



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	6654/4
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	IGO Forresteria Limited
Application received:	30 April 2025
Application area:	32 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 77/545
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Kondinin
Colloquial name:	Forresteria Nickel Operation

1.2. Description of clearing activities

IGO Forresteria Limited proposes to clear up to 32 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 121 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 75 kilometres east of Hyden, within the Shire of Kondinin.

Clearing permit CPS 6654/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 21 August 2015 and was valid from 12 September 2015 to 31 October 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 12 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 121 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

CPS 6654/2 was granted on 29 October 2020, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 31 October 2025. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 6654/3 was granted on 5 April 2022, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 20 hectares.

On 30 April 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 6654/3 to extend the permit duration by five years to 31 October 2030 and change the Permit Holder name from Western Areas Limited to IGO Forresteria Limited.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	9 September 2025
Decision area:	32 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 E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 6654/3. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – *Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA, 2004)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Supporting document submitted by the applicant (Western Areas, 2021) indicates a range of environmental management procedures are in place to ensure that clearing will be managed to minimise any potential adverse impacts. Rehabilitation will minimise exposed areas and the long-term loss of vegetation cover (Western Areas, 2021).

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

As of 30 June 2025, 23.9 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared (IGO, 2024). The assessment against the clearing principles (Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene, and staged clearing management conditions. Given two appropriate flora surveys have been conducted in the application area by Botanica Consulting (2021; 2023), the flora management condition on CPS 6654/3 (Condition 7) requiring a pre-clearance survey was removed and replaced by a flora management condition requiring the avoidance of the recorded individuals of Priority flora *Eutaxia hirsuta*.

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 6654/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

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

The permit area is within the South West Native Title Settlement area (DPLH, 2025). This settlement resolves Native Title rights and interests over an area of approximately 200,000 square kilometres within the southwest of Western Australia. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape of the Coolgardie Bioregion. It is part of the existing Forrestania Nickel Project (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located in any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record is Lake Cronin Nature Reserve located more than five kilometres north east of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 2048: Shrublands; scrub-heath in the Mallee Region (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during September, 2021. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2021):</p> <p>Heathland (MVG 18): Low heathland of <i>Banksia sessilis</i>, <i>Hakea platysperma</i>, and <i>Verticordia chrysantha</i>, <i>Verticordia roei</i> and <i>Grevillea incrassata</i> on sandplain.</p> <p>Mallee Woodland and Shrubland (MVG 14): Open mallee shrubland of <i>Eucalyptus tenera</i>/ <i>E. pileata</i> over low heathland of <i>Melaleuca adnata</i>, <i>M. calyptroides</i>, <i>M. lateriflora</i> and low open shrubland of <i>Acacia deficiens</i>/ <i>A. intricata</i> on sand-loam plain.</p> <p>Flora and vegetation mapping are available in (Appendix D).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2021) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good (Keighery, 1994) condition.</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located in a winter zone characterised by wet winter and low summer rainfall (BoM, 2016) and has an average annual rainfall of 340.8 millimetres (Hyden) (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils in the application area are in the majority mapped as soil unit Ms8 (GIS Database) which is described as undulating terrain of a succession of plateau areas and relatively narrow valley side slopes with some small flats of generally sandy yellow earths and yellow earthy sands (Northcote et al., 1960-68).
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Newdegate land system (DPIRD, 2025) which is described as gently undulating terrain over deep regolith with occasional rock outcrops, supporting mallee woodlands over heath. Lack of slope, sandy soils and dense vegetation make most of this land system resistant to erosion. However, Newdegate is prone to fire, which can cause temporary loss of stabilising perennial vegetation and expose sandy surfaces to wind erosion (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Kondinin-Ravensthorpe Groundwater Area which has a mapped groundwater salinity of 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).
Flora	Priority 2 flora species <i>Eutaxia hirsuta</i> has been recorded in the application area (Botanica, 2021, 2023; GIS Database). Other conservation significant flora species are present within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (GIS Database). The closest record is Priority 3 Ecological Communities 'Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill) (greenstone ranges)', located 250 metres from the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the application area (Astron, 2014; Botanica, 2021, 2023; GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Botanica (2021) recorded on habitat type referred to as 'Sand-loam Plain - Heathland / Mallee Shrubland'. This habitat type comprises of dense <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Allocasuarina</i> / <i>Banksia</i> / <i>Melaleuca</i> heathland and mallee shrubland over mixed low shrubs and is considered very well suited to a variety of burrowing small mammals and reptiles (Botanica, 2021, 2023).

