Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	6802/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Karora (Higginsville) Pty Ltd
Application received:	15 May 2025
Application area:	545 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral exploration and mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 15/1792
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Wills Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Karora (Higginsville) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 545 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,087.9 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration and mineral production (Karora, 2025b). The project is located approximately 74 kilometres southeast of Coolgardie, within the Shire of Coolgardie (GIS Database). To date, Karora have not undertaken any clearing of native vegetation under CPS 6802 (Westgold Resources, 2025).

Clearing permit CPS 6802/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE)) on 3 December 2015 and was valid from 26 December 2015 to 31 December 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 545 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,087 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration and mineral production.

Amended permit CPS 6802/2 was granted on 15 October 2020, to extend the permit duration to 31 December 2025. The area of authorised clearing and permit boundary remained unchanged.

On 15 May 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6802/2 to extend the permit duration to 31 December 2030 and update the Permit Holder from Avoca Mining Pty Ltd to Karora (Higginsville) Pty Ltd. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	23 December 2025
Decision area:	545 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 B), relevant datasets (Appendix G), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A), including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), 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 identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- potential local and regional impacts to *Eutaxia rubricarina*;
- potential clearing of conservation significant flora that may be unknown within the application area;
- loss of suitable habitat for nine potentially occurring conservation significant flora within Acacia shrubland on granite rocky outcrop;
- loss of suitable habitat for six potentially occurring conservation significant flora within riparian vegetation;

- potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) and inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*);
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for five other conservation significant fauna species; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to 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;
- no clearing within 10 metres of *Eutaxia rubricarina*;
- pre-clearance survey for priority flora, and no clearing within 10 metres of any new identified priority flora;
- no clearing in mapped *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop vegetation;
- no clearing in mapped bare salt lake area;
- restricted clearing in mapped riparian vegetation;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify critical habitat, ant colonies, and ABAB individuals and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 6802/2, except in the case of principles (a) and (b). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration and change in permit holder name is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

1.5. Site map

A site map of proposed clearing is provided in Figure 1 below.

