

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	6127/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Dampier Salt Limited
Application received:	17 October 2024
Application area:	10 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Borrow pit
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	<i>Dampier Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1967</i> , Mineral Lease 253SA (AML 70/253)
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Karratha
Colloquial name:	Dampier Operations

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Dampier Salt Limited proposes to clear up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 85.7 hectares, for the purpose of a borrow pit. The project is located approximately 2.6 kilometres northwest of Karratha, within the City of Karratha.

Clearing permit CPS 6127/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 17 July 2014 and was valid from 9 August 2014 to 31 July 2024. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 85.7 hectares, for the purpose of borrow pits.

CPS 6127/2 was granted on 27 June 2019, amending the permit to extend the duration of the permit to 31 July 2029.

On 17 October 2024, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 6127/2 to extend the permit duration to 31 July 2034, and extend the clearing authorisation period until 31 July 2029. The amount authorised to clear, and the permit boundary will remain unchanged.

The application is to allow for additional areas to be cleared to access suitable borrow material to support ongoing operational activities (Rio Tinto, 2024a; 2024b).

Based on the most recent annual clearing report submitted 30 July 2025, a total of approximately 2.16 hectares have been cleared under the permit (Rio Tinto, 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024c; 2025). Given that the areas that have been cleared are still in use, no rehabilitation work has been undertaken (Rio Tinto, 2025).

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	22 January 2026
Decision area:	10 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 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant, including the results of a biological assessment, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;

- the loss of native vegetation that is marginally suitable habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna;
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on cleared areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared within 12 months of the clearing.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 6127/2. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to extend the permit duration and extend the period in which clearing is authorised 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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)
- *Dampier Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1967*

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

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)
- Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection - Position Statement No. 3 (EPA, 2002)
- Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, Guidance Statement No. 56 (EPA, 2004a)
- Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, Guidance Statement No (EPA, 2004b)
- Technical Guide - Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA & DEC, 2010)

## 3. Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application.

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 6127/2.

#### 3.2.1. Biological values (flora, fauna, and ecological communities) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

##### Assessment

Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd (Biota) conducted a level 1 vegetation, flora, and fauna survey over the application area and surrounds, between 2-3 April 2014. The survey area was approximately 189 hectares, located immediately north of a salt

evaporation pond on the eastern side of the Dampier Road, and extended beyond the application area to the east. The field survey involved:

- mapping dominant vegetation types
- recording flora species of conservation significance and introduced (weed) species
- describing fauna habitats
- recording opportunistic sightings of conservation significant fauna

Approximately 60 percent of the application area consists of naturally bare areas of hypersaline flats, salt evaporation ponds, and some disturbance (Biota, 2015).

## Flora

A review of conservation significant flora species with records within 50 kilometre radius of the application area identified a number of priority flora species that have the potential to occur within the application area based on the presence of suitable habitat (Appendix A.3; Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

While the survey conducted by Biota (2014) did not systematically search the survey area for threatened or priority flora species, *Terminalia supranitfolia* (P3) was recorded outside the application area. The preferred habitat for this species is among basalt rocks, which are not present within the application area (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). There may be some fringing habitat within the application area for this species to occur based on the basalt rocks occurring adjacent to the area, but this is unlikely (Biota, 2014; GIS Database).

The other priority flora species determined to possibly occur (Appendix A.3; GIS Database) within the application area were based on the same marginal habitat present (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). While there is habitat available, it is not the preferred habitat for these species, and while they may occur it is overall unlikely (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). In addition, all priority flora species are known from multiple locations that are not restricted locally or at the subregional level (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). These species also have locations that are represented within conservation areas (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

## Fauna

Four fauna habitats were identified within the application area (Biota, 2014):

- sandy plains and pediment slopes
- samphire and hypersaline flats
- salt pond, and
- disturbed areas

These fauna habitats are widespread and typical of the coastal setting in low lying areas on the southern margin of Burrup Peninsula (Biota, 2014).

