



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	6834/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Application received:	20 October 2025
Application area:	20 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Pipeline construction and maintenance and all associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 52/163
Location (LGA area):	Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name:	Orebody 31 Pipeline Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 20 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 32.982 hectares for the purpose of pipeline construction and maintenance and all associated activities. The project is located approximately 15 kilometres east of Newman, within the Shire of East Pilbara.

The application is to allow for pipeline construction and maintenance and all associated activities in relation to the Orebody 31 Pipeline Project (BHP, 2025a). This pipeline has been constructed; however, a clearing permit is required to carry out ongoing access and maintenance activities (BHP, 2025b).

Clearing permit CPS 6834/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 31 March 2016 and was valid from 23 April 2016 to 30 November 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 20 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 36.38 hectares, for the purpose of pipeline construction and maintenance and all associated activities.

CPS 6834/2 was granted on 25 February 2021, amending the permit to extend the permit duration and the period in which clearing is authorised.

On 20 October 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 6834/2 to extend the permit duration and the period in which clearing is authorised, as well as reduce the boundary of the permit, change the name of the permit holder, and extend the final reporting date.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 1 June 2025, received 23 September 2025), 5.45 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under the permit.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	23 June 2026
Decision area:	20 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 (Appendix D), 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 Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to carry out ongoing access and maintenance activities and all associated activities in relation to the pipeline.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion; and
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna habitat.

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;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion;
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within the adjacent existing gravel extraction area within 12 months of clearing to ensure fauna habitat is not permanently lost.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 6834/2, except in the case of principle (b). The proponent has removed areas considered significant habitat for conservation fauna species (Pilbara olive python) from their proposed area to be cleared, lessening the potential impacts to the species. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendments being sought are 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.

