



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	4373/5
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Sandfire Resources Limited
Application received:	20 February 2026
Application area:	70 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Operating and maintaining an airstrip and associated terminal building
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 52/1046 Miscellaneous Licences 52/122 and 52/127
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Sandfire Resources Limited (Sandfire) proposes to clear up to 70 hectares of native vegetation within an application area of approximately 88 hectares (Sandfire, 2026a; Sandfire, 2026b). The DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project is located approximately 138 kilometres north-east of Meekatharra, in the Shire of Meekatharra (GIS Database). Sandfire proposes to amend their clearing permit for the purpose of the ongoing operating and maintaining of an airstrip, and associated terminal building (Sandfire, 2026a). The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

Clearing Permit CPS 4373/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 14 July 2011 and authorised the clearing of 70 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 88 hectares, for the purpose of constructing an airstrip and associated terminal building.

CPS 4373/2 was granted on 16 May 2013, amending the annual reporting date and reporting period.

CPS 4373/3 was granted on 28 July 2016, extending the permit expiry date from 31 July 2016 to 30 June 2021.

CPS 4373/4 was granted on 6 May 2021, extending the permit expiry from 6 August 2011 to 30 June 2026

On 20 February 2026, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 4373/4 to:

- Extend the permit duration by five years (until 2031) and,
- Amend Condition 2 to remove reference to 'constructing' and instead read as follows: "*Clearing for the purpose of operating and maintaining an airstrip and associated terminal building*".

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025) received 4 March 2026, a total of 52.73 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under CPS 4373 to date, with 17.27 hectares remaining (Sandfire Resources Limited, 2026b).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	30 June 2026
Decision area:	70 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submission were received.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 4373/4. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration of CPS 4373/5 is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. The 2025 clearing report provided (Sandfire Resources Limited, 2026b) confirms that the following management actions are being undertaken:

- Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing (with clearing being conducted in accordance with their Land Disturbance Permit System and associated procedures).
- Weed control in the form of weed hygiene inspections of all ground machinery
- Recordkeeping (including the land disturbance permits, weed hygiene inspections, and general reporting to DMPE)