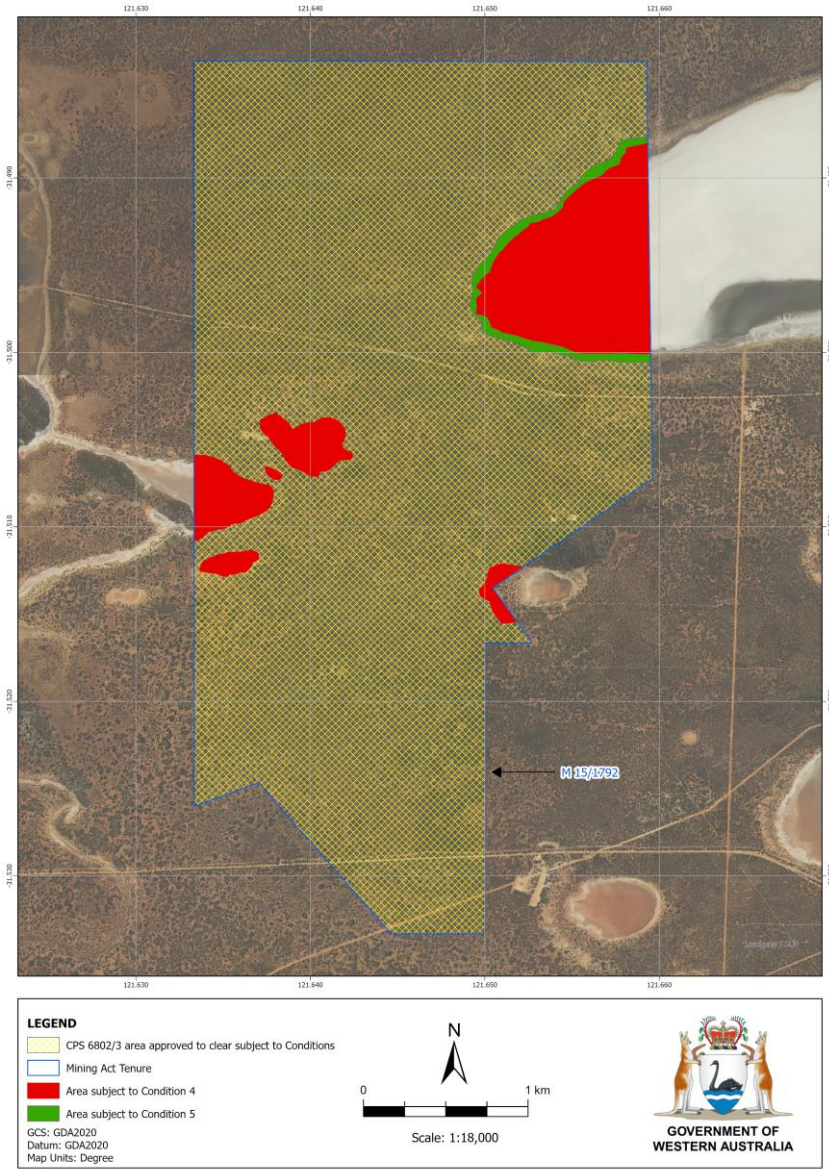

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The areas cross-hatched yellow and shaded green indicate the areas within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit. The red areas indicate the area subject to Condition 4. The green area indicates the area subject to Condition 5.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

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, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant noted the proposed plans do not intersect the bare salt lake area and have agreed to implement a restricted clearing condition (Karora, 2025a).

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

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 6802/2, except for principles (a) and (b). Upon further review, the delegated officer identified more flora and fauna species which require consideration under principle (a) and (b) of this assessment. The changes to the status and distribution of arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) since the original assessment is considered under principle (b) in this assessment. The proposed amendment may have significant impacts on conservation significant flora and fauna and their habitats. These potential impacts are discussed in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora and vegetation) - Clearing principle (a)

Assessment

Vegetation condition

As no clearing has been undertaken under CPS 6802/2, the vegetation condition within the application area is in Very Good to Good Keighery (1994) condition, as reported in the flora and vegetation survey by NVS (2015).

Recorded flora

Eutaxia rubricarina (P3) has been recorded within the application area during field survey in 2015 (NVS, 2015). One population of 10 to 15 plants have been recorded in *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop and provided a significant range extension for the species (NVS, 2015). Prior to the discovery of this population, the species was known from five other Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregions (WAH, 1998-). No clearing of identified priority flora is permitted within 10 metres, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact this species. The current permit has a flora management condition to not clear within 10 metres of *Eutaxia rubricarina.*

Pityrodia scabra subsp. *dendrotricha* (P3) was recorded in the application area (GIS Database), however this record is likely to have incorrect coordinates due to the location description. This specimen was searched for, but not discovered in the field survey (NVS, 2015). Although, the nearest records of *Pityrodia scabra* subsp. *dendrotricha* are approximately 0.5 kilometres of the application area, within the riparian zone of a salt lake that extends into the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, suitable habitat has been mapped within the application area for the species, and there is potential this species could occur.

Significant habitat for priority flora – *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop

Acacia shrubland on granite rocky outcrop habitat (5.51 hectares) has been recorded in the application area, which is mapped in Appendix E and photographs available in Appendix F. The following species have the potential to occur in this vegetation type (GIS Database):

- *Grevillea phillipsiana* (P1)
- *Philotheca apiculata* (P1)
- *Prostanthera splendens* (P1)
- *Pterostylis xerampelina* (P1)
- *Phebalium clavatum* (P2)
- *Allocasuarina eriochlamys* subsp. *grossa* (P3)
- *Eremophila annosicaulis* (P3)
- *Eremophila veronica* (P3)
- *Stylidium choreanthum* (P3)

This vegetation type also provided suitable habitat for *Malleostemon tubercula* (no conservation listing) that was recorded to have a range extension, as mapped in Appendix E, further providing evidence for the significant of this vegetation type within the Eastern Goldfields botanical subregion (NVS, 2015).

The applicant noted the proposed plans do not intersect this vegetation type (Karora, 2025a).

Significant habitat for priority flora – riparian vegetation

Riparian vegetation includes *Melaleuca lateriflora* shrubland (29.18 hectares) and *Tecticornia* shrubland (0.51 hectares), which is mapped in Appendix E and photographs available in Appendix F. The following species have the potential to occur in this vegetation type:

- *Calandrinia lefroyensis* (P1)

- *Gunniopsis* sp. Coolgardie (A.A. Mitchell et al. AAM 10238) (P1)
- *Ptilotus rigidus* (P1)
- *Tecticornia mellarium* (P1)
- *Tecticornia flabelliformis* (P2)
- *Pityrodia scabra* subsp. *dendrotricha* (P3), as discussed in recorded flora above

Additionally, *Tecticornia flabelliformis* is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and is threatened by mining, habitat degradation and destruction (Carter, 2010). Habitat critical to survival of the species comprises the area occupied by the known subpopulations and areas surrounding the known subpopulations (Carter, 2010). As a population exists less than 1.5 kilometres from the application area and suitable habitat exists within the application area, the area proposed to be cleared may represent critical habitat for this species (NVS, 2015; GIS Database).

