

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details
Permit application No.: 6361

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: APA Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Pipeline Licence 108

Miscellaneous Licence 38/105
Miscellaneous Licence 39/225
Miscellaneous Licence 39/226
Miscellaneous Licence 39/227
Miscellaneous Licence 39/228
Miscellaneous Licence 39/233
Miscellaneous Licence 39/234

Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton and Shire of Menzies

Colloquial name: Eastern Goldfields Pipeline

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of:

1,000 Mechanical Removal Clearing for the purpose of a gas pipeline

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 20 February 2020

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 and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. Six Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

- 18: Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura);
- 19: Low woodland; mulga between sandridges;
- 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub;
- 84: Hummock grasslands, open low tree & mallee steppe; marble gum & mallee (*Eucalyptus youngiana*) over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* between sandhills;
- 389: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush; and
- 1239: Hummock grasslands, open medium tree & mallee steppe; marble gum & mallee (*E. youngiana*) over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* on sandplain.

A level 1 flora survey was conducted over the length of the application area. The application area was surveyed in two stages; Murrin Murrin to Sunrise Dam Gold Mine and Sunrise Dam Gold Mine to Tropicana Gold Mine. The Murrin Murrin to Sunrise Dam section was undertaken from 28 to 30 October 2013 and the Sunrise Dam to Tropicana section from 30 October to 5 November 2013 (Botanica Consulting, 2014a; 2014b). The following vegetation communities have been identified within the application area:

Murrin Murrin to Sunrise Dam Gold Mine

CLP-AFW1: Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura and Acacia quadrimarginea over Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii, Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia burkittii, Eremophila margarethae, Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum and Maireana triptera in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AFW2: Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura over Atriplex bunburyana and Aristida contorta in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AFW3: Low Forest of Acacia incurvaneura over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Eremophila latrobei subsp. glabra, Senna artemisioides subsp. artemisioides, Eremophila jucunda and Eremophila forresti subsp. forrestii in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AFW4: Low Woodland of Acacia aptaneura and Acacia caesaneura over Acacia victoriae, Grevillea berryana, Grevillea reflexa, Maireana sedifolia and Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AFW5: Low Woodland of Acacia aptaneura over Hakea preissii, Acacia colletioides, Atriplex bunburyana and Maireana pyramidata in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AOW1: Open Low Woodland of Acacia aptaneura over Eremophila pantonii, Atriplex bunburyana, Cratystylis subspinescens and Maireana pyramidata in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AOW2: Open Low Woodland of Acacia incurvaneura and Hakea preissii over Eremophila pantonii, Maireana pyramidata, Maireana sedifolia, Maireana glomerifolia and Maireana triptera in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AOW3: Open Woodland of Acacia caesaneura, Acacia macraneura and Acacia ayersiana over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, Eremophila margarethae and Maireana triptera in clay-loam soils;

CLP-AOW4: Open Woodland of Acacia caesaneura, Acacia macraneura and Acacia ayersiana over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, Eremophila margarethae, Maireana triptera and Eragrostis laniflora in red loam;

CLP-CFW1: Low Woodland of Casuarina pauper over Acacia victoriae, Exocarpos sparteus, Eremophila glabra and Tecticornia halocnemoides in brown loam soils;

CLP-CSSSF1: Shrubland of Chenopod species with occasional emergent *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia caesaneura* over *Acacia kalgoorliensis* and *Hakea preissii* in clay-loam soils;

CLP-OS1: Shrubland of Hakea preissii, Acacia tysonii, Eremophila miniata, Pimelea microcephala subsp. microcephala, Exocarpos aphyllus and Pittosporum angustifolium over Atriplex vesicaria, Maireana aphylla, Rhagodia drummondii, Cratystylis subspinescens and Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia over Aristida holathera var. holathera and Solanum orbiculatum subsp. orbiculatum and low Chenopod species in clay-loam soils;

RP-AOW1: Open Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over *Eremophila pantonii, Ptilotus obovatus* and *Maireana triptera* in clay with quartz pebbles;

RP-AOW2: Open Woodland of Acacia ayersiana and Acacia caesaneura over Eremophila margarethae and Acacia tetragonophylla over Poaceae and Asteraceae spp. in clay with quartz and ironstone pebbles;