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed from the clearing permit decision report CPS 4373/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The amendment application was advertised on 19 May 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2017/011 – Gingirana) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details															
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Gascoyne bioregion and is adjacent to existing mining infrastructure of the Degruassa-Copper Project (GIS Database).															
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).															
Conservation areas	The application area is within the Doolgunna National Reserve System which is managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA; formerly DEC) (MBS, 2011; GIS Database).															
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: <i>29: Gascoyne Ranges: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups</i> (Government of Western Australia, 2019; GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the area for the initial clearing permit application by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd during August 2009, January 2010, March 2010 and May 2010 (Mattiske, 2010). This timing overlaps with the recommended survey timing for the Eremaean region of March-June which is post-wet season (EPA, 2016). The supporting document for this application (MBS, 2011), confirms the following vegetation descriptions within the application area: <table><tr><th>Code</th><th>Vegetation Community Description</th><th>Area Within Clearing Permit Application (ha)</th></tr><tr><td>S1</td><td>Open scrub of <i>Grevillea berryana</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia kempeana</i> over <i>Eremophila incisa</i>, <i>Eremophila margarethae</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Monochather paradoxus</i> on red/brown sandy loam flats with dolerite, ironstone and quartz (rarely) pebbles.</td><td>68.3</td></tr><tr><td>LW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i>, <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> over <i>Eremophila foliosissima</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila galeata</i> over <i>Ptilotus</i> species and mixed grasses on red/brown sandy loam flats with on ironstone pebbles.</td><td>19.6</td></tr><tr><td>C4</td><td>Scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>conifera</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i>, <i>Acacia cyperophylla</i> over <i>Psyrax latifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and mixed grasses with occasional emergent <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>dipsodes</i> on flow-lines with ironstone and dolerite pebbles on red clay loam.</td><td>1.1</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total</td><td>89</td></tr></table>	Code	Vegetation Community Description	Area Within Clearing Permit Application (ha)	S1	Open scrub of <i>Grevillea berryana</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia kempeana</i> over <i>Eremophila incisa</i> , <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> , <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Monochather paradoxus</i> on red/brown sandy loam flats with dolerite, ironstone and quartz (rarely) pebbles.	68.3	LW1	Low woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i> , <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> over <i>Eremophila foliosissima</i> , <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila galeata</i> over <i>Ptilotus</i> species and mixed grasses on red/brown sandy loam flats with on ironstone pebbles.	19.6	C4	Scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>conifera</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i> , <i>Acacia cyperophylla</i> over <i>Psyrax latifolia</i> , <i>Eremophila galeata</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and mixed grasses with occasional emergent <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>dipsodes</i> on flow-lines with ironstone and dolerite pebbles on red clay loam.	1.1	Total		89
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Vegetation condition	Survey data provided and aerial imagery indicates the vegetation to be in a condition ranging from Good to Degraded (Mattiske, 2010; Trudgen, 1991; GIS Database). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.															
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone of Western Australia (BoM, 2020) with an average annual rainfall of 233.4 millimetres recorded at the Meekatharra Airport (BoM, 2026). Rainfall is considered low and variable (MBS, 2011).															
Soil description	The soil within the application area are mapped as red-brown hardpan shallow loam, red shallow sandy duplex, deep red sand, red loamy earth and friable non-cracking clay (DPIRD, 2026). Overall, the soils are considered shallow, sandy and infertile (MBS, 2011).															
Land degradation risk	The application area is within the Three Rivers System and Horseshow System (DPIRD, 2026) which are described as having eroded via stripping and gulying down to the hardpan (largely due to wind or water erosion), with minimal vegetation present (Wilcox and McKinnon, 1974).															

