



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	7318/3
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Carnegie Gold Pty Ltd
<b>Application received:</b>	22 August 2025
<b>Application area:</b>	90 hectares
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral production and associated infrastructure
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical removal
<b>Tenure:</b>	Mining Lease 30/255
<b>Location (LGA area):</b>	Shire of Menzies
<b>Colloquial name:</b>	Davyhurst Gold Project

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Carnegie Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 90 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 224 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 50 kilometres southwest of Menzies, within the Shire of Menzies.

Clearing permit CPS 7318/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 8 December 2016 and was valid from 31 December 2016 to 31 December 2021. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 224 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure.

CPS 7318/2 was granted on 23 December 2021, amending the permit to update the tenure listed on the permit and to extend the permit duration. The permit boundary and area authorised to clear remained unchanged.

On 22 August 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 7318/2 to increase the area authorised to clear from 50 hectares to 90 hectares (increase of 40 hectares). The permit boundary remains unchanged. The amendment application was revised to also include extending the permit duration by five years, to 31 December 2031.

The amendment application is to allow for the expansion and construction of support infrastructure located within the processing and administration hub (the application area), including the expansion of the core farm, administration buildings, Davyhurst village, and plant facilities (Carnegie Gold Pty Ltd, 2025).

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 31 July 2025), a total of 49.3 hectares of native vegetation has been cleared under the permit (Ora Banda Mining Ltd, 2025).

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

<b>Decision:</b>	Grant
<b>Decision date:</b>	17 March 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	90 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit amendment 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 21 days, then readvertised for 7 days, and one submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of biodiversity surveys, 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:  
CPS 7318/3

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values
- land degradation in the form of water erosion and sedimentation
- loss of habitat that has not been surveyed for arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*)
- loss of habitat that has not been surveyed for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*)
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

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
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- commence construction no later than three (3) months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion
- Fauna management – malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
  - where clearing occurs between 1 September and 31 January, the permit holder must engage an environmental specialist to conduct an inspection to identify active (in use) malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds, within two weeks of any clearing
  - where an active (in use) malleefowl mound is identified, a 200 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared that have previously been unsurveyed, to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared that have previously been unsurveyed, to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 7318/2, except in the case of:

- Principle (a): changed from not likely to be at variance to may be at variance
- Principle (b): changed from may be at variance to at variance
- Principle (g): changed from may be at variance to at variance

Arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*), inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*), and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) are further considered under principles (a) and (b). Land degradation is further considered under principle (g).

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to increase the area authorised to clear by 40 hectares (from 50 hectares to 90 hectares), and extend the permit duration by five years is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values if appropriate conditions are implemented.

## 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)
- *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 Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (EPA, 2004)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b)

### 3. Detailed assessment of application

#### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The proponent stated that the following avoidance and mitigation measures will be implemented to manage impacts (Carnegie Gold Pty Ltd, 2025):

- utilisation of existing cleared areas
- where feasible, placement of infrastructure in historically degraded mining and/or pastoral areas
- adopt progressive clearing practices as required for project development stages
- avoiding changes to drainage patterns and sheet flow areas
- controlling weed spread
- reducing impacts to soils by using best quality ground water during dust suppression
- controlling the clearing process by clearing in a direction towards vegetated areas
- only clearing areas that will be utilised within six months
- recovery and stockpiling of vegetation topsoil for habitat establishment and progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas during operations

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 changed for the following:

- principle (a): changed from not likely to be at variance to may be at variance
- principle (b): changed from may be at variance to at variance
- principle (g): changed from may be at variance to at variance

The assessments for CPS 7318/1 and 7318/2 did not consider arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) and inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*) or consider malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) in detail. As the application area contains suitable habitat for these species, and they were either not surveyed for or the whole permit boundary was not surveyed, the additional 40 hectares of clearing may have an impact on these species.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to increase the area authorised to clear by 40 hectares (from 50 hectares to 90 hectares) and extend the permit duration by five years is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values if appropriate conditions are implemented.

##### 3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

###### Assessment

No basic or detailed fauna surveys have been undertaken over the application area.