A.2. Ecological community analysis table

Community name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill) (greenstone ranges)	P3	N	N	N	250 metres	Y

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<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 11 individuals of Priority 2 flora species <i>Eutaxia hirsuta</i> (Botanica, 2021, 2023). In line with the Botanica (2021) recommendation, IGO Forresteria Limited will avoid impacts to all priority flora, including maintaining at least a 10 metre exclusion zone (Western Areas, 2021). Potential impacts to the conservation significant flora as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a flora management condition.</p> <p>The application area is 250 metres away from the mapped buffer zone of the 'Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages' (Priority 3) Priority Ecological Community (PEC). No banded ironstone was identified within the permit area and the vegetation complex described for this PEC was not represented within the permit area (Botanica, 2021; 2023).</p> <p>No introduced (weed) species were recorded within the permit by either Astron (2014) or Botanica (2021). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a weed management condition.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No
<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>Botanica (2021, 2023) undertook further fauna surveys across the permit area to better inform the assessment on the presence or absence of conservation significant fauna. No conservation significant fauna or evidence of their presence was recorded within the permit area by either Astron (2014) or Botanica (2021, 2023). One fauna habitat (Sand-loam Plain – Heathland / Mallee Shrubland) was recorded in the application area. The habitat was described by Botanica (2021, 2023) as having a less diverse vegetation strata supporting a less diverse avifauna assemblage. This habitat type is considered well represented across the Mallee region and not unique to the permit area (Western Areas, 2021).</p> <p>Although the malleefowl, Carnaby's cockatoo, and chuditch have mapped distributions in the local area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008), no unique fauna habitats (hollow bearing trees, malleefowl mounds, caves, rocky outcrops/ pools etc.) occur within the permit area. (Western Areas, 2021). These species are not likely to be residents in the application area and the proposed amendment is not likely to significantly impact on these species' conservation status (Botanica, 2021, 2023).</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No
<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>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There have been no records of Threatened flora in the application area (Botanica, 2021; Astron, 2014; GIS Database). The closest record of a Threatened flora is of <i>Eucalyptus steedmanii</i> approximately 200 metres from the application area (GIS Database). There are over 30 records of this species within 10 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is likely to contain suitable habitat for this species. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on this or other nearby records of Threatened flora. Potential impacts to the Threatened flora as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a weed management condition.		
<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>No State or Federally listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) have been recorded within the permit area from either Astron (2014) or Botanica (2021) and there are no TECs mapped near the application area (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<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 Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Coolgardie Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 2048 which retains over 50 per cent of pre-European levels of vegetation within the state and bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). This is above the 30 per cent threshold level recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation below which, species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No
<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>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<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>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</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>The mapped soils are not highly susceptible to erosion (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Noting the location of the application area and the scale of the proposed clearing, it is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</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>Given no water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6654/1)</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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Vegetation mapping