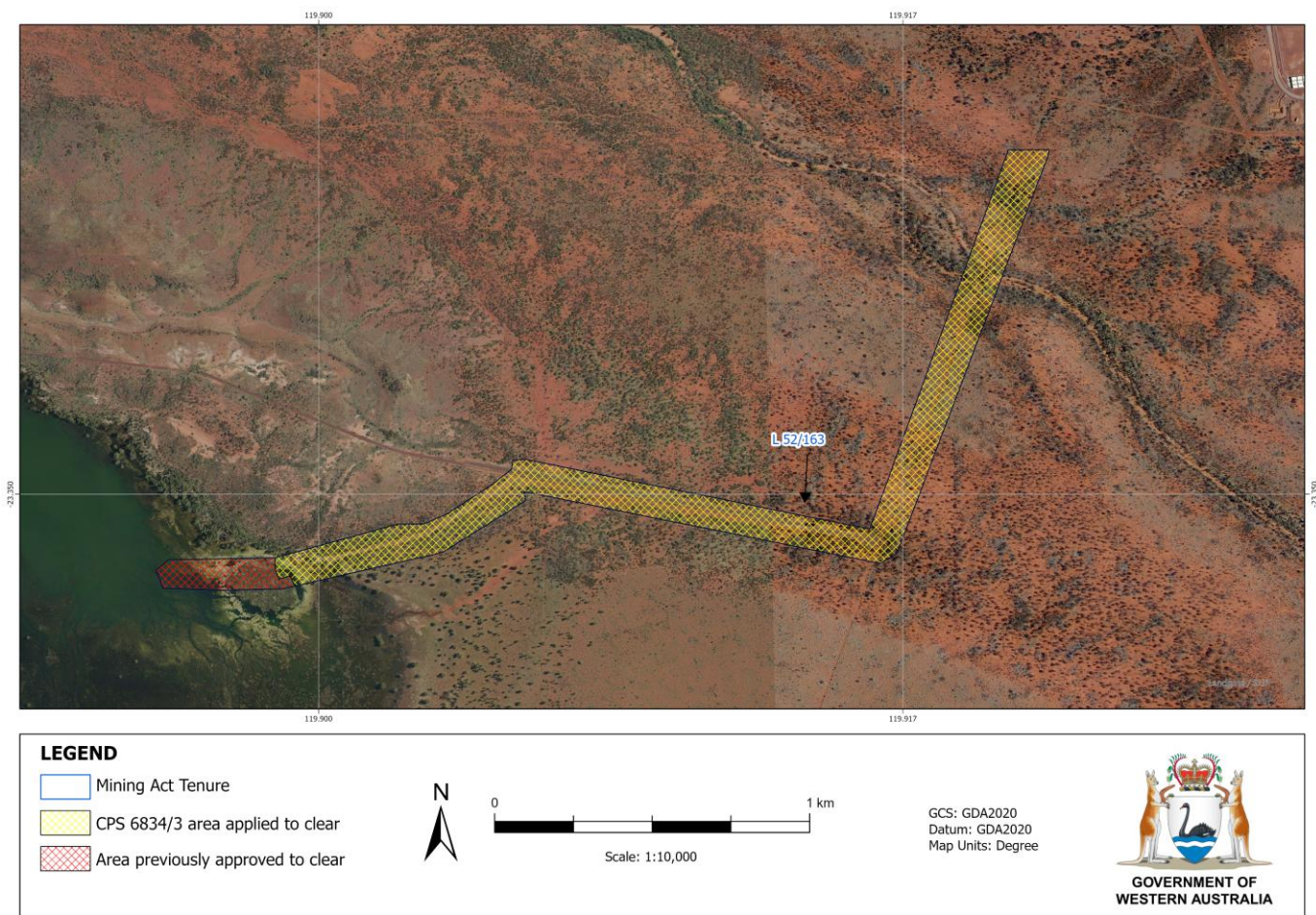


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit. The red area indicates an area removed in this amendment application.

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, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (EPA, 2004a)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (EPA, 2004b)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that avoidance measures had been undertaken to minimise impacts to the Pilbara Olive Python and its habitat. Areas containing significant habitat for the EPBC listed species had previously been approved to clear (DMIRS, 2021). The proponent has removed these areas from their amendment application (BHP, 2025a). As stated in the proponent's supporting documentation, rehabilitation works will be undertaken in line with requirements listed in the revegetation and rehabilitation condition of the permit (BHP, 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 A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 6834/2.

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

Assessment

A Level 1 Flora and Vegetation survey was undertaken over the application area by Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (2015) in May 2015. One conservation significant flora species that is no longer listed (*Goodenia nuda*) and ten vegetation associations (see Appendix A.1) were identified within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015). The following conservation significant flora species were identified as possibly occurring within the application area:

- *Ipomoea racemigera* (Priority 3)
- *Goodenia berringbinensis* (Priority 4)
- *Eremophila youngii* subsp. *lepidota* (Priority 3)
- *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684) (Priority 3)
- *Euphorbia inappendiculata* var. *inappendiculata* (Priority 3)
- *Goodenia hartiana* (Priority 2)
- *Crotalaria smithiana* (Priority 3)
- *Acacia corusca* (Priority 1)
- *Swainsona thompsoniana* (Priority 3)
- *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431) (Priority 3)
- *Eremophila rigida* (Priority 3)
- *Uvedalia clementii* (Priority 1)
- *Aristida lazaridis* (Priority 3)

The following conservation significant flora species were identified as likely to be occurring within the application area:

- *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (Priority 3)

- *Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera* (Priority 3)

Although suitable habitat for these species occurs within the application area, none have been recorded there during previous surveys. As the vegetation within the application area is well represented across the region, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts to these species.

Seven introduced flora species have been recorded within the application area; however, none of them are listed as Weeds of National Significance or declared pest plants in Western Australia under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007*. It is necessary to maintain the weed management condition as weeds have the potential to outcompete native flora and subsequently reduce the biodiversity in the area.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by implementing standard avoid and minimise, and rehabilitation condition.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within the adjacent existing gravel extraction area within 12 months of clearing to ensure fauna habitat is not permanently lost.