SLP-AFW1: Low Forest of Acacia aptaneura, A. caesaneura and A. incurvaneura over Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila margarethae and Triodia basedowii in sandy-loam soils;

SLP-AFW2: Low Woodland of Acacia caesaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over Atriplex bunburyana, Scaevola spinescens, Acacia tetragonophylla, Hakea kippistiana and Aristida contorta in sandy-loam soils;

SLP-AOW1: Open Low Woodland of *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia caesaneura* over *Grevillea berryana* and *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

SLP-AOW2: Open Low Woodland to Woodland of Acacia caesaneura, Acacia ayersiana over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei, Eremophila spp., Maireana triptera, Solanum lasiophyllum, Ptilotus obovatus and Eragrostis eriopoda in sandy-loam soils;

CD-CSSSF1: Low Scrub of *Cratystylis subspinescens* and *Atriplex bunburyana* over dwarf scrub of *Tecticornia calyptrata, Tecticornia halocnemoides, Tecticornia pergracilis, Tecticornia indica* subsp. *bidens* and *Tecticornia* sp. (unrecognised taxon, K. Shepherd) on claypan/lake shoreline;

OD-AOW1: Open Woodland of Acacia caesaneura, Acacia macraneura and Acacia ayersiana over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, Eremophila margarethae, Maireana triptera and Eragrostis laniflora in drainage line;

OD-AOW2: Open Low Woodland of Acacia aptaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over Acacia craspedocarpa, Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila margarethae, Atriplex bunburyana and Cratystylis subspinescens in creekline;

R-AOW1: Open Woodland of Acacia ayersiana and Acacia tysonii over Eremophila miniata, Cratystylis subspinescens, Hakea preissii, Atriplex vesicaria and Solanum lasiophyllum over Aristida contorta in red loamy soils on ridges;

RS-AFW1: Low Forest of Acacia incurvaneura, Acacia quadrimarginea and Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa over Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii and Ptilotus obovatus on rocky slope;

RS-AFW2: Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia grasbyi* over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* and *Aristida contorta* on rocky rise;

RS-AFW3: Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Dodonaea rigida, Senna artemisioides subsp. artemisioides, Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii Senna cardiosperma and Ptilotus obovatus on Banded Ironstone Hill;

DV: Disturbed Vegetation (excluding roads/access tracks);

Sunrise Dam Gold Mine to Tropicana Gold Mine

- B-CFW1 Low Forest of Casuarina pauper over sparse scrub of Dodonaea lobulata, Bossiaea walkeri and Westringia rigida on breakaway outcrop;
- B-MWS1 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* over Low Woodland of *Acacia ayersiana* and *A. caesaneura* over moderately dense scrub of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Scaevola spinescens* on breakaway Outcrop;
- CLP-AFW1 Low Forest of *Acacia burkittii* over moderately dense scrub of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW2 Low Forest of Acacia aptaneura, Acacia caesaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over sparse scrub of Senna artemisioides subsp. x artemisioides, Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia, Ptilotus obovatus and Solanum lasiophyllum in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW3 Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura and A. incurvaneura over moderately dense soft grass of Aristida contorta in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW4 Low Forest of *Acacia caesaneura* over sparse scrub of *Eremophila miniata, Cratystylis subspinescens* and *Rhagodia eremaea* over moderately dense soft annual grass of *Aristida holathera* in clayloam soils;
- CLP-AFW5 Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura over sparse scrub of Eremophila miniata, Cratystylis subspinescens and Rhagodia eremaea over moderately dense Triodia basedowii in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW6 Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* and *Acacia incurvaneura* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia burkittii, Acacia ligulata* and *Acacia kempeana* over *Dodonaea lobulata* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW7 Low Woodland of Acacia incurvaneura over moderately dense scrub of Dodonaea lobulata, Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia, Ptilotus obovatus and Sida sp. Excedentifolia (J.L. Egan 1925) in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW8 Low Woodland of Acacia caesaneura over moderately dense Dodonaea rigida, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei and Scaevola spinescens in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW9 Low Woodland of Acacia caesaneura/Casuarina pauper over moderately dense scrub of Eremophila scoparia, Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustissima, Eremophila miniata and Cratystylis subspinescens in clay-loam Soils:
- CLP-AFW10 Low Woodland of Acacia caesaneura and Casuarina pauper over sparse to moderately dense scrub of Eremophila scoparia, Scaevola spinescens and Maireana triptera in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW11 Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over isolated shrubs over scattered to open *Triodia basedowii* and soft grasses in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AFW12 Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over sparse to moderately dense *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata/Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* over *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- CLP-AOW1 Open Low Woodland of Acacia ayersiana and Casuarina pauper over moderately dense scrub of Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia and Ptilotus obovatus in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AOW2 Open Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia caesaneura* over sparse scrub of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Hakea preissii* and moderately dense dwarf scrub of mixed Chenopods in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-AOW3 Open Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over sparse to moderately dense scrub of *Maireana sedifolia, Senna artemisioides* subsp. x *artemisioides*, *Senna cardiosperma, Atriplex bunburyana* and *Ptilotus obovatus* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-CFW1 Low Forest of Casuarina pauper over open to sparse scrub of Eremophila pantonii and moderately dense low scrub of Maireana pyramidata and Maireana sedifolia in clay-loam plain;
- CLP-CFW2 Low Woodland of Casuarina pauper over moderately dense scrub of Eremophila scoparia and Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia over sparse Triodia basedowii in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-CFW3 Low Woodland of Casuarina pauper over sparse to moderately dense scrub of Eremophila scoparia, Olearia muelleri and Scaevola spinescens in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-CSSSF1 Shrubland of Chenopod species with occasional emergent *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia caesaneura* over *Acacia kalgoorliensis* and *Hakea preissii* in clayloam soils;