A targeted fauna survey was incorporated into the flora and vegetation survey conducted by JBBC (2025) to identify critical habitat for *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly, CR – BC Act and EPBC Act) and *Jalmenus aridus* (inland hairstreak butterfly, P2) and their host ants. This survey covered a total of approximately 9.2 hectares across three separate areas within the application area (approximately 0.2 hectares were outside the application area) (JBBC, 2025).

###### ***Ogyris petrina* – arid bronze azure butterfly CR (BC Act and EPBC Act)**

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) have a severely fragmented and restricted geographic distribution across two extant and one locally extinct subpopulation in Western Australia (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b; WABSI, 2022). They are known to have a complex dependency on the co-occurring sugar ant (*Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*) to complete their lifecycle, with ABAB larvae living

entirely in the sugar ant nests during their development (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b; WABSI, 2022). The application area is situated between the extant and extinct subpopulations (GIS Database).

The preferred habitat is described as mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b). At the two extant sites, other smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* species also support basal ant colonies (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b).

While approximately 9.2 hectares were surveyed for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* during the 2025 flora survey, the survey report only stated one smooth-bark *Eucalyptus* species was recorded within these areas (*Eucalyptus salubris*), however *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia* was also present (JBBC, 2025). While only *Eucalyptus salubris* was checked, no signs of *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* ant nests colonies were recorded during the survey; however, the broader application area was not surveyed (JBBC, 2025).

There is a potential for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* ants and ABAB to occur within the broader application area given the presence of suitable loamy soils and smooth-bark *Eucalyptus* woodlands (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia*, *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, and *Eucalyptus salubris*) recorded in these areas (Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025). Should clearing occur within the areas not already surveyed for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* or ABAB, a condition requiring further survey work for their presence will be implemented.

### **Jalmenus aridus – inland hairstreak butterfly P2**

The preferred habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly is open woodland with a mixture of young and mature *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubs, a variety of flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana*), some scattered taller vegetation and open areas of exposed, well-drained ground adjoining *Senna* host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). The inland hairstreak also has an obligate association with the ant *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023).

The original inland hairstreak butterfly record was discovered on an *Acacia tetragonophylla* tree, which are present within the application area (Borger, 2016; Eastwood et al., 2023; JBBC, 2025).

The application area contains open woodlands with tall vegetation, open shrublands, and low sparse shrubs with *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla*, and a variety of *Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana* species present which could potentially provide suitable habitat to host inland hairstreak butterfly populations (Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025).

While the survey over part of the application area did not find signs of the associated ant *Froggattella kirbii* or inland hairstreak butterfly, there is potential for the species to occur within the wider application area (JBBC, 2025). A condition requiring further survey work in the unsurveyed areas will be implemented should the applicant need to clear in these areas.

### **Leipoa ocellata – malleefowl VU (BC Act and EPBC Act)**

Malleefowl have regularly been sighted around the greater Davyhurst area since the mid-2000s (GIS Database). There have also been a number of observations from secondary signs, remote cameras, or dead individuals (GIS Database).

An individual malleefowl was observed approximately 615 metres from the application area on 11 December 2019 (BIOSTAT, 2020). Five long unused malleefowl mounds were also recorded between 31 October and 1 November 2019 within 90 to 950 metres from the application area (BIOSTAT, 2020). JBBC (2025) recorded one long unused malleefowl mound within the application area, in the E4 mulga open shrubland vegetation type.

The fauna habitats recorded immediately adjacent to the application area broadly align with the vegetation types recorded during flora and vegetation surveys within the application area (BIOSTAT, 2020; Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025). BIOSTAT (2020) stated that the fauna habitats recorded adjacent to the application area provide suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl due to the complex structures created by the presence of taller trees and shrublands. Malleefowl were considered highly likely to occur across all habitats recorded (BIOSTAT, 2020).

Given the application area contains suitable habitat for malleefowl and there have been a number of primary and secondary observations within and adjacent to the application area over the past 20 years, the likelihood that malleefowl may utilise the application area is high. The proposed clearing is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on malleefowl provided a fauna management condition is implemented during the malleefowl breeding season.