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

Assessment

A vertebrate fauna survey was undertaken over the application area by Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (2015) in May 2015. The survey identified five broad fauna habitats within the application area (see Appendix A.1). A monitoring program for the Pilbara Olive Python was developed by Biota Environmental Sciences and Helix Molecular Solutions (2024) for Western Ridge, Ophthalmia Dam and Millstream over six sampling phases between January 2022 and February 2023. The following conservation significant fauna species may occur within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015; Biota & Helix, 2024; GIS Database):

Reptiles

- Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*)
- Gane's blind snake (Pilbara) (*Anilius ganei*)

Birds

- Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)
- Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
- Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)
- Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)
- Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
- Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- Long-toed stint (*Calidris subminuta*)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Oriental plover (*Charadrius veredus*)
- Rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) is a dull olive-brown/pale fawn python growing to 2.5 metres known only from ranges within the Pilbara region (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). It is known to occur at 21 locations within the Pilbara including nearby the application area (Biota & Helix, 2024). The species prefers deep gorges and water holes, usually in close proximity to water and rock outcrops (Swan, 2007). Higher mobility can be observed during warmer months, while cooler months are spent hiding in caves and rock crevices away from water sources (Swan, 2007). The proponent has removed areas of significant habitat for the python from the amendment application (BHP, 2025a). A monitoring program developed for the Pilbara Olive Python by Biota Environmental Sciences and Helix Molecular Solutions (2024) has been implemented across the application area.

Gane's blind snake (Pilbara) (*Anilius ganei*) is a flat-headed snake endemic to the Pilbara, often found in moist gorges, gullies and sometimes other stony habitats (Onshore Environmental, 2015). The conservation significant species feeds on termites and their eggs and is rarely encountered due to its cryptic fossorial habitat (Onshore Environmental, 2015). This species could potentially occur within the mulga, stony plain and sand plain habitats of the application area, however it is unlikely to be reliant on these habitats particularly as its preferred habitat is not present within the application area.

While the application area contains some potentially suitable habitat for several bird species, it is unlikely these species will be significantly impacted at a regional level. There is extensive suitable habitat for these bird species within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) and it is unlikely that any of the species are reliant on the habitat within the area proposed to be cleared for their survival.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on Pilbara olive python can be managed by implementing the monitoring program developed by Biota & Helix (2024) be managed to be environmentally acceptable.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to Pilbara Olive Python and its habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- vegetation management (avoid riparian vegetation); and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within the adjacent existing gravel extraction area within 12 months of clearing to ensure fauna habitat is not permanently lost.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