Characteristic	Details																
Waterbodies	Aerial imagery and provided survey data indicates that no waterbodies or waterlines intersect the application area (MBS, 2011; GIS Database). The application area is approximately 1.2 kilometres away from the nearest ephemeral watercourse (GIS Database).																
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the East Murchison Ground Water Area and Gascoyne River and Tributaries Surface Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).																
Flora	No Threatened or Priority flora occurred within the application area (Mattiske, 2010; GIS Database).																
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities, Priority Ecological Communities or otherwise significant vegetation occur within the clearing application area. The nearest ecological community is the 'Doolgunna Calcrete Groundwater Assemblage' Priority Ecological Community (Priority 1), located approximately 3.55 kilometres west from the application area (GIS Database).																
Fauna	There were no conservation significant fauna species recorded in the application area (MBS, 2011; GIS Database).																
Fauna habitat	There are two habitat types identified (Ninox, 2011) within the application area: <i>Fauna Habitat 1: Mulga (Acacia aneura) scrub or low woodland, over various Eremophila species on red/brown soils; occurs on flats between drainage lines and forms the greater part of the application area.</i> <i>Fauna Habitat 3: Habitat occurs in flowlines and, as a result, the vegetation is denser than in other Mulga communities and the soils are likely to retain moisture for longer periods, probably resulting in a greater range of fauna species, particularly birds, being present.</i> There are no fauna habitats of particular significance within the application area, including caves or permanent pools (MBS, 2011). <table><tr><th>Plant Community Code</th><th>Description</th><th>Fauna Habitat</th><th>Area in Clearing Permit Area (ha)</th></tr><tr><td>S1</td><td>Open scrub of <i>Grevillea berryana</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia kempeana</i> over <i>Eremophila incisa</i>, <i>Eremophila margarethae</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Monochather paradoxus</i> on dolerite, ironstone and quartz (rarely) flats on red/brown sandy loam.</td><td rowspan="3">1</td><td rowspan="3">87.9</td></tr><tr><td>S3</td><td>Open scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> over <i>Chrysopogon fallax</i> on red/brown clay loam flats.</td></tr><tr><td>LW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> over <i>Eremophila foliosissima</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila galeata</i> over <i>Ptilotus</i> species and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on ironstone pebbles on flats on red/brown sandy loam.</td></tr><tr><td>C4</td><td>Scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>conifera</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i>, <i>Acacia cyperophylla</i> over <i>Psyrdrax latifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and mixed grasses with occasional emergent <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>dipsodes</i> on flow-lines with ironstone and dolerite pebbles on red clay loam.</td><td>3</td><td>1.1</td></tr></table>	Plant Community Code	Description	Fauna Habitat	Area in Clearing Permit Area (ha)	S1	Open scrub of <i>Grevillea berryana</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia kempeana</i> over <i>Eremophila incisa</i> , <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> , <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> over <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Monochather paradoxus</i> on dolerite, ironstone and quartz (rarely) flats on red/brown sandy loam.	1	87.9	S3	Open scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> , <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> over <i>Chrysopogon fallax</i> on red/brown clay loam flats.	LW1	Low woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> , <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> over <i>Eremophila foliosissima</i> , <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila galeata</i> over <i>Ptilotus</i> species and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on ironstone pebbles on flats on red/brown sandy loam.	C4	Scrub of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>conifera</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i> , <i>Acacia cyperophylla</i> over <i>Psyrdrax latifolia</i> , <i>Eremophila galeata</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and mixed grasses with occasional emergent <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>dipsodes</i> on flow-lines with ironstone and dolerite pebbles on red clay loam.	3	1.1
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Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." Assessment:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
According to Trudgen scale (1991) and aerial imagery, there is minimal evidence to suggest that there is a high level of biodiversity in the application area, especially since the clearing has already taken place, and the airstrip and associated building for the DeGrussa Copper Project is being actively operated and maintained (Sandfire Resources, 2026a). The vegetation communities present are considered well represented and not locally significant (Mattiske, 2010; MBS, 2011). As a result, the area does not contain locally or regionally known significant flora, fauna, habitats, or assemblages of plants (GIS Database)	(as per CPS 4373/1)	
<u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"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."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Survey data and aerial imagery does not show the application area to have any significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species (MBS, 2011; GIS Database). Although there is one Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) record within a 50 kilometre radius around the application area, there is no suitable habitat within the application area as the majority of the proposed clearing has occurred (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
<u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened Flora has been previously recorded within the application area (Mattiske, 2010). The application area is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community (MBS, 2011; GIS Database)	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Department of Natural Resources & Environment, 2002). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Although the area is located within the wider Doolgunna conservation area, Sandfire have had a historic agreement with DBCA (formerly DEC) in terms of managing the application agreement, including weed control, and have demonstrated adherence to this in their supporting documentation (MBS, 2011). Therefore, this application is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	May be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality (GIS Database)	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (g):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation." <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils highly susceptible to wind and water erosion (Wilcox and McKinnon, 1974). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	May be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> "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." <u>Assessment:</u> Given no water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 4373/1)	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)

- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Waterways Conservation Act Management Areas (DWER-072)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

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- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>

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- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys.
https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
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- MBS Environmental (MBS) (2011) Purpose Permit Application: DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project Airstrip Native Vegetation Management Plan and Assessment of Clearing Principles. Unpublished report prepared for Sandfire Resources NL. May 2011.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (Ninox) (2011) A Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Assessment of the Sandfire Resources NL DeGrussa Copper-Gold Project, North of Meekatharra, Western Australia (Borefield & Airstrip). Unpublished report prepared for Sandfire Resources NL. April 2011
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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR Critically endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN Endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU Vulnerable species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

EX Extinct species

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

EW Extinct in the wild species

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species**SP Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

MI Migratory species

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS Other specially protected species

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P Priority species

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations

Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.

P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.