The applicant noted the proposed plans do not intersect this vegetation type, except for a proposed pipeline corridor (Karora, 2025a).

Other potentially occurring flora

The following species have the potential to occur in the *Eucalyptus* woodland vegetation types:

- *Eremophila perglandulosa* (P1)
- *Eremophila praecox* (P2)
- *Phebalium clavatum* (P2)
- *Trachymene pyrophila* (P2)
- *Austrostipa turbinata* (P3)
- *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* subsp. *norsemanense* (P3)

Seven conservation significant flora species that have the potential to occur within the application were not considered during previous survey effort by NVS (2015). Additionally, six may not have been identifiable due to the survey occurring outside of the flowering period for these species (NVS, 2015; WAH, 1998-). Due to the age and timing of the survey, number of species not considered, habitat suitability and proximity of record to the area proposed to be cleared, it is considered that impacts to priority flora species cannot be adequately assessed. Therefore, it is recommended that targeted flora surveys are conducted to determine whether priority flora are present within the application area.

Introduced flora

No weed species were recorded within the application area during field survey in 2015 (NVS, 2015).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in:

- potential local and regional impacts to *Eutaxia rubricarina*;
- potential clearing of conservation significant flora that may be unknown within the application area;
- loss of suitable habitat for nine potentially occurring conservation significant flora within *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop;
- loss of suitable habitat for six potentially occurring conservation significant flora within riparian vegetation; and
- potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- no clearing within 10 metres of *Eutaxia rubricarina*;
- pre-clearance survey for priority flora, and no clearing within 10 metres of any new identified priority flora;
- no clearing in mapped *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop vegetation; and
- restricted clearing in mapped riparian vegetation.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

Assessment

A desktop assessment has identified 10 conservation significant fauna species that may potentially occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; GIS Database):

Mammals

- Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*, P3)
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*, VU)

Birds

- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*, MI)
- Hooded plover (*Charadrius cucullatus*, P4)
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU)
- Night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*, CR)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, OS)

- Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*, P4)

Invertebrates

- Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*, formerly *Ogyris subterrestris petrina*, CR)
- Inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*, P2)

Chuditch

Chuditch have disappeared from approximately 95 percent of their former range where they were previously found across all mainland Australian states (DEC, 2012). Most of the species are now found in varying densities throughout the jarrah forest, south coast Western Australia, and at lower densities in the goldfields and wheatbelt (DEC, 2012). Chuditch utilise a range of habitats including forest, mallee shrublands, woodland and desert, with dense populations found in riparian jarrah forest (DEC, 2012). This species dens in hollow logs, burrows and rock cavities (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015). Chuditch has been recorded in similar habitat approximately 100 kilometres west, however no recent records occur within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). There is a low potential for this species to occur within the application area.

Malleefowl

Malleefowl is a large ground-dwelling bird that occurs in a range of habitat types, primarily found in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands (3-8 metres in height) dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris* spp.) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nests are constructed in sandy soil and leaf litter by the building of a large mound for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). This species favours mallee that has been long unburnt and ungrazed (DCCEEW, 2024). There are 11 records of malleefowl within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The level 1 vertebrate fauna risk assessment recorded one set of malleefowl footprints within the application area; however no mounds were identified (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015). Malleefowl have been recorded in other fauna surveys in the vicinity of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015). Two areas mapped within the application area as *Eucalyptus* mallee thicket over sclerophyll shrubland and *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over spinifex (NVS, 2015; Appendix E) are considered potentially suitable breeding habitat.

Peregrine falcon

The peregrine falcon occurs across Australia typically nesting on rocky ledges in tall, vertical cliff faces and gorges, granite outcrops or in trees associated with drainage lines and forages in a range of habitat types (Australian Museum, 2019). Approximately 5.5 hectares of *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop has been recorded within the application area (NVS, 2015) and parts of ephemeral Lake Lefroy occur within the application area. It is likely this species is a transient visitor and while most of the application area terrain is flat, there is potential breeding and foraging habitat within the application area.