There is one native title claim (WCD2018/008 - Niyaparli and Niyaparli #3) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. 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, 2026). 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 Pilbara Olive Python, which is a protected matter 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. 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 vegetation of the Gascoyne IBRA bioregion. The proposed clearing area is part of the existing Orebody 31 to Ophthalmia Dam Pipeline project (BHP, 2025b).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any DBCA legislated conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve located approximately 70 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Onshore Environmental during October 2015. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015): • Eucalyptus Woodland – Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus victrix</i> over Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia citrinoviridis</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> over High Open Shrubland of <i>Melaleuca glomerata</i> and <i>Acacia pyrifolia</i> on medium drainage line; • Acacia Low Open Forest – Low Open Forest of <i>Acacia citrinoviridis</i>, <i>Acacia coriacea</i> subsp. <i>pendens</i> and <i>Eucalyptus victrix</i> over Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>, <i>Eulalia aurea</i> and <i>Aristida holathera</i> var. <i>holathera</i> with Very Open Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia pungens</i> on medium drainage lines; • Acacia Low Woodland – Low Woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>Acacia paraneura</i> and <i>Corymbia aspera</i> over Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida inaequiglumis</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i> with Low Open Shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Eremophila lanceolata</i> on sandy loam plains; • Sclerolaena Low Shrubland – Low Shrubland of <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i>, <i>Sclerolaena costata</i> and <i>Streptoglossa odora</i> over Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida inaequiglumis</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Enteropogon ramosus</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>Acacia paraneura</i> and <i>Hakea lorea</i> subsp. <i>lorea</i> on plains; • Triodia Hummock Grassland – Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> with High Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and Low Open Shrubland of <i>Scaevola parvifolia</i>, <i>Sida cardiophylla</i> and <i>Ptilotus astrolasius</i> on sand plains.; • Triodia Open Hummock Grassland – Open Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> over Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida inaequiglumis</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> on sandy stony plains; • Chrysopogon Closed Tussock Grassland – Closed Tussock Grassland of <i>Chrysopogon fallax</i>, <i>Aristida inaequiglumis</i> and <i>Digitaria ammophila</i> with Low Open Forest of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Corymbia aspera</i> and Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> in broad drainage line; • Elytrophorus Tussock Grassland – Tussock Grassland of <i>Elytrophorus spicatus</i> over Sedges of <i>Schoenoplectus dissachanthus</i> (3 <i>merous</i> variant) and <i>Schoenoplectus laevis</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> on wet fringe of lake bed; • Aristida Open Tussock Grassland – Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida inaequiglumis</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Eulalia aurea</i> with Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> and Very Open Hummock Grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on plains; and • Gnephosis Herbs – Herbs of <i>Myriocephalus rudallii</i>, <i>Alternanthera nodiflora</i> and <i>Goodenia lamprosperma</i> with Low Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> and Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Eragrostis kennedyae</i> and <i>Eragrostis tenellula</i> on drainage zone. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in Very Good, Good, and Poor condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with an annual average rainfall of 323.8 millimetres (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The majority of rainfall is derived from tropical storms and cyclones during summer, producing sporadic, heavy rainfalls over the area (BHP, 2025b).

Characteristic	Details		
Soil description	The soil is mapped as, in the majority, red deep sandy duplex, loamy duplex, and stony soil (DPIRD, 2026). There are extensive flats and gently sloping plains, which sometimes have a surface cover of gravels and on which red-brown hardpan frequently outcrops (BHP, 2025b).		
Land degradation risk	The application area lies within the Divide, McKay and Washplain land systems (GIS Database). These systems have been mapped and described as (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004):		
	Land system	Description	Degradation and erosion risk
	Divide land system	Sandplains and occasional dunes supporting shrubby hard spinifex grasslands.	Some susceptibility to wind erosion.
	McKay land system	Hills, ridges, plateaux remnants and breakaways of meta sedimentary and sedimentary rocks supporting hard spinifex grasslands.	Not prone to degradation or erosion.
	Washplain land system	Hardpan plains and internal drainage tracts supporting mulga shrublands and woodlands (and occasionally eucalypt woodlands).	Low susceptibility to erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and indicates that two minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared. The watercourses flow away from a non-perennial connector watercourse towards the east (GIS Database).		
Hydrogeography	The application area is within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (Newman Water Reserve). The application area is located within the Pilbara Ground Water Area and Pilbara Surface Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). There is one main aquifer within the application area (Hamersley – Fractured Rock Aquifer) (BHP, 2025b). There are two surface water features within the application area: Shovelanna Creek (non-perennial), and the Ophthalmia Dam. The groundwater salinity is mapped as 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as potable water (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).		
Flora	There are 33 conservation significant flora species located within 50 kilometres of the application area (See Appendix A.3) (GIS Database). No Threatened flora is likely to occur within the application area nor the local surrounds (50 kilometres) (Onshore Environmental, 2015).		
Ecological communities	The biological survey did not record any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015; GIS Database). The Ethel Gorge aquifer stygobiont community TEC is located approximately 2 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). This TEC is associated with subterranean biota occurring in the groundwater aquifer. It is note that the small scale of clearing relating to this amendment is unlikely to impact on the maintenance of the TEC (BHP, 2025b).		
Fauna	There is one conservation significant fauna species within the application area (GIS Database). There are 29 records of conservation significant fauna that have been recorded within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) as detailed in Appendix A.4 (GIS Database).		
Fauna habitat	A consolidated report of regional fauna habitat mapping was undertaken by Biologic in May 2014. The report combines all available and relevant fauna habitat mapping into one consolidated regional dataset that provides consistency in naming across BHP Iron Ore Pilbara tenure. The following fauna habitats were noted to occur over the application area (Biologic, 2014; Onshore Environmental, 2015; BHP 2025b): • Mulga: This habitat includes woodlands and other ecosystems in which Mulga (<i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) is dominant, either as the principal acacia or mixed with others. It consists of disintegrating groves on stony soils with spinifex; • Stony Plain: These are erosional surfaces of gently undulating plains. Mainly support hard spinifex (and occasionally soft spinifex) with a mantle of gravel and pebbles. Within this habitat type there are small patches of sand; • Sand Plain: Sand Plain habitat is characterised by relatively deep sandy soils supporting dense spinifex grasslands and sparse shrubs. This habitat transitions into patches of Mulga in places; • Major Drainage Line: This habitat comprises mature River Red Gums and Coolibahs over temporary river pools. Open, sandy or gravelly riverbeds characterise this habitat		