No systematic fauna surveys have been undertaken within the application area (Biota, 2014; Rio Tinto, 2014). The field survey undertaken by Biota (2014) did not opportunistically record any fauna species within the application area or surrounds. A review of conservation significant fauna species with records within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area identified a number of conservation significant fauna species have the potential to occur based on the presence of suitable habitat (Appendix A.1; Appendix A.4; GIS Database).

A significant number of these species are migratory and/or highly mobile bird species, and may periodically occur during seasonal migration movement based on the coastal habitats present (Appendix A.1; Appendix A.4; GIS Database). The application area does not include any core habitat for these species, and the area represents a small part of a larger home range (Biota, 2014).

The remaining conservation significant fauna species that were identified as potentially occurring (Appendix A.1; Appendix A.4) are likely to utilise the habitats within the application area occasionally as connectivity between their primary habitats (Biota, 2014; Appendix A.1; Appendix A.4; GIS Database).

## Ecological communities

There are five priority ecological communities mapped within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database):

- Burrup Peninsula rock pile communities (P1)
- Burrup Peninsula rock pool communities (P1)
- Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by *Whiteochloa airoides* (P3)
- Horseflat Land System of the Roebourne Plains (P3)
- Chenopod vegetation associations of the Roebourne Plains (P1)
- Roebourne Plains coastal grasslands with gilgai microrelief on deep cracking clays (Roebourne Plains gilgai grasslands) (P1)

While there are a significant number of ecological communities that occur on Burrup Peninsula and surrounding areas, the field survey did not identify any of these ecological communities within the application area (Biota, 2014; DBCA, 2023). Biota (2014) recorded the 'Burrup Peninsula rock pile communities' (P1) PEC adjacent to the application area, however the landform and vegetation within the application area does not align with the description of the PEC (DBCA, 2023). In addition, the landforms, vegetation, or soils do not meet the description of any of the other PECs listed above (Biota, 2014; DBCA, 2023).

## Conclusion

### **Flora**

The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact priority flora species potentially occurring within the application area. The soils, landforms, and vegetation suitable for priority flora species are not restricted to the application area (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). Potential impacts to priority flora species from the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant at a local, regional, or species level given possibly occurring species are known from multiple locations, broadly distributed, represented within conservation areas, and their preferred habitats are not restricted (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

### **Fauna**

It is unlikely that the available fauna habitats are necessary for the persistence of fauna species that may potentially occur within the application area. The clearing of up to 10 hectares of widespread faunal habitat is unlikely to result in a significant impact to potentially occurring species at a local, regional, international, or species level.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to habitat suitable for northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*, EN), Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*, VU), and a number of migratory birds, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

### **Ecological communities**

Given the landforms, vegetation, or soils within the application area do not meet the descriptions of any of the PECs mapped within close proximity, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in any impacts to these PECs (Biota, 2014; DBCA, 2023).

### Conditions

No flora, fauna, or ecological community management conditions required.

## **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 11 February 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). The State Agreement Act 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 three registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). 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 noted that the proposed clearing may impact on habitat for northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*, EN), Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*, VU), and a number of migratory birds, which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