### Conclusion

The proposed clearing may result in direct impacts to arid bronze azure butterfly, inland hairstreak butterfly, and malleefowl, or their habitats.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to arid bronze azure butterfly and malleefowl, and their 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:

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- Fauna management – malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
  - where clearing occurs between 1 September and 31 January, the permit holder must engage an environmental specialist to conduct an inspection to identify active (in use) malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds, within two weeks of any clearing

- where an active (in use) malleefowl mound is identified, a 200 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared that have previously been unsurveyed, to be surveyed to identify potential 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 that have previously been unsurveyed, to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants

### 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was initially advertised on 7 October 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application, raising no objections. The amendment application was readvertised on 23 January 2026 as the amendment application was revised to include extending the permit duration by five years.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007 - Marlinyu Ghoorlie) 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 arid bronze azure butterfly and malleefowl, which are 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 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. Details of public submissions

### Summary of comments

The Shire of Menzies makes no comment in relation to this proposal.

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details																					
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is located within the extensive land use zone of Western Australia, within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion. It is located at the interzone of the Eastern Goldfield subregion of the Coolgardie bioregion. It is entirely surrounded by the Credo former pastoral lease and predominately surrounded by gold mining operations (GIS Database).</p> <p>Approximately 99% of the local area (50 kilometre radius from the area proposed to be cleared) remains uncleared (GIS Database).</p>																					
Ecological linkage	The application area is not considered an ecological linkage, as the majority of the surrounding vegetation remains uncleared (GIS Database).																					
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any legislated conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is Clear And Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve, located approximately 42 kilometres south-southeast of the application area (GIS Database).																					
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>468: Medium woodland; salmon gum &amp; goldfields blackbutt, and</p> <p>538: Shrublands; <i>Acacia brachystachya</i> scrub (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounds by Jennifer Borger during 11-15 June 2016. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Borger, 2016):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>CODE</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> <th>LANDFORM/SOILS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.1</td> <td><i>Acacia fuscaneura</i>, <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> and <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> and <i>Santalum spicatum</i> tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila eriocalyx</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> and <i>Marsdenia australis</i> (vines) open shrubland</td> <td>drainage line, reddish brown fine sandy clay loam to clay loam; gently sloping, almost level</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.2</td> <td><i>Eucalyptus salubris</i>, <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> mallee woodland over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i>, <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Acacia burkittii</i>, <i>Acacia colletioides</i>, <i>Santalum spicatum</i> and <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> tall shrubland over <i>Solanum nummularium</i> and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> low sparse shrubs and ferns</td> <td>reddish brown fine sandy clay loam to clay loam; 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CODE	DESCRIPTION	LANDFORM/SOILS																				
1.1	<i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> , <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> and <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> and <i>Santalum spicatum</i> tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila eriocalyx</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> and <i>Marsdenia australis</i> (vines) open shrubland	drainage line, reddish brown fine sandy clay loam to clay loam; gently sloping, almost level																				
1.2	<i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> , <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> mallee woodland over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> , <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> , <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Acacia colletioides</i> , <i>Santalum spicatum</i> and <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> tall shrubland over <i>Solanum nummularium</i> and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> low sparse shrubs and ferns	reddish brown fine sandy clay loam to clay loam; gently sloping, almost level																				
2	<i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> open mallee woodland to mallee woodland over <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> , <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>Grevillea juncifolia</i> , <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> subsp. <i>decipiens</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Eremophila interstans</i> , <i>Eremophila eriocalyx</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> open shrubland over <i>Prostanthera althoferi</i> subsp. <i>althoferi</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> low sparse shrubland	plain, reddish yellow sandy clay loam to clay loam																				
3	<i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> subsp. <i>salubris</i> low woodland over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> , <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> subsp. <i>spathulata</i> , <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>Sclerolaena</i> sp. low isolated shrubs and forbs	brown clay loam; gentle sloping plain																				
4	<i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> and <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> woodland over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Acacia prainii</i> , and <i>Marsdenia australis</i> (vines) open shrubland to shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Maireana triptera</i> low sparse shrubland	reddish brown clay loam, gently sloping plain																				
5	<i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> , <i>Casuarina pauper</i> low mallee woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Santalum spicatum</i> open shrubland over <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> subsp. <i>angustissima</i> , <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> shrubland over <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> ,																					