Characteristic	Details
	type. In ungrazed areas, the vegetation adjacent to the main channel or channels is denser, taller and more diverse; and • Artificial Habitat – Dam: Ophthalmia Dam is one of the largest water bodies in the Pilbara and is a resource for the town of Newman. Leading up to the wet season, the water body generally reduces in size and is likely to no longer overlap the Application Area.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Gascoyne	18,075,219.48	18,067,441.44	99.96	1,855,508.22	10.27
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No.29	7,903,991.45	7,898,973.24	99.94	496,367.56	6.28
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No.29	3,802,459.63	3,799,635.88	99.93	297,087.90	7.81

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix E.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Ipomoea racemigera</i>	P3	Y	<5	23	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Gymnanthera cunninghamii</i>	P3	Y	<10	45	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Isotropis parviflora</i>	P3	N	<10	34	Unlikely
<i>Goodenia</i> sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727)	P3	N	<10	53	Unlikely
<i>Triodia</i> sp. Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739)	P3	N	<10	40	Unlikely
<i>Goodenia berringbinensis</i>	P4	Y	<10	33	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1 Red sandy loam drainage
<i>Eremophila youngii</i> subsp. <i>lepidota</i>	P3	Y	<15	50	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1 Red sandy loam floodplains
<i>Aristida jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i>	P3	Y	<15	49	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Eremophila naaykensis</i>	P3	N	<15	22	Unlikely
<i>Vittadinia</i> sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684)	P3	Y	<15	27	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Euphorbia inappendiculata</i> var. <i>inappendiculata</i>	P3	Y	<20	18	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Goodenia hartiana</i>	P2	N	<20	27	Unlikely
<i>Crotalaria smithiana</i>	P3	Y	<20	7	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Acacia corusca</i>	P1	Y	<20	12	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Swainsona thompsoniana</i>	P3	Y	<20	33	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Oxalis</i> sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725)	P3	N	<25	18	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila magnifica</i> subsp. <i>magnifica</i>	P4	N	<25	23	Unlikely
<i>Themeda</i> sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)	P3	Y	<25	61	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Lepidium catapycnon</i>	P4	N	<25	1	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila rigida</i>	P3	Y	<25	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Streptoglossa</i> sp. Cracking clays (S. van Leeuwen et al. PBS 7353)	P3	N	<30	13	Unlikely
<i>Indigofera gilesii</i>	P3	N	<30	40	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila capricornica</i>	P1	N	<30	18	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila magnifica</i> subsp. <i>velutina</i>	P3	N	<35	23	Unlikely
<i>Amaranthus centralis</i>	P3	N	<35	8	Unlikely
<i>Uvedalia clementii</i>	P1	Y	<35	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Gompholobium karjini</i>	P2	N	<40	43	Unlikely
<i>Acacia subtiliformis</i>	P3	N	<45	1	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila rhegos</i>	P1	N	<50	6	Unlikely
<i>Aristida lazardis</i>	P3	Y	<50	29	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Paranotis</i> sp. Pilbara (H. Ajduk HAOP04a)	P1	N	<50	7	Unlikely
<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708)	P2	Y	<50	38	Unlikely
<i>Sida</i> sp. Barlee Range (S. van Leeuwen 1642)	P4	N	<50	61	Unlikely