Arid bronze azure butterfly

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*) populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*), salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). The application area occurs within mapped potential habitat area for ABAB with potentially suitable habitat occurring in the form of mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland over *Melaleuca sheathiana* and mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland (NVS, 2015; Appendix E). ABAB has an obligate association with a sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* (DBCA, 2020). The species information and guidelines have been updated since the last fauna survey was conducted over the application area in 2015 and invertebrates were not previously considered.

Inland hairstreak butterfly

Inland hairstreak butterfly is data deficient. This species was previously only known to two locations near Kalgoorlie, however, has been recorded from another 10 locations within an area extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species is summarised as open woodland, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, variety of flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola* and *Maireana*) and open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the hostplants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Inland hairstreak caterpillars feed on flowers of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and this species forms an obligate association with ant species, *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023). Potentially suitable habitat within the application area is mapped within mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland, *Eucalyptus* mallee woodland over spinifex, *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop and mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland over *Melaleuca sheathiana* (NVS, 2015; Appendix E). The information relating this species has been updated since the last fauna survey was conducted over the application area in 2015 and invertebrates were not previously considered.

Other priority fauna

Several species have the potential to occur within the application area due to habitat suitability, however there is a low likelihood of occurrence due to distance or age of the nearest record for the following species: central long-eared bat, fork-tailed swift, hooded plover, night parrot and western rosella (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; BirdLife Australia, n.d.; Menkhorst et al., 2019; BirdLife Australia, 2017; DEC, 2009; Fox et al., 2016; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of:

Malleefowl: Potentially suitable foraging and breeding habitat may occur within the application area.

Chuditch: Potentially suitable habitat for this species within the application area, however there is a low probability of occurrence.

Peregrine falcon: Potentially suitable foraging and breeding habitat may occur within the application area.

Arid bronze azure butterfly: Potentially suitable breeding habitat occurs within the application area.

Inland hairstreak butterfly: Potentially suitable breeding habitat occurs within the application area.

Other priority fauna: Some potentially suitable habitat for these species. It is unlikely these species will be significantly impacted, however it is recommended that trees containing hollows be inspected prior to clearing to avoid clearing any potential roosting or nesting habitat.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- no clearing in mapped *Acacia* shrubland on granite rocky outcrop vegetation;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify critical habitat, ant colonies, and ABAB individuals and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The amendment application was advertised on 22 July 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). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are 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.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata)* and arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) and their habitats 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 17 December 2025, the applicant provided spatial data for vegetation group mapping, priority flora locations and the indicative pit and pipeline (Karora, 2025a).	This information is considered in the assessment of Principle (a) and Section 1.2.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.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 adjacent to Lake Lefroy (GIS Database). The area is surrounded by goldmine operations and native vegetation within the Great Western Woodlands (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is UCL, Crown Reserves, grazing, native pastures, conservation and mining leases (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within the application area (GIS Database). In the local surrounds (20 kilometres), there are two conservation areas: • Dordie Rocks Nature Reserve approximately seven kilometres southwest of the application area; and • Binaronca Nature Reserve approximately 18.5 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The application area occurs within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of Coolgardie (COO03) (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the Beard vegetation associations **936** and **125**, as described in decision report CPS 6802/2 (DMIRS, 2020; GIS Database). A level 1 flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area, excluding 95.9 hectares of bare salt lakes, by NVS in August 2015 (NVS, 2015). A total of eight major vegetation groups were recorded within the application area, as described in decision report CPS 6802/2 (NVS, 2015; DMIRS, 2020). Mapping of vegetation groups is provided in Appendix E (NVS, 2015).
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (NVS, 2015) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Good Keighery (1994) condition. As no clearing has been undertaken under CPS 6802/2, the vegetation condition likely remains the same (Westgold Resources, 2025). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The application area is mapped with an elevation of 300 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database). The relief is subdued and comprises of gently undulating plains interrupted in the west with low hills and ridges of Archaean greenstones and in the east by a horst of Proterozoic basic granulite (NVS, 2015). The climate region is arid to semi-arid, with average annual rainfall of 286.7 millimetres recorded at Kambalda West, with rainfall sometimes in summer but usually in winter (CALM, 2002; BoM, 2025).
Soil description and land degradation risk	The soil within the application area is mapped as the following systems (DPIRD, 2025; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database): • **Lakeside**: Sandplains with occasional sand dunes and prominent claypans, supporting mallee eucalypts and spinifex. This system covers approximately 889.97 hectares and may be susceptible to wind erosion. • **Lefroy**: Salt lakes and fringing saline plains, sandy plains and dunes with chenopod low shrublands. This system covers approximately 121.70 hectares of the application area and may be susceptible to wind erosion. ○ Includes **Lefroy Lake Bed subsystem**: Bare lake beds inundated for short periods after rain. • **Doney**: Calcareous alluvial plains with eucalypt woodlands adjacent to salt lake systems. This system covers approximately 67.93 hectares of the application area and is generally not susceptible to erosion. • **Graves**: Basalt and greenstone rises and low hills supporting eucalypt woodlands with prominent saltbush and bluebush understoreys. This system covers approximately 8.31 hectares of the application area and may be susceptible to erosion when disturbed. Calcareous earths are the dominant soil group in the Eastern Goldfields subregion and cover much of the plains and greenstone areas (CALM, 2002).