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 located between Dampier and Karratha, within the Roebourne subregion of the Pilbara bioregion (GIS Database). It is adjacent to the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP) and sits along the fringe of the Dampier Salt Evaporation Pond (GIS Database). Much of the land adjacent to the application area has been developed for residential and industrial purposes (GIS Database).		
Ecological linkage	The application area is unlikely to represent a significant ecological linkage, as it is situated on the margin of a salt evaporation pond, and is adjacent to existing mining operations (GIS Database).		
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any legislated conservation area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Murujuga National Park located approximately 443 metres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).		
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex; and</p> <p>127: Bare areas; mud flats (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounds by Biota Environmental Sciences (Biota) during 2-3 April 2014. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Biota, 2014):</p> <p><b>Vegetation of alluvial plains and pediment slopes</b></p> <p><b>P1: AstTaTe</b> – <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low open shrubland over <i>Triodia angusta</i>, <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland.</p> <p><b>P2: AbTeCEc</b> – <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> tall open shrubland to tall shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland with <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i> very open tussock grassland.</p> <p><b>Vegetation of saline flats</b></p> <p><b>T1: TECspp</b> – <i>Tecticornia</i> spp. low shrubland.</p> <p>In addition to the above vegetation types, the survey also recorded the following areas that were non-vegetated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hypersaline flats and depressions, and</li> <li>salt evaporation pond</li> <li>disturbed</li> </ul>		
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey determined the application area to be in very good, good, and completely degraded condition (Biota, 2014; Trudgen, 1991). Parts of the application area were not assessed due to being naturally bare areas. The vegetation condition rankings were based on the degree of weed presence, human impact, feral animals and livestock activities, and the perceived structural integrity of the vegetation as a whole, given the impact of these disturbance factors (Biota, 2014).</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p> <p>A total of four weed species were recorded within the broader survey area, with three of those species recorded within the application area (Biota, 2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Aerva javanica</i></li> <li><i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i></li> <li><i>Flaveria trinervia</i></li> <li><i>Vachellia farnesiana</i> (broader survey area only)</li> </ul>		
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the Roebourne subregion is described as arid (semi-desert) tropical, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 294.4 millimetres per year (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 8-10 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database).</p> <p>The broad landforms within the application area are described as sandy coastal plains, saline clay plains, bare coastal mudflats/tidal flats, and samphire flats (DPIRD, 2025; van Vreeswyk et al., 2004; GIS Database).</p>		
Soil description	<p>The soils within the application area are mapped as (DPIRD, 2025; van Vreeswyk et al., 2004; GIS Database):</p> <table> <tr> <th>LAND SYSTEM</th><th>DESCRIPTION</th></tr> </table>	LAND SYSTEM	DESCRIPTION
LAND SYSTEM	DESCRIPTION		

Characteristic	Details
	<div> <div>Cheerawarra (77.2 ha)</div> <div>calcareous loamy earth, friable non-cracking clay, red deep sand, red deep sandy duplex, calcareous stony soil</div> </div> <div> <div>Littoral (8.4 ha)</div> <div>tidal soil, salt lake soil, red sandy earth, calcareous deep sand, red deep sand</div> </div>
Land degradation risk	The Cheerawarra and Littoral land systems have predominantly depositional surfaces and are highly susceptible to wind erosion if vegetative cover is removed (DPIRD, 2025; van Vreeswyk et al., 2004; GIS Database).
Waterbodies	<p>The application area is predominately located along the bank of a man-made salt evaporator pond, which was historically a naturally occurring saline coastal flat (GIS Database).</p> <p>There are several naturally occurring non-perennial watercourses that intersect the application area and drain into the salt evaporation pond (GIS Database).</p>
Hydrogeography	<p>The application area is not within any legislated surface water area (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Harding Dam Catchment Area (P1), located approximately 47 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 1,000-3,000 total dissolved solids milligrams per litre, which is described brackish water quality (GIS Database).</p>
Flora	There are records of 23 priority flora within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Among these records, four are priority 1, one is priority 2, 17 are priority 3, and one is a priority 4 flora species (Appendix A.3).
Ecological communities	<p>There are five priority ecological communities mapped within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burru Peninsula rock pile communities (P1)</li> <li>Burru Peninsula rock pool communities (P1)</li> <li>Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by <i>Whiteochloa airoides</i> (P3)</li> <li>Horseflat Land System of the Roebourne Plains (P3)</li> <li>Chenopod vegetation associations of the Roebourne Plains (P1)</li> </ul>
Fauna	<p>There are records of 77 conservation significant fauna species within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). 14 of these species are marine species, such as dolphins, whales, turtles, and fishes that are unlikely to utilise the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>There are records of 48 bird species, 39 which are listed as migratory, and the remaining nine bird species are similar in that they have highly mobile and have large home ranges (GIS Database).</p> <p>There are records of 10 mammal and five reptile species (GIS Database).</p>
Fauna habitat	<p>Four fauna habitats were identified within the application area (Biota, 2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sandy plains and pediment slopes</li> <li>samphire and hypersaline flats</li> <li>salt pond, and</li> <li>disturbed areas</li> </ul>