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

(WA Herbarium, 1998-)

A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within local surrounds (50 kilometres) of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (50 km)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i> (Pilbara olive python)	VU	Y	0	155	Possible – discussed in section 3.2.2
<i>Macroderma gigas</i> (ghost bat)	VU	N	<5	756	Unlikely
<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i> (Pilbara form) (Pilbara leaf-nosed bat)	VU	N	<5	829	Unlikely
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (gull-billed tern)	MI	N	<5	7	Unlikely
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (curlew sandpiper)	CR	Y	<5	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i> (red-necked stint)	MI	Y	<5	2	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (50 km)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> (Caspian tern)	MI	N	<5	3	Unlikely
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (glossy ibis)	MI	Y	<5	12	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (common sandpiper)	MI	Y	<5	19	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> (marsh sandpiper)	MI	N	<5	1	Unlikely
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (fork-tailed swift)	MI	Y	<5	1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Tringa glareola</i> (wood sandpiper)	MI	Y	<5	4	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (common greenshank)	MI	Y	<5	5	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Calidris acuminata</i> (sharp-tailed sandpiper)	MI	Y	<5	7	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Calidris subminuta</i> (long-toed stint)	MI	Y	<5	3	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i> (western pebble-mound mouse)	P4	N	<5	170	Unlikely
<i>Anilius ganeii</i> (Gane's blind snake (Pilbara))	P1	Y	<5	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Dasycercus blythi</i> (brush-tailed mulgara)	P4	N	<10	22	Unlikely
<i>Ctenopus uber johnstonei</i> (spotted ctenopus (northeast))	P2	N	<10	1	Unlikely
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i> (bilby, dalgyte)	VU	N	<15	10	Unlikely
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i> (black-flanked rock-wallaby, black-footed rock-wallaby)	EN	N	<15	4	Unlikely
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	<20	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Charadrius veredus</i> (oriental plover)	MI	Y	<20	2	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Calidris melanotos</i> (pectoral sandpiper)	MI	N	<20	1	Unlikely
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> (night parrot)	CR	N	<25	1	Unlikely
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (common redshank)	MI	N	<25	1	Unlikely
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> (northern quoll)	EN	N	<30	7	Unlikely
<i>Antechinomys longicaudatus</i> (long-tailed dunnart)	P4	N	<45	5	Unlikely
<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i> (princess parrot)	P4	N	<45	2	Unlikely
<i>Dasycercus cristicauda</i> (crest-tailed mulgara)	P4	N	<50	1	Unlikely