Characteristic	Details
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated there is one non-perennial salt lake, Lake Lefroy, within the application area (NVS, 2015; GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area, which is located approximately 118 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). There are no Wetlands of International importance in the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000 to over 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline to hypersaline (NWGA, 2023; GIS Database).
Flora	There are no records of threatened flora species within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). One conservation significant flora was recorded within the application area (NVS, 2015). There are records of 20 conservation significant flora species within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; GIS Database). The nearest known PEC is Mount Belches *Acacia* quadrimarginea/*Ptilotus obovatus* (banded ironstone formation; P3), approximately 60 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No fauna surveys were conducted over the application area, therefore there are no records of conservation significant fauna species within the area. There are records of two conservation significant fauna species within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). A fauna risk assessment revealed that an additional 10 conservation significant fauna species potentially occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015).
Fauna habitat	There are five broad fauna habitats described within the application area, in addition to disturbed area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015): • eucalypt woodland over *sclerophyll* shrubs over spinifex with varying percentages of ground cover; • eucalypt woodland over *sclerophyll* shrubs with varying percentages of ground cover; • samphire flats on the periphery of Lake Lefroy or small clay pans; • Lake Lefroy; and • *Acacia* shrubland on granite outcrops.

B.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 - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	97.96	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
936	698,752.00	676,689.18	96.84	28,010.13	4.01
125	3,485,785.49	3,146,487.22	90.27	265,740.10	7.62
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Coolgardie)					
936	586,792.23	584,336.14	99.58	18,103.64	3.09
125	545,717.86	506,802.71	92.87	35,661.49	6.53

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area or in biological surveys (NVS, 2015; GIS Database). The assessment of these species included consideration in field surveys, potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (ALA, n.d.-a; ALA, n.d.-b; Carter, 2010; Chinnock, 1983; Chinnock, 2007; Erickson & Willis, 1956; Jones & French, 2016; Lally, 2009; NVS, 2015; Obbens, 2018; Rye, 1999; Shepherd, 2007; WAH, 1998-; WANOSCG, n.d.; Wilkins & Chappill, 2007; Williams, 2022; Wilson, 2016; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat [Yes, Potential, No]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Survey effort occurred [Yes, No]	Potential vegetation type in application area consistent with species preferred habitat
Priority 1					
Calandrinia lefroyensis	Yes	<5	11	No	Riparian
Eremophila perglandulosa	Yes	<10	9	Yes, but incorrect season for identification	Eucalypt woodland
Grevillea phillipsiana	Yes	<10	21	Yes	Granite outcrop
Gunniopsis sp. Coolgardie (A.A. Mitchell et al. AAM 10238)	Yes	<5	9	No	Riparian
Philotheca apiculata	Yes	<10	28	Yes	Granite outcrop
Prostanthera splendens	Potential	<10	13	Yes	Granite outcrop
Pterostylis xerampelina	Yes	<10	15	No, species described in 2016 after survey was undertaken	Granite outcrop
Ptilotus rigidus	Yes	<5	21	No	Riparian
Tecticornia mellarium	Yes	<15	21	No	Riparian
Priority 2					
Eremophila praecox	Potential	<20	52	Yes, but incorrect season for identification	Eucalypt woodland
Phebalium clavatum	Potential	<10	16	Yes	Granite outcrop, eucalypt woodland
Tecticornia flabelliformis	Yes	<5	9	Yes, but *Tecticornia* are difficult to distinguish in the field	Riparian
Trachymene pyrophila	Yes	<10	10	Yes, but incorrect season for identification	Eucalypt woodland
Priority 3					
Allocasuarina eriochlamys subsp. *grossa*	Yes	<20	28	Yes	Granite outcrop
Austrostipa turbinata	Yes	<10	25	Yes, but incorrect season for identification	Eucalypt woodland
Chrysocephalum apiculatum subsp. *norsemanense*	Yes	<15	18	No	Eucalypt woodland
Eremophila annosicaulis	Yes	<10	5	Yes	Granite outcrop
Eremophila veronica	Potential	<10	16	No	Granite outcrop
Eutaxia rubricarina	Yes, recorded	0	10	Yes	Granite outcrop
Pityrodia scabra subsp. *dendrotricha*	Yes, recorded specimen location but not found in survey	0	27	Yes	Riparian
Stylidium choreanthum	Potential	<20	30	Yes, but incorrect season for identification	Granite outcrop