## A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,808,657	17,731,764	~99	1,801,714.98	10.12
Beard vegetation associations - State					
117	919,517	886,005	~96	131,013.19	14.25

127	737,724	697,871	~94	85,858.20	11.64
Beard vegetation associations - Pilbara bioregion					
117	82,705	78,096	~94	17,600.29	21.28
127	177,749	159,595	~89	3,703.79	2.08

Government of Western Australia (2019)

### A.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information and the Western Australian Herbarium (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Scientific name	Conservation status	Closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood	Habitat suitability
<i>Abutilon</i> sp. Pritzelianum (S. van Leeuwen 5095)	P3	41	unlikely	Limited suitable habitat, however nearest record suggests that the species does not occur on Burrup Peninsula
<i>Atriplex lindleyi</i> subsp. <i>conduplicata</i>	P3	27	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Dolichocarpa</i> sp. Hamersley Station (A.A. Mitchell PRP 1479)	P3	7	possible	Some suitable habitat, however more commonly found on soils with more clay content
<i>Eragrostis lanicaulis</i>	P3	46	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Eragrostis surreyana</i>	P3	15	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Eriochloa fatmensis</i>	P3	48	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Euphorbia inappendiculata</i> var. <i>inappendiculata</i>	P3	36	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Glycine falcata</i>	P3	37	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Gomphrena axillaris</i>	P1	8	possible	Suitable habitat present
<i>Gomphrena cucullata</i>	P3	25	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Gomphrena leptophylla</i>	P3	25	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Goodenia pallida</i>	P1	30	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Gymnanthera cunninghamii</i>	P3	17	possible	Suitable habitat present
<i>Helichrysum oligochaetum</i>	P1	45	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Neptunia longipila</i>	P3	14	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Rhynchosia bungarensis</i>	P4	1	possible	Limited suitable habitat, however, could occur due to proximity of records
<i>Solanum albotellatum</i>	P3	37	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Stackhousia clementii</i>	P3	5	likely	Suitable habitat present
<i>Tephrosia rosea</i> var. Port Hedland (A.S. George 1114)	P1	36	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Terminalia supranitfolia</i>	P3	1	possible	Suitable habitat present. There is a record at the margin of the application area (GIS Database). This species was also recorded by Biota (2014) outside the application area.
<i>Themeda</i> sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)	P3	5	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Trianthema</i> sp. Python Pool (G.R. Guerin & M.E. Trudgen GG 1023)	P2	31	unlikely	No suitable habitat
<i>Vigna triodiophila</i>	P3	4	possible	Limited suitable habitat, however, could occur due to proximity of records

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

#### A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have records within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information, online databases, and available literature (Biota, 2014; DEC, 2012; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Reardon et al., 2017; Rio Tinto, 2024d; Start et al., 2000; Teale et al., 2017; Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2019; GIS Database).

Scientific name	Conservation status		Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood	Habitat suitability
	WA	EPBC			
MAMMALS					
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> northern quoll	EN	EN	4	possible	known from Burrup Peninsula and associated islands, however the application area lacks the preferred rocky habitats that the areas surrounding the application area do
<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> water-rat, rakali	P4		8	possible	known from the broader Dampier Archipelago, but unlikely to utilise the habitats available
<i>Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti</i> spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland)	P4		49	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula, only one record from 1979
<i>Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus</i> banded hare-wallaby, mernine	VU	VU	44	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula, only one record from 1909
<i>Leggadina lakedownensis</i> northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga	P4		9	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula
<i>Macroderma gigas</i> ghost bat	VU	VU	11	unlikely	most recent ghost bat record from Burrup Peninsula is from 2006, the application area does not have any rocky habitat or caves present
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i> bilby, dalgyte, ninu	VU	VU	48	unlikely	Burrup Peninsula is outside the current known distribution for greater bilby
<i>Ozimops cobourgianus</i> northern coastal free-tailed bat	P1		9	possible	suitable habitat present, however occurs mostly in mangrove forests and woodlands
<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i> western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji	P4		6	possible	known to occur on Burrup Peninsula, however the application area does not provide suitable substrate to construct mounds
<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i> (Pilbara form) Pilbara leaf-nosed bat	VU	VU	23	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula, only one record from 1985
REPTILES					
<i>Ctenotus angusticeps</i> Airlie Island ctenotus, northwestern coastal ctenotus	P3		18	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula
<i>Lerista neviniae</i> Nevin's slider	EN	EN	27	unlikely	known from Cape Lambert, however not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula
<i>Lerista quadrivincula</i> four-lined slider (Karratha)	P1		37	unlikely	not known to occur on Burrup Peninsula
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i> Pilbara olive python	VU	VU	3	possible	known to occur throughout the Burrup Peninsula, with many records from the past two years
<i>Notoscincus butleri</i> lined soil-crevice skink (Dampier)	P4		11	possible	more commonly known to occur inland, however some records from the broader Dampier Archipelago

