocarpos aphyllus and Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia.
- Tall shrubland of Allocasuarina acutivalvis, Allocasuarina campestris, Allocasuarina corniculata, Isopogon gardneri, Melaleuca cordata and Thryptomene kochii with patchy emergent Eucalyptus burracoppinensis and Eucalyptus obtusiflora over low subshrubs and herbs.
- Tall shrubland of Allocasuarina acutivalvis, Allocasuarina corniculata, Hakea francisiana, Hakea scoparia, Acacia resinosa and Melaleuca cordata with patchy emergent Eucalyptus burracoppinensis and Eucalyptus obtusiflora over low subshrubs and herbs

Mattiske Consulting (2008).

As above

As above

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

As above

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The proposed application for an amendment is a result of an under-estimate in the amount of vegetation



required to be cleared. As the clearing envelope has not been altered, the findings of the previously granted Permit (CPS 2685/1) are relevant and have been used and updated where new information has been provided. The proposed clearing has increased from 2 hectares to now allow for the clearing of 6 hectares of native vegetation.

The proposed clearing is to occur within a clearing envelope of approximately 18,000 hectares and the project will include up to 127 wind turbines. The amount of clearing required for roads and hardstands is 2.9 hectares and 2.2 hectares is required for cables and powerlines. An additional 0.9 hectares has been included in the application to allow for any error or contingency.

The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition and is comprised of 4 Beard vegetation associations (36, 1081, 1055 & 1057). The local area has been extensively cleared, mainly for agricultural purposes. This has resulted in a highly fragmented landscape with the majority of large sections of vegetation remaining in the form of DEC managed nature reserves or along road verges (Mattiske Consulting, 2008; Bayley Environmental Services, 2008). It is noted that the application to clear avoids large areas of intact native vegetation within the clearing envelope area.

The 4 beard vegetation associations that are mapped as occurring within the applied area, have remaining levels of vegetation below the recommended threshold of 30% (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001) within the subregion (Shepherd, 2009), however given the condition of the vegetation under application and that large areas of intact native vegetation within the clearing envelope have been avoided, impacts to these vegetation associations are expected to be minimal.

EPA advice (2008) sighted two priority listed flora species as occurring close to the proposed access points. The two priority flora species identified were recorded within the clearing envelope during a flora and vegetation survey, namely *Synaphea constricta* (P3) and *Banksia shanlandorum* (P4) (aurecon, 2010). In line with EPA recommendations, areas containing these priority flora species are now marked and will be avoided (aurecon, 2010).

EPA recommendations to reduce the impacts on Malleefowl (EPA 2008), have been followed and the applicant has developed a Malleefowl management plan (aurecon, 2010). In addition to this, the applicant has complied with condition 8(a) and 9(b) of Permit 2685/1 by conducting a Malleefowl survey and reporting the findings to DEC. Within this Malleefowl survey conducted during August to September 2009, a total of two active and four abandoned Malleefowl nests were found within the clearing envelope (aurecon, 2010; Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2009). To mitigate the impacts of clearing on Malleefowl, a condition will be placed on the permit to ensure no clearing occurs within 50 metres of any identified Malleefowl mounds.

It is considered that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b) and (e), however, given the management practises in place, the size of the proposed clearing (6 hectares within 18,000 hectare envelope), the position of the application area within a disturbed environment with little linkage capacity to nature reserves, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental impacts will result.

**Methodology** Mattiske (2008)  
aurecon (2010)  
Bayley Environmental Services (2008)  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
Shepherd (2009)  
Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2009)  
EPA (2008)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Datatsets:  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
- DEC Tenure (DEC 2010)  
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11/8/10  
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06  
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06  
- Bruce Rock 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001 (01/10/00)  
- Merredin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004 (9/10/07)

## **Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

### **Comments**

The EPA has set the level of assessment for the proposal as: Not Assessed - Public Advice Given (Trim Ref: DOC64497).

The EPA recommends that a regulated speed limit of 40km/hr be imposed within the application area to reduce the risk exposed to Malleefowl from traffic (EPA, 2008).

Noise may impact on the nesting habits of the Malleefowl and other fauna (DEC, 2008). There may also be



impacts from dust (during construction phase) on flora and fauna (DEC, 2008).

The proponent has deliberately avoided the large remnants of native vegetation within the local area to minimise further fragmentation of the vegetation.

Planning approval has been granted by the Shire of Merredin subject to conditions (Trim Ref: DOC 64172). One of the imposed conditions refer to noise level restrictions, however these are for the purpose of reducing impacts on adjoining land owners.

There are operational hazards to fauna which will be evident once the wind turbines are functional. Collgar Wind Farm Pty Ltd will take steps (as outlined in Shire approval) to ensure that the potential for bird or bat deaths is kept to a minimum. The turbine towers will be fully enclosed, with no sites for perching or nesting. No tall building, poles or other significant structures will be constructed within 200 metres of turbines so that no perching sites are created. The towers will remain unlit (except possibly for LED safety lights for aircrafts) to avoid attracting owls and bats. The operators will consult with farmers to discourage allowing lambing sheep into paddocks within 200 metres of the turbines, so as not to attract birds of prey or scavenger birds.

The applicant has also supplied a flora and fauna management plan developed by aurecon (2010), which will be adhered to, that will minimise any potential disturbance to conservation significant species.

Regional advice (DEC, 2010) has recommended that the proponent liaise with the Wheatbelt District to discuss management options for the Malleefowl during the construction phase of the project.

The Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was notified of the proposed amendment to CPS 2685/1 and advised that while the relative error in the calculation is large, the OEPA considers that the total area of clearing is still small in a regional context for a proposal of this size and that the previous advice of September 2008 remains valid (EPA, 2010).

Methodology DEC (2010)  
DEC (2008)  
EPA (2008)  
EPA (2010)

#### 4. References

- aurecon (2010) Collgar Wind Farm, Flora and Fauna Management Plan (FFMP), DEC Ref: A325233
- Bayley Environmental Services (2008) Proposed Collgar Wind Farm Environmental Assessment. Report No.J08005, 21 August 2008. Trim Ref: DOC653500
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2008) Department of Environment and Conservation, Regional Advice, Advice to Assessing Officer. Trim Ref DOC63366
- DEC (2010) Department of Environment and Conservation, Wheatbelt Region, Regional Advice. DEC Ref: A327499
- EPA advice (2008) Environmental Protection Authority, Not Assessed - Public Advice Given (Trim Ref: DOC 64497).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske Consulting (2008) Flora and Vegetation Survey For A Proposed Collgar Wind Farm North Merredin. DEC Ref: A319543
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2009) Malleefowl Nesting Assessment, Collgar Wind Farm Project, Near Merredin, Western Australia. DEC Ref: A313811.
- OEPA (2010) Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, Advice. DEC Ref: A325753
- Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

#### 5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System



ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)