- CLP-EW1 Low Woodland of Eucalyptus salubris over sparse scrub of Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila scoparia, Atriplex vesicaria, Maireana triptera and Ptilotus obovatus in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-MWS1 Open Tree Mallee of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over moderately dense *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Olearia muelleri* and sparse *Triodia basedowii* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-MWS2 Very Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* with occasional *E. gongylocarpa* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum*, *Callitris preissii*, *Leptospermum roei* and *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* in clayloam soils;
- CLP-MWS3 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and open low woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over sparse scrub of *Eremophila scoparia* and *Scaevola spinescens* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-MWS4 Open Tree Mallee of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over moderately dense scrub of *Eremophila* scoparia and *Scaevola spinescens* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-RMNV1 Regrowth Low Forest of Acacia aptaneura, Acacia caesaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over moderately dense scrub of Ptilotus obovatus and Solanum lasiophyllum in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-RMNV2 Regrowth Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus* spp. over sparse to moderately dense regrowth scrub of *Acacia* spp., *Solanum plicatile* and *Velleia hispida* in clay-loam soils;
- CLP-RMNV3 Regrowth Open Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia caesaneura, A. kempeana* and *Keraudrenia velutina* in clay-loam soils;
- CD-AFW1 Open Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over moderately dense scrub of *Melaleuca apostiba* (P3), *Eremophila miniata* and *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *angustissima* over sparse soft annual grass of *Aristida holathera* on drainage depression edge;
- CD-AS1 Open Scrub of *Acacia rigens* and *Eremophila miniata* over sparse low scrub of *Cratystylis subspinescens* and moderately dense to dense *Frankenia setosa* and *Tecticornia sp.* (Sterile) in clay drainage depression;
- CD-AS2 Open Scrub of Acacia rigens, A. ramulosa var. ramulosa, Eremophila miniata and Eremophila scoparia over sparse low scrub of Cratystylis subspinescens and moderately dense to dense Frankenia setosa, Maireana amoena and Tecticornia sp. (Sterile) in clay drainage depression;
- CD-AS3 Open Scrub of Acacia rigens, A. ramulosa var. ramulosa and Eremophila miniata over sparse low scrub of Cratystylis subspinescens and dense Triodia basedowii in clay drainage Depression;
- CD-OS1 Open Low scrub of *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *angustissima* and *Cratystylis subspinescens* over dense *Atriplex vesicaria, Maireana platycarpa* and *Frankenia setosa* in clay-loam drainage Depression;
- D-EW1 Open Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. youngiana* over sparse scrub of *Callitris columellaris* and *Allocasuarina spinosissima* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* on sand dune:
- D-EW2 Occasional *E. gongylocarpa* over *Callitris columellaris/Grevillea juncifolia* over *Acacia ligulata/Thryptomene seriata/Anthotroche pannosa* over *Triodia desertorum* or *T. basedowii* on sand dune;
- D-MWS1 Occasional Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* over sparse scrub of *Callitris preissii* and *Thryptomene biseriata* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* on sand dune;
- D-OS1 Scrub of Casuarina pauper over moderately dense low scrub of Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustissima and Dodonaea lobulata over sparse soft grasses and Triodia basedowii on sand dune;
- ISSP-AFW1 Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over moderately dense *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa, Allocasuarina helmsii* and *Prostanthera althoferi* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-AFW2 Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over moderately dense *Dodonaea rigida, Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Scaevola spinescens* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-AFW3 Low Forest of Acacia caesaneura and Acacia incurvaneura over moderately dense scrub of Acacia burkittii, Acacia tetragonophylla and Eremophila margarethae over dense Triodia desertorum in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-AFW4 Low Forest of Acacia ayersiana and Acacia incurvaneura over moderately dense scrub of Acacia grasbyi and Aluta maisonneuvei subsp. auriculata over dense Triodia basedowii in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-AFW5 Open Low Woodland to Woodland of Acacia caesaneura and Acacia ayersiana over Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa, Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei, Eremophila spp., Maireana triptera, Solanum lasiophyllum, Ptilotus obovatus and Eragrostis eriopoda in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-EW/MWS1 Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over moderately dense mallee of *E. concinna* and *E. youngiana* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* and *Acacia ligulata* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS2 - Low Woodland of *E. gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee regrowth of *E. youngiana* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS3 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus hypolaena* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. concinna* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia burkittii, A. ligulata* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS4 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus salicola* over regrowth shrub mallee of *E. hypolaena* and moderately dense scrub of *Daviesia benthamii, Beyeria brevifolia* and *Eremophila scoparia* over dense *Triodia desertorum* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS5 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. concinna* and moderately dense scrub of *Acacia helmsiana* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS6 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. commitae-vallis* over sparse scrub of *Callitris columellaris* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS7 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. concinna* and *E. horistes* over moderately dense dwarf scrub of *Leptosema chambersii* and *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS8 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. leptopoda* subsp. *elevata* over moderately dense dwarf scrub of *Leptosema chambersii* and *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW/MWS9 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. concinna* and *E. youngiana* over moderately dense dwarf scrub of *Baeckea* sp. Great Victoria Desert (A.S. Weston 14813) and *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EOW/MWS1 - Open Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *E. youngiana* and moderately dense scrub of *Acacia assimilis* and *A. desertorum* var. *desertorum* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy soils;