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, MI: migratory, CD: conservation dependent, OS: other specially protected, P: priority

#### Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		



Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna species.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above</p>
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains secondary habitat for a number of conservation significant fauna species (Biota, 2014; Appendix A.1; Appendix A.4; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above</p>
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known records of threatened flora within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). The flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not record any species of threatened flora, or vegetation that would provide habitat for any species or threatened flora (Biota, 2014; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known state or federally listed threatened ecological communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known threatened ecological community is the <i>'Themeda grasslands (Themeda sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)) on cracking clays (Hamersley Station, Pilbara)'</i> state listed threatened ecological community (CR), located approximately 185 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounds did not record vegetation or habitats that would be representative of a TEC (Biota, 2014).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Pilbara bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Pilbara bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex; and 127: Bare areas; mud flats (GIS Database). Approximately 89-99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2018).</p> <p>The application area is not representative of a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The nearest known conservation area is Murujuga National Park, which is located approximately 430 metres northeast of the application area (GIS Database). Given the small scale of the proposed clearing, there should be no impact on the adjacent</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	<p>No</p>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Murujuga National Park, provided standard weed hygiene measures are followed (Biota, 2014).		
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are several minor seasonal watercourses passing through the application area (GIS Database). These drainage lines would only flow for short periods following heavy rainfall during the wet season (Biota, 2014). The application area is adjacent to and partly overlapped by saline mudflats and salt evaporation ponds, which are subject to seasonal inundation (Biota, 2014; GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located near the coast but it is not part of a contiguous coastal vegetation strip (Biota, 2014). No clearing of samphire or mangrove habitat is proposed, and the proposed works are unlikely to have any significant impact on any significant saltwater wetland features (Biota, 2014).</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the mapped land systems have predominantly depositional surfaces and are highly susceptible to wind erosion if vegetative cover is removed (DPIRD, 2025; van Vreeswyk et al., 2004; GIS Database), the proposed clearing may result in land degradation. The mitigate potential wind erosion, the revegetate and rehabilitate management condition will continue to be implemented.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is not located within any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (GIS Database). The small area of proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of groundwater.</p> <p>The application area is adjacent to and partly overlapped by saline mudflats and salt evaporation ponds, which are subject to seasonal inundation (Biota, 2014; GIS Database). There are several minor ephemeral drainage lines that flow into these mudflats and salt evaporation ponds (GIS Database). The drainage lines would only flow for short periods following heavy rainfall (Biota, 2014). The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Flooding of hypersaline and saline flats, and low-lying plains in the application area may occur periodically in the wet season, or as a part of the salt evaporation process (Biota, 2014). The application area is extremely undulating, and given flooding occurs naturally within the application area, the clearing of native vegetation is unlikely to exacerbate or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (Biota, 2014; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 6127/2</p>	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](http://www.data.wa.gov.au)):

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (DCCEEW)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Flats; GEODATA TOPO 250K Series 3
- Foreshore Flats; GEODATA TOPO 250K Series 3
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Coastal Flat (Polygon) (LGATE-122)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pondage Areas; GEODATA TOPO 250K Series 3
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

- WA Now Aerial Imagery

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)

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## Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEMIRS</b>	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMPE</b>	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
<b>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia

<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	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.