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

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

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared may contain habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant flora.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is not likely to contain significant habitat for the maintenance of fauna.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Onshore Environmental, 2015; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database). Previous versions of the permit have intersected with the buffer area of the 'Ethel Gorge Aquifer Stygobiont Community' TEC however, due to revisions of the proposed area to be cleared, the application area no longer intersects this area (GIS Database). BHP (2025b) have previously noted that it is unlikely that the small scale clearing of 20 hectares will impact on groundwater ecosystems of the nearby subterranean biota. Taking into consideration the revisions of the amendment application area, as well as the small scale clearing of 20 hectares in relation to the stygobiont community, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the maintenance of the 'Ethel Gorge Aquifer Stygobiont Community' (TEC).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Gascoyne Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Gascoyne Bioregion (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 (GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area is located east of Ophthalmia Dam, an artificial waterbody constructed for the purpose of town water and mining water supply (BHP, 2025b). The application area intersects with Shovelanna Creek, a minor, non-perennial watercourse (GIS Database).	At variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Impacts to riparian vegetation, as defined within the permit, may be minimised through the continued implementation of a vegetation management condition.		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area is mapped as the Washplain, McKay, and Divide land system (DPIRD, 2026). The Divide land system has some susceptibility to wind erosion as a result of its features, described as sandplains and occasional dunes supporting shrubby hard spinifex grasslands (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The landforms and soils within the application area and local surrounds are described as extensive flat and gently sloping plains, which sometimes have a surface cover of gravels and on which red brown hardpan frequently outcrops (Northcote et al., 1960-68). The dominant soils are shallow, earthy loams which are not susceptible to erosion (Northcote et al., 1960-68). Potential impacts to land degradation can be minimised and managed through the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area is within the Newman Water Reserve Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). Provided BHP carries out the clearing maintenance activities in line with its supporting information and commitments, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the water resources (DWER, 2026). Due to the current levels of groundwater salinity in the application area it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would result in all incremental increase in groundwater salinity, nor cause deterioration in the quality of the groundwater. As a result, significant impacts to surface water and underground water are considered unlikely.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Annual total rainfall for the nearest weather station is located at Newman Aero which receives an annual average rainfall of 323.8 millimetres (BoM, 2026). The total average annual evaporation for the area is 3,200 to 3,600 millimetres, suggesting a low risk of flooding (Commonwealth of Australia, 2006). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 6834/2)	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation

The following photographs represent the dominant vegetation communities in the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015).



Figure 1. *Eucalyptus* Woodland



Figure 2. *Acacia* Low Open Forest



Figure 3. *Acacia* Low Woodland



Figure 4. *Sclerolaena* Low Shrubland



Figure 5. *Triodia* Hummock Grassland



Figure 6. *Triodia* Open Hummock Grassland



Figure 7. *Chrysopogon* Closed Tussock Grassland



Figure 8. *Elytrophorus* Tussock Grassland



Figure 9. *Aristida* Open Tussock Grassland



Figure 10. *Gnephosis* Herbs

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- 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)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- 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, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

E.2. References

- BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2025a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 6834/3, received 20 October 2025.
- BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2025b) Application to Amend NVCP CPS 6834/2 Orebody 31 to Ophthalmia Dam Pipeline Supporting Document, October 2025.
- Biologic (2014) Consolidation of Regional Fauna Habitat Mapping BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pilbara Tenure. Unpublished report prepared by Biologic for BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd, May 2014.
- Biota Environmental Sciences and Helix Molecular Solutions (Biota & Helix) (2024) Pilbara Olive Python Monitoring – Western Ridge, Ophthalmia Dam and Millstream: 2022-2023. Unpublished report prepared by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd and Helix Molecular Solutions Pty Ltd for BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd by, May 2024.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Newman Aero (Number 7176). Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 8 April 2026).
- Conservation and Land Management (CALM) (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2006) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Average Evaporation, Evaporation: Average Monthly & Annual Evaporation. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://www.bom.gov.au/watl/evaporation/> (Accessed 10 December 2025).
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- 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 Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) (2021) Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 6834/2. Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, February 2021.

- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dph.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 8 April 2026).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) 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 8 April 2026).
- 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>
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2026) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6834/3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia, April 2026.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004a) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56, June 2004.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.
- 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>
- 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.
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- Western Australian Herbarium (WA Herbarium) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 6 May 2026).

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.