ISSP-EOW/MWS2 - Open Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over moderately dense shrub Mallee of *E. youngiana/E. concinna* over open mixed shrubland over dense *Triodia desertorum* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW1 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* with occassional *E. youngiana* over sparse to moderately dense scrub of *Callitris columellaris* and *Hakea francisiana/ Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW2 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over sparse scrub of *Eremophila scoparia, Senna* artemisioides subsp. filifolia, Olearia muelleri and Ptilotus obovatus over sparse Triodia basedowii in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW3 - Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus salicola* over sparse scrub of *Eremophila deserti, Dodonaea rigida* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW4 - Open Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over moderately dense scrub of *Hakea francisiana* and dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW5 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse scrub of *Callitris columellaris* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-EW6 - Low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse scrub of *Acacia abrupta* and *Callitris columellaris* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-H1 - Dense Heath of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* over moderately dense scrub of *Melaleuca hamata* and *Melaleuca leiocarpa* over dense *Triodia desertorum* and *T. basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-H2 - Heath of *Allocasuarina campestris* over sparse scrub of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* and *Baeckea* sp. Great Victoria Desert (A.S. Weston 14813) over dense *Triodia basedowii* and *T. desertorum* in sandy soils;

ISSP-MWS1 - Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* over moderately dense scrub of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and open dwarf scrub of *Maireana platycarpa* and *Ptilotus obovatus* in sandyloam soils:

ISSP-MWS2 - Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over open to sparse scrub of *Grevillea juncifolia* subsp. *juncifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils:

ISSP-MWS3 - Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over moderately dense *Dodonaea lobulata, Dodonaea rigida* and *Scaevola spinescens* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-MWS4 - Very Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* over moderately dense *Acacia ramulosa* var. ramulosa, *Allocasuarina helmsii* and *Prostanthera althoferi* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