	<i>Olearia muelleri</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> , <i>Maireana trichoptera</i> low open shrubland over <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> isolated ferns to sparse fernland	
8	Isolated emergent pockets of <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> mallee over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> , <i>Phebalium canaliculatum</i> , <i>Prostanthera grylloana</i> , <i>Eremophila ericalyx</i> , <i>Acacia prainii</i> over <i>Triodia</i> sp. low open hummock grassland	plain, red sand to sandy loam
9.1	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> isolated trees to open woodland over <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> , <i>Santalum spicatum</i> , <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> tall open shrubland to isolated tall shrubs over <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> subsp. <i>spathulata</i> , <i>Atriplex bunburyana</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> , <i>Eremophila ionantha</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>x artemisioides</i> low open shrubland over <i>Keraudrenia integrifolia</i> , <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> isolated low shrubs over <i>Eriachne pulchella</i> isolated grass tussocks	low rise, mid to upper slope with granite/gneiss outcropping, gentle slope
9.2	<i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i> woodland over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Acacia erinacea</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> open shrubland	slope, moderate gradient, exposed granite/gneiss

A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted over approximately 9.2 hectares within the application area by Jenny Borger Botanical Consulting (JBBC) on 28 April 2025. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (JBBC, 2025):

CODE	DESCRIPTION	LANDFORM
E1	<i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> subsp. <i>oleosa</i> , <i>Casuarina pauper</i> , <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> tall mallee woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> open shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Olearia muelleri</i> isolated low shrubs	Ironstone plain, fine ironstone gravel surface rock 30-60%
E2	<i>Atriplex nummularia</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i> , <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Maireana georgei</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Maireana georgei</i> , <i>Leichhardtia australis</i> low open chenopod shrubland	Plain, minor drainage lines/depressions
E3	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> subsp. <i>oleosa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> woodland over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Eremophila clarkei</i> , <i>Casuarina pauper</i> , <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i> open shrubland over <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Roepera aurantiaca</i> subsp. <i>aurantiaca</i> , <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> low open shrubland	Plain, slight rise
E4	Mulga ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> , <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> , <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> ), <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Prostanthera althoferi</i> subsp. <i>althoferi</i> , <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i> , <i>Philotheca brucei</i> subsp. <i>brucei</i> shrubland over <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> , <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> , <i>Psyrdrax suaveolens</i> low isolated shrubs	Low rise on lateritic gravel
E5	<i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> isolated tree over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> isolated shrubs over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>Sclerolaena diacantha</i> , <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Maireana tomentosa</i> , <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low sparse shrubland	Crest of low rise, quartz rocky plain
E6	<i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> , <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> open forest in drainage lines	Drainage line/depression
E7	<i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> open woodland over <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Mt Jackson, <i>Santalum spicatum</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Mt Jackson, <i>Acacia erinacea</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> sparse shrubland on low rises	Low rise

Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in very good, good, poor, degraded, completely degraded (cleared) condition (Borger, 2026; JBBC, 2025; Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 248.8 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002a).  The application area is mapped at elevations of 460-470 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Landforms within the application area are broadly described as undulating hardpan or loamy plains and low rises (DPIRD, 2026; JBBC, 2025; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).

Soil description	The application area is predominately mapped within the Helag land system, which consists of the following soils: red-brown hardpan shallow loam, red loamy earth, and stony soil (DPIRD, 2026; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).
Land degradation risk	The Helag land system is subject to sheet flow, with central drainage tracts receiving concentrated run off. The land system is susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Diversion of sheetflow by tracks and gullies can initiate erosion and cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope (DPIRD, 2026; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).
Waterbodies	The application area is intersected by three branching minor, non-perennial watercourses that meet and flow into Papertalk Brook to the north (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is not within any legislated surface water area (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Menzies Water Reserve, located approximately 48 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).  The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 1,000-3,000 total dissolved solids milligrams per litre, which is described marginal to brackish saline water quality (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 29 conservation significant flora species within a 40 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). These consist of five priority 1, four priority 2, 17 priority 3, and three priority 4 flora species (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no known ecological communities within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest ecological community is the priority ecological community ' <i>Emu Land System</i> ' (P3), located approximately 20 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of 17 conservation significant fauna species within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). There are 11 bird, two invertebrate, three mammal, and one reptile species.  Seven of these species are listed as migratory, six priority, three threatened, and one other specially protected species (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	No fauna habitat assessment has been undertaken over the application area. Based on a fauna habitat assessment undertaken immediately adjacent to the application area and vegetation descriptions from surveys within the application area, the following fauna habitats were determined to be likely present (BIOSTAT, 2020; Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casuarina woodland</li> <li>• <i>Eucalyptus</i> mallee over shrubland</li> <li>• <i>Eucalyptus</i> mallee over spinifex</li> <li>• Tall <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland over shrubland</li> <li>• Shrubland</li> </ul>

