



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5875/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Goldfields Gas Pipeline Agreement Act 1994
Pipeline Licence No 24
Local Government Area: Shires of Roebourne, Meekatharra, Ashburton, Wiluna, Leonora, Menzies, East Pilbara and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Goldfields Gas Pipeline Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2,000		Mechanical Removal	Pipeline access, operations and maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 25 June 2015

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. There are 35 Beard vegetation associations located within the application area (GIS Database):

Beard vegetation association 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt (*E. le soufii*);

Beard vegetation association 10: Medium woodland; red mallee group;

Beard vegetation association 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*);

Beard vegetation association 20: Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Allocasuarina cristata* & *Eucalyptus* sp.;

Beard vegetation association 28: Open low woodland; mulga;

Beard vegetation association 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups;

Beard vegetation association 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub;

Beard vegetation association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;

Beard vegetation association 84: Hummock grasslands, open low tree & mallee steppe; marble gum & mallee (*Eucalyptus youngiana*) over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* between sandhills;

Beard vegetation association 93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex;

Beard vegetation association 103: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over soft spinifex & *Triodia wiseana*;

Beard vegetation association 107: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and *Eucalyptus kingsmillii* over hard spinifex;

Beard vegetation association 109: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus youngiana* over hard spinifex;

Beard vegetation association 111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over hard spinifex;

Beard vegetation association 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana*;

Beard vegetation association 162: Shrublands; snakewood scrub;

- Beard vegetation association 163:** Shrublands; Eremophila and cassia dwarf scrub;
- Beard vegetation association 169:** Shrublands; mulga & minnieritchie scrub;
- Beard vegetation association 175:** Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara);
- Beard vegetation association 181:** Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub;
- Beard vegetation association 204:** Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered mulga & *Acacia sclerosperma* over saltbush & bluebush;
- Beard vegetation association 228:** Shrublands; *Acacia quadrimarginea* scrub;
- Beard vegetation association 389:** Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush;
- Beard vegetation association 468:** Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt;
- Beard vegetation association 483:** Hummock grasslands, mixed sandplain - open mallee over sparse dwarf shrubs with spinifex; red mallee & mixed sparse dwarf shrubs over *Triodia basedowii*;
- Beard vegetation association 484:** Shrublands; jam thicket;
- Beard vegetation association 529:** Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga & sheoak over bluebush;
- Beard vegetation association 540:** Succulent steppe with open low woodland; sheoak over saltbush;
- Beard vegetation association 555:** Hummock grasslands, mallee steppe; red mallee over spinifex, *Triodia scariosa*;
- Beard vegetation association 601:** Mosaic: Sedgeland; various sedges with very sparse snakewood / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over soft spinifex
- Beard vegetation association 603:** Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex;
- Beard vegetation association 605:** Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Acacia pachycarpa* & waterwood over soft spinifex;
- Beard vegetation association 620:** Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over soft spinifex;
- Beard vegetation association 676:** Succulent steppe; samphire; and
- Beard vegetation association 1294:** Medium woodland; coral gum.

A Level 1 flora and vegetation survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012) during 3 to 8 October 2011 identified 23 vegetation communities within the Pilbara section of the application area:

Boonamichi Well MLV Survey area

1 - *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Grevillea berryana* Scattered Tall Shrubland over *Eremophila longifolia* Shrubland over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs including *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over Scattered Tussock Grasses and Herbs.

NEWMAN LATERAL MLV

1 - *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia synchronicia* and *Acacia bivenosa* Open Shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Open Tussock Grassland;

2 - *Acacia aneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* Scattered Low Trees over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland. 3 *Eucalyptus victrix* Scattered Trees over *Acacia pyrifolia* (*Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia wanyu*) Open Shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland;

3 - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia bivenosa* Scattered Shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland. Small flow lines within this vegetation association supported *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *A. ancistrocarpa* Tall Open Scrub;

4 - *Acacia aneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Acacia synchronicia*, *A. tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland and *Triodia wiseana* Open Hummock Grassland;