- ISSP-MWS5 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* and *E. youngiana* over low woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* and sparse scrub of *Acacia rigens* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS6 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over sparse scrub of *Callitris columellaris* and *Hakea francisiana* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS7 Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia hemiteles, Melaleuca hamata* and *Westringia cephalantha* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils:
- ISSP-MWS8 Open Shrub Mallee of Eucalyptus trivalva and E. youngiana over moderately dense scrub of Hakea francisiana and mixed Acacia spp. over dense Triodia basedowii/T. desertorum in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS9 Open Tree Mallee of *Eucalyptus horistes* over moderately dense scrub of *Eremophila deserti* and *Acacia rigens* over moderately dense *Triodia desertorum* and *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS10 Open Tree Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia caesaneura*, *Eremophila pantonii* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS11 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus comitae-vallis* and *E. youngiana* over sparse to moderately dense scrub of *Grevillea juncifolia* subsp. *juncifolia* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS12 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus hypolaena* over moderately dense scrub of *Callitris preissii*, *Daviesia benthamii* and *Westringia cephalantha* over dense *Triodia basedowii* and *T. desertorum* in sandy-loam soils:
- ISSP-MWS13 Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna*, *E. oleosa* subsp. o*leosa* and *E. rigida* over sparse scrub of *Daviesia benthamii*, *Acacia assimilis* and *A. caesaneura* over dense *Triodia desertorum* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS14 Tree Mallee of *Eucalyptus eremophila* over moderately dense low woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* and *A. incurvaneura* and sparse scrub of *A. aptaneura* and *Eremophila scoparia* over dense *Triodia desertorum* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS15 Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* over moderately dense scrub of *Halgania integerrima* and *Hakea francisiana* over moderately dense *Triodia desertorum* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS16 Very Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *elevata* and *E. youngiana* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS17 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* and *E. rigidula* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* and *Baeckea* sp. Great Victoria Desert (A.S. Weston 14813) over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS18 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* and sparse *Callitris preissii* over mixed shrubs over open to moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS19 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* over *Acacia* and *Eremophila* dominated shrubland over sparse to open *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS20 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* over sparse scrub of *Acacia sibirica* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS21 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS22 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus commitae-vallis* and *E. youngiana* over sparse scrub of *Callitris columellaris* and dwarf scrub of *Baeckea* sp. Great Victoria Desert (A.S. Weston 14813) and *Beyeria sulcata* var. *sulcata* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS23 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus youngiana* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* and *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* over moderately dense dwarf scrub of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* and moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS24 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *elevata* over sparse scrub of *Callitris preisii* and moderately dense dwarf scrub of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* and *Phebalium filifolium* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS25 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *elevata* over sparse scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* and *Callitris preisii* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;
- ISSP-MWS26 Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *elevata* over moderately dense low scrub of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* and *Melaleuca interioris* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandyloam soils;

ISSP-MWS27 - Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus horistes* over moderately dense low scrub of *Acacia assimilis* and *A. desertorum* var. *desertorum* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV1 - Regrowth Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa subsp. oleosa* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV2 - Regrowth Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus concinna* and *E. oleosa subsp. oleosa* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV3 - Regrowth Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus glomerosa* over moderately dense scrub of *Acacia desertorum* var. *desertorum* and *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* over moderately dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV4 - Regrowth Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* and *E. youngiana* over dense scrub of *Acacia rigens* and *Melaleuca leiocarpa* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV5 - Regrowth open low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over moderately dense *Leptosema chambersii* and *Newcastelia hexarrhena* in sandy-loam soils;

ISSP-RMNV6 - Regrowth open low woodland of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* over sparse shrub mallee of *Eucalyptus glomerosa* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandyloam soils;

ISSP-RMNV7 - Regrowth Very Open Shrub Mallee of *Eucalyptus* sp. sterile over sparse low scrub of *Acacia assimilis* and *Hakea fransciana* over dense *Triodia basedowii* in sandy-loam soils;

RH-AFW1 - Low Woodland of *Acacia burkittii* over moderately dense scrub of *Maireana sedifolia, Senna artemisioides* subsp. x *artemisioides*, *Senna cardiosperma*, *Atriplex bunburyana* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on quartz low slope;

RH-AFW2 - Low Forest of *Acacia ayersiana, Acacia caesaneura* and *Acacia incurvaneura* over open to sparse scrub of *Acacia tetragonophylla, Scaevola spinescens* and moderately dense low scrub of *Ptilotus obovatus* on rocky rise:

RH-AFW3 - Low Woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* over moderately dense scrub of *Maireana sedifolia, Senna artemisioides* subsp. x *artemisioides*, *Senna cardiosperma*, *Atriplex bunburyana* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on quartz low slope;

RH-AFW4 - Low Woodland of Acacia ayersiana, Acacia incurvaneura and Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa over sparse scrub of Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila pantonii, Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia and Ptilotus obovatus on rocky rise;

RH-AFW5 - Low Woodland of Acacia ayersiana, Acacia incurvaneura and Acacia ramulosa var. ramulosa over sparse scrub of Acacia tetragonophylla, Dodonaea lobulata, Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia and Ptilotus obovatus on rocky rise;

RH-AFW6 - Low Woodland of *Acacia incurvaneura* over moderately dense scrub of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *auriculata* over sparse *Triodia basedowii* on rocky rise;

RH-AFW7 - Forest to Woodland of *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia caesaneura* over *Eremophila margarethae* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over Poaceae and Asteraceae spp. in clay with quartz and ironstone pebbles;

RH-CFW1 - Low Forest of Casuarina pauper over open to sparse scrub of Eremophila pantonii and mid-dense low scrub of Maireana pyramidata and Maireana sedifolia on rocky rise; and

Salt Lake

Clearing Description

Eastern Goldfields Pipeline.

APA Operations Pty Ltd (APA) proposes to clear up to 1,000 hectares within a boundary of approximately 9,361 hectares for the purposes of pipeline construction and associated activities. The project starts approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Laverton and runs in a general easterly direction for approximately 294 kilometres.

Vegetation Condition

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);

to

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

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from reports prepared by Botanica Consulting (2014a; 2014b).

The proposed pipeline is to connect gas to the Tropicana Gold Mine from the Goldfields Gas Pipeline. On average the pipeline licence is a width of 200 metres. The proposed clearing will be for a 30 metre wide construction right of way (APA Group, 2014). Along with the trenching of the pipeline, the construction will also require temporary construction support areas including a construction camp, site offices, ablutions and laydown areas (APA Group, 2014). Following the pipeline construction all areas will be rehabilitated apart from an access track and five above ground facilities which include control huts, metres, filter skids and security fencing.

Clearing permit CPS 6361/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 29 January 2015 and was valid from 21 February 2015 to 21 February 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 1,000 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of Pipeline Construction and Associated Activities.

On 9 December 2019, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6361/1 to extend the permit duration by five years. They also applied to amend the purpose for which clearing may be done.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The Permit Holder has applied to amend the clearing permit to extend the permit duration by five years and amend the purpose for which clearing may be done, as the project is ongoing and clearing has not been completed. The size of the area approved to clear (1000 hectares), and the permit boundaries remain unchanged. The amendment is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing (GIS Database).

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 6361/1.

Methodology

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- Imagery
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are two native title claims (WC2019/002, WC2018/019) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. However, the 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 numerous registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). 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 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.

The amendment application was advertised on 20 January 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

4. References

APA Group (2014) Supporting documentation for clearing permit application.

Botanica Consulting (2014a) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Proposed Gas Pipeline from Murrin Murrin to Sunrise Dam Gold Mine. Unpublished report for AngloGold Ashanti, dated July 2014.

Botanica Consulting (2014b) Sunrise Dam Gold Mine to Tropicana Gold Mine Gas Pipeline Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Unpublished report prepared for Anglogold Ashanti, dated July 2014.

DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/ (Accessed 24 January 2020).

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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)
 DBCA
 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

DEC Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)

DoEEDepartment of the Environment and Energy, Australian GovernmentDERDepartment of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)DMIRSDepartment of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western AustraliaDMPDepartment of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)

DPIRD Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

DPLH Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia

DRF Declared Rare Flora

DoE Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DoEE)

DoW Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)

DPaW Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)

DSEWPaC Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DoEE)

DWER Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia

EPA Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia

EPBC Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (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 Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia

TEC Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T Threatened species:

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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation* (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation* (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 for endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation* (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation* (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

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).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and 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.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation* (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.

OS Other specially protected species

Fauna 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).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.

Priority species:

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

Assessment of Priority codes 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

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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species

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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

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. Such species are in need of 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 Conservation Dependent.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

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.	е
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