Species name	Suitable habitat [Yes, Potential, No]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Survey effort occurred [Yes, No]	Potential vegetation type in application area consistent with species preferred habitat

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area or in biological surveys (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; GIS Database). The likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019; BirdLife Australia, n.d.; BirdLife Australia, 2017; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DBCA, 2020; DCCEEW, 2024; DEC, 2009; 2012; Eastwood et al., 2023; Fox et al., 2016; Menkhorst et al., 2019; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features [Yes, Potential, No]	Suitable vegetation type [Yes, Potential, No]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Yes, No]	Likelihood of occurrence in application area [Recorded, Likely, Possible, Unlikely, Very unlikely]
Mammals						
Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*)	P3	Yes	Yes	<75	No	Unlikely
Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*)	VU	Yes	Yes	<35	No	Unlikely
Birds						
Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)	MI	Yes	Yes	<115	No	Unlikely
Hooded plover (*Charadrius cucullatus*)	P4	Yes	Yes	<90	No	Unlikely, transient visitor
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	VU	Yes	Yes	<5	No	Likely
Night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*)	CR	Potential	Yes	<45	No	Unlikely
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	OS	Potential	Potential	<5	No	Unlikely, transient visitor
Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*)	P4	Yes	No	<45	No	Unlikely
Invertebrates						
Arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*)	CR	Yes	Yes	<75	No	Possible
Inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*)	P2	Yes	Yes	<75	No	Likely

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment:	At variance (changed from CPS 6802/2)	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared contains locally significant habitats that may support conservation significant flora and fauna and are restricted in distribution.		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl and may contain critical habitat for arid bronze azure butterfly and inland hairstreak butterfly.	May be at variance (changed from CPS 6802/2)	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (NVS, 2015; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no known TECs or PECs are located within or in close proximity to the application area (20 kilometres) (NVS, 2015; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015; GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (approximately seven kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: *Melaleuca lateriflora* shrubland and *Tecticornia* shrubland are associated with salt lakes (NVS, 2015). Therefore, the proposed clearing is likely to impact vegetation associated with a wetland. Condition: To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • restricted clearing within mapped riparian vegetation; and • restricted clearing within mapped bare salt lake.	At variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment:	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Lakeside, Lefroy and Graves systems and Lefroy Lake Lake Bed subsystem may be susceptible to wind erosion (DPIRD, 2025; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). The application area partially sits within a salt lake where wind erosion at lake margins may be exacerbated by loss of stabilising perennial shrubs (Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). Stony mantles and moderately dense vegetation within the Graves system means it is generally not prone to erosion, unless the protective mantle or perennial vegetation is disturbed (Waddell & Galloway, 2023). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Impacts can be minimised by maintaining the staged clearing condition on the permit. Condition: To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.	(as per CPS 6802/2)	
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given no permanent water courses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands recorded within the application area, however one minor ephemeral salt lake; Lake Lefroy intersects the application area in two locations covering approximately 100 hectares (GIS Database). There is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains due to the climate of the application area (BoM, 2025; GIS Database). Larger rainfall events may result in flooding of the area, however the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6802/2)	No

Appendix D. 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.