5 - Quartz and ironstone pebble veneer flat on east side of track supporting mixed species Low Shrubland and Herbland;

6 - *Corymbia hamersleyana* Open Woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *A. aneura*, *A. inaequilatera* Tall Open Shrubland over *Triodia biflora* and *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;

7 - *Acacia inaequilatera*, *A. tetragonophylla* and *Eremophila fraseri* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Tribulus suberosus* Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia biflora* (*Triodia wiseana*) Hummock Grassland;

8 - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* Scattered Low Trees over *Eucalyptus gamophylla* Scattered Low Mallee's over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *A. inaequilatera*, *A. synchronicia*, *A. bivenosa* Shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;

9 - *Acacia aneura* Low Open Forest over *Eremophila forrestii*, *Exocarpos aphyllus* Open Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* and *T. biflora*;

10 - *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *A. synchronicia* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Hakea lorea*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over *Maireana planifolia*, *Salsola tragus*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus exaltatus* Low Shrubland and Herbland;

11 - *Eucalyptus socialis* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia synchronicia* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;

12 - *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *A. pteraneura* Tall Open Scrub over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland;

13 - *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* x *helmsii* and *S. artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* Low Shrubland over *Ptilotus exaltatus* and *Salsola tragus* Scattered Herbs;

14 - *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Acacia aneura* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Senna artemisioides* Scattered Shrubs over **Malvastrum americanum* Open Herbland;

15 - *Acacia aneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs to Tall Shrubland over *Acacia synchronicia* Scattered Shrubs to Tall Shrubland over patchy *Senna glutinosa* subsp. x *luerssenii* Open Shrubland;

16 - *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Corymbia candida* Open Forest over *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Tall Open Shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over *Themeda triandra* Open Tussock Grassland and **Malvastrum americanum* Open Herbland;

17 - *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Open Woodland to Tall Open Woodland over *Eucalyptus candida*, *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *A. coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Low Woodland to Low Open Forest over *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia biflora* Very Open Hummock Grassland;

18 - *Acacia aneura*, *A. pruinocarpa* and *Hakea lorea* Tall Open Shrubland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa* Open Shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;

19 - *Acacia aneura* and *A. pruinocarpa* Scattered Low Trees over *Grevillea berryana* and *Acacia paraneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Eremophila fraseri*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* Scattered Shrubs. Quartz and ironstone pebbles scattered on surface;

20 - *Acacia aneura*, *A. citrinoviridis*, *A. pruinocarpa* Scattered Low Trees over *Eremophila fraseri* and *Acacia rhodophloia* Scattered Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;

21 - *Eucalyptus victrix* Tall Open Woodland over *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *A. aneura*, *Corymbia candida* Open Forest over **Setaria verticillata* Grassland and **Bidens bipinnata* and **Malvastrum americanum* Herbland; and

22 - *Eucalyptus victrix* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia aneura* and *A. citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over *Themeda triandra* Open Tussock Grassland and *Triodia epactia* Very Open Hummock Grassland.

NEWMAN LATERAL OFF-BAY 1

1. *Acacia pruinocarpa* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* Tall Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta*, *Eulalia aurea*, *Eriachne aristidea* Scattered Tussock Grasses.

NEWMAN LATERAL OFF-BAY 2

1. *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* Tall Shrubland (regrowth) over Scattered Shrubs.

NEWMAN LATERAL OFF-BAY 3

1. *Acacia pteraneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia ayersiana*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Grevillea berryana* Tall Open Shrubland over *Eremophila exilifolia* Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Open Hummock Grassland.

NEWMAN SCRAPER STATION

1. Vegetation association 1: *Acacia aneura* and *A. pruinocarpa* Low Woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs both on red-brown sandy loam plains; and

2. Vegetation association 2: *Acacia ayersiana* Low Woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Psydrax suaveolens* Scattered Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Very Open Hummock Grassland.

PARABURDOO COMPRESSOR STATION

1. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Frankenia setosa* Low Open Shrubland over *Triodia longiceps* Scattered Hummock Grassland; and

2. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs.