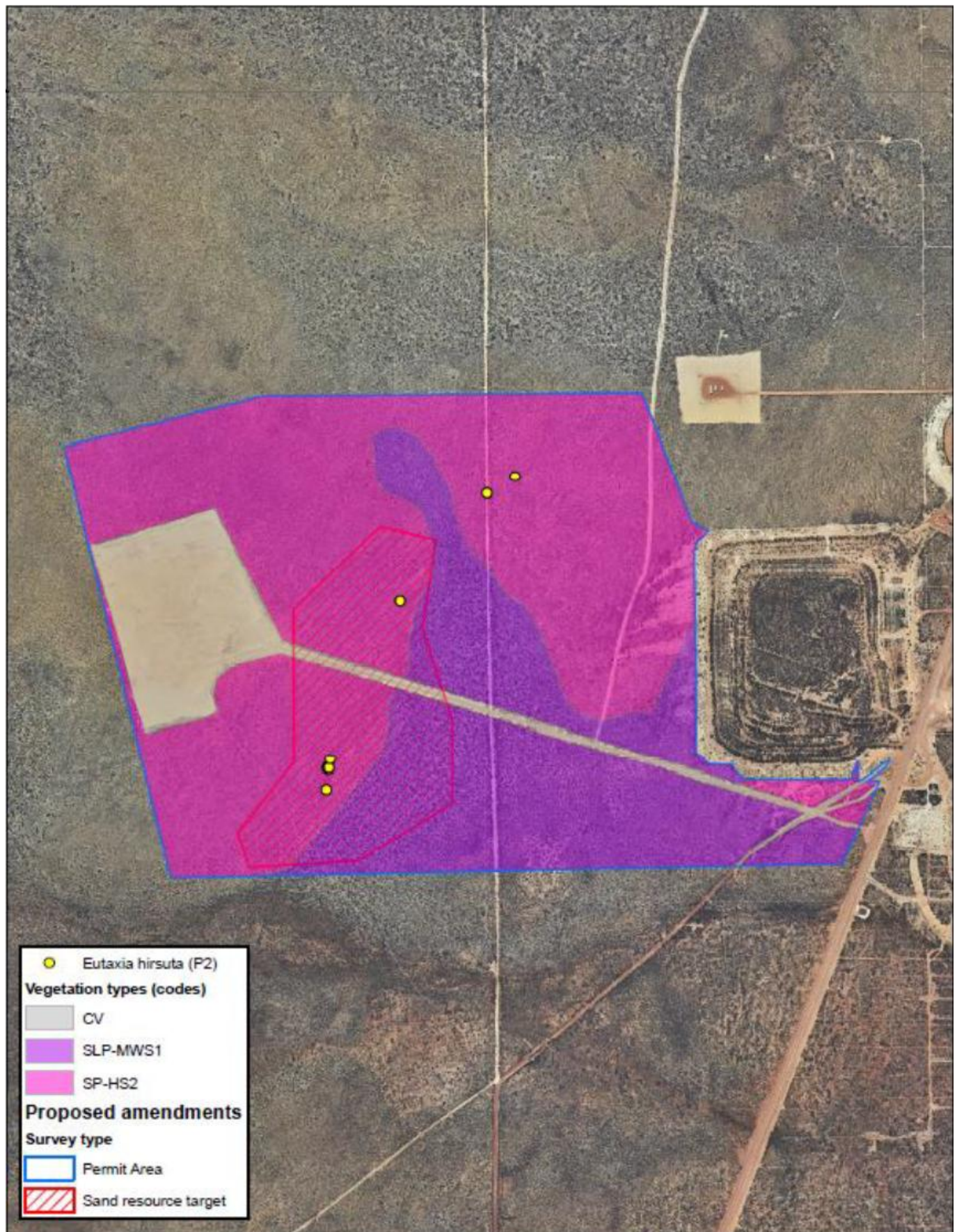


Figure 1. Vegetation mapping of the application area (Botanica, 2021).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

CPS 6654/4

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- 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 - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

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)

E.2. References

- Astron (2014) Forrestania Nickel Operations. Lounge Lizard. Vegetation, Flora and Fauna Biological Assessment. Report prepared for Western Areas Limited, by Astron Environmental Services, October 2014.
- Botanica (2021) Flora/Vegetation and Fauna Assessment. Lounge Lizard Sand Pits. Prepared For Western Areas Limited. Botanica Consulting, October 2021.
- Botanica (2023) Lounge Lizard West Sand Borrow Pit Flora and Fauna Assessment. Prepared for IGO Limited by Botanica Consulting, January 2023.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate classification maps http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/climate-classifications/ (Accessed 6 August 2025).
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Hyden Station. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 6 August 2025).
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl> (Accessed 26 August 2025).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 5 August 2025).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 6 August 2025).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.

http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys.

https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

IGO (2024) Report IGO Annual Clearing Permit Report (ACPR). Prepared for the Department of Energy, Mining, Industry Regulation and Safety, 31 July 2024.

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

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

Waddell P.A. and Galloway P.D. (2023) 'Land systems, soils and vegetation of the southern Goldfields and Great Western Woodlands of Western Australia', Technical bulletin 99, vol 2, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

Western Areas (2021) Forrestania Nickel Operation. CPS 6654/2 Amendment Application – Supporting Document. Western Areas Limited, November 2021.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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