Condition	Description
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 E. Mapping of vegetation groups

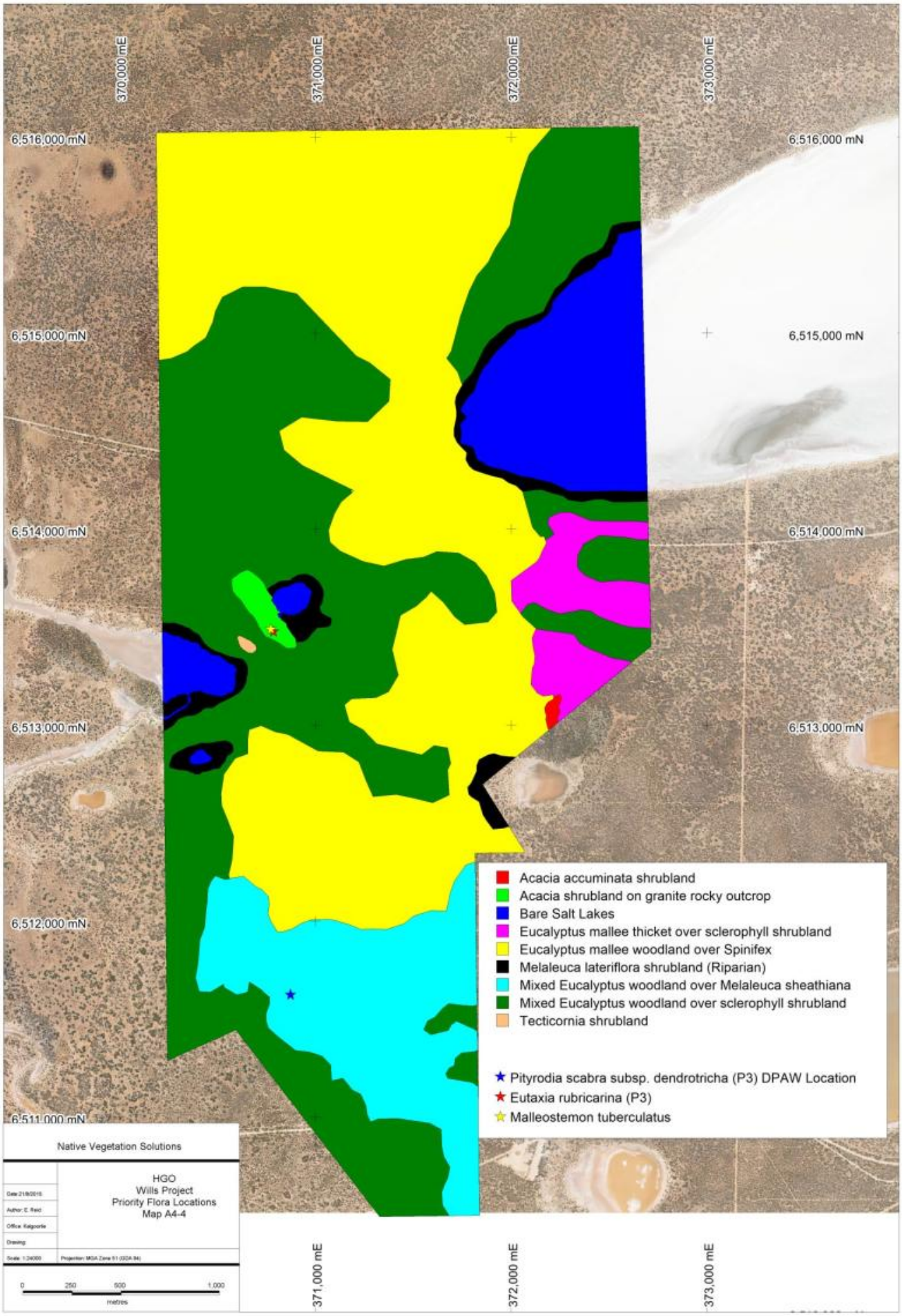

Figure 2. Vegetation groups and significant flora mapping within application area (NVS, 2015).

Appendix F. Representative photos of significant vegetation

Photo 1: Riparian shrubland within the application area (NVS, 2015).

Photo 2: *Acacia* shrubland on granite outcrop within the application area (NVS, 2015).

Photo 3: Riparian (samphire flats) on the periphery of Lake Lefroy (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015).

Photo 4: *Acacia* shrubland on granite outcrops (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015).

Appendix G. Sources of information

G.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Resources (DWER-084)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Subareas (DWER-083)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Resources (DWER-081)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Subareas (DWER-080)

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:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.