TUREE CREEK SCRAPER STATION

1. *Acacia aneura*, *Grevillea berryana* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* Low Open Forest over *Eremophila* sp. Shrubland in undefined flow lines;

2. *Acacia aneura* Low Woodland over *Acacia rhodophloia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* Shrubland in damplands;

3. *Acacia aneura* and *A. ayersiana* Low Woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *E. fraseri* Open

Shrubland on hardpan plains;

4. *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Senna artemisioides* and *Acacia synchronicia* Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Very Open to Open Tussock Grassland; and

5. *Acacia aneura* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* Tall Open Shrubland over *Senna artemisioides* and *Acacia synchronicia* Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* Open Hummock Grassland on a low rise.

YARRALLOOLA COMPRESSOR STATION

1. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Scattered to Hummock Grassland;

2. *Acacia citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;

3. *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. trachycarpa* and *A. citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland); and

4. *Corymbia candida* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *A. citrinoviridis* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland.

* denotes weed species

Clearing Description

Goldfields Gas Pipeline.

Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 2,000 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 4,500 hectares for the purposes of pipeline access, operation and maintenance. The project spans along a 1,377 kilometre long pipeline which is located across the Shires of Roebourne, Meekatharra, Ashburton, Wiluna, Leonora, Menzies, East Pilbara and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994);

To:

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was assessed during a survey undertaken by Outback Ecology (2012).

Clearing of native vegetation is predominately through rolling and slashing, but pruning to a minimum of 300 millimetres may also occur, as may mulching (to be left in situ), and selective removal of larger trees (APA Group, 2013).

An application to amend CPS 5875/1 was received by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 28 April 2015 for the purposes of removing Condition 4 from the clearing permit to allow clearing to occur within the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and the Goongarrie Nature Reserve.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd (Southern Cross) has applied to remove Condition 4 from the clearing permit to allow clearing for maintenance activities within the pipeline easement within Wanjarri Nature Reserve and Goongarrie Nature Reserve.

The proponent has consulted with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) in relation to the proposed maintenance works within the DPaW managed Wanjarri Nature Reserve and Goongarrie Nature Reserve (APA Group, 2015). DPaW advise that the Department have no objection to the proposed clearing within the reserves provided that the proposed activities are within the existing pipeline easement and any clearing of native vegetation will be regrowth from previous associated disturbance activities (APA Group, 2015). No clearing of native vegetation outside the existing pipeline disturbance areas is permitted. The maintenance of the existing access track adjacent to the pipeline for safe passage is permitted, however no over development of the track or the use of borrow material within the reserves is allowed (APA Group, 2015).

The degraded and sparse nature of the vegetation within the pipeline easements within the Goongarrie Nature Reserve and Wanjarri Nature Reserves are not likely to provide a significant ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor and the proposed clearing of native vegetation is not likely to impact the environmental values of the Nature Reserves. Potential impacts to the Goongarrie Nature Reserve and Wanjarri Nature Reserve may be minimised by the implementation of a restricted clearing Condition. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (h).

Current environmental information has been reviewed and the assessment of clearing principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (i) and (j) is consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 5875/1.

Methodology APA Group (2015)

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

Comments

There are several Native Title claims over the area under application (GIS Database). However, 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 several registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). 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.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 1 June 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received to the proposed clearing.

Methodology

GIS Database:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court

4. References

- APA Group (2013) Application for a Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit), Goldfields Gas Pipeline Operations Supporting Documentation. Internal Document, October 2013.
- APA Group (2015) Consultation with the Department of Parks and Wildlife regarding clearing within the Goongarrie and Wanjarri Nature Reserves. Internal email, April 2015.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology (2012) Goldfields Gas Pipeline Pilbara Facilities - Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Survey. Prepared for APA Group, February 2012.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal 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
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	Threatened species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare
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Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:

CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

- X Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities 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 localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- 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 do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5 Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

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 indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare 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 clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.