**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 - Murchison	28,120,586	28,044,823	~99	2,185,987	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
468	592,022	583,902	~98	135,197	22.84
538	147,821	144,203	~97	50,114	33.90
Beard vegetation associations - Murchison bioregion					

468	8,632	8,509	~98	4,478	51.88
538	19,227	19,111	~99	15,378	79.98

Government of Western Australia (2019)

### B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within 40 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information, online databases, and available literature (Borger, 2016; Brockman & French, 2024; Hislop & Wege, 2020; JBBC, 2025; Nicolle & French, 2021; Rye, 2018; Short, 2016; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Scientific name	Conservation status	Closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood	Habitat suitability	Surveys adequate to identify [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. <i>variabilis</i>	P3	34	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Alyxia tetanifolia</i>	P3	39	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Apatelantha insignis</i>	P2	27	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Calytrix hislopii</i>	P3	16	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Elatine macrocalyx</i>	P3	37	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eleocharis papillosa</i>	P3	37	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eucalyptus educta</i>	P2	15	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eucalyptus formanii</i> subsp. <i>circulata</i>	P4	18	possible	some suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eutaxia nanophylla</i>	P3	33	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eutaxia rubricarina</i>	P3	29	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Goodenia berringbinensis</i>	P4	20	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Grevillea georgeana</i>	P3	15	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>	P3	18	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> subsp. <i>cometes</i>	P3	7	possible	some suitable habitat	Y
<i>Malleostemon</i> sp. <i>Adelong</i> (G.J. Keighery 11825)	P2	37	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Menkea draboides</i>	P3	22	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Notisia intonsa</i>	P3	21	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Phebalium brachycalyx</i>	P3	37	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Philotheca coateana</i>	P3	39	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Pterostylis arida</i>	P3	32	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Pterostylis elegantissima</i>	P1	18	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Pterostylis virens</i>	P3	17	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Pterostylis xerampelina</i>	P1	19	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Ptilotus procumbens</i>	P1	17	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Ricinocarpus digynus</i>	P1	37	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Stackhousia muricata</i> subsp. <i>Perennial</i> (W.R. Barker 3641)	P3	39	unlikely	limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Thysanotus brachyantherus</i>	P2	35	unlikely	no suitable habitat, potentially georeferencing error	Y
<i>Wurmbea murchisoniana</i>	P4	20	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Xanthoparmelia subbarbatia</i>	P1	39	unlikely	no suitable habitat	Y

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

### B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have records within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information, online

databases, and available literature (BIOSTAT, 2020; Borger, 2016; Cogger, 2014; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Debus & Davies, 2019; Debus & Whelan, 2022; DBCA, 2020a; DBCA, 2020b; DCCEE, 2024a; DCCEE, 2024b; CALM, 2002b; DEC, 2012; Garnett & Baker, 2021; JBCC, 2025; Maryan, 2002; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; WABSI, 2022; GIS Database).

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status		Closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood	Habitat suitability	Surveys adequate to identify [Y, N, N/A]
		WA	EPBC				
<b>BIRD</b>							
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common sandpiper	MI	MI	46	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	MI	MI	27	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	MI	VU & MI	46	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	hooded plover, hooded dotterel	P4		23	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	oriental plover	MI	MI	48	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS		16	possible	some suitable habitat present, but unlikely to be reliant upon habitat within the application area	N
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	malleefowl	VU	VU	5	likely	suitable habitat present	Y
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	blue-billed duck	P4		43	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	MI	MI	47	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	wood sandpiper	MI	MI	44	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	MI	EN & MI	46	unlikely	no suitable habitat present	N
<b>INVERTEBRATE</b>							
<i>Jalmenus aridus</i>	inland hairstreak	P2		47	possible	suitable habitat present	Y
<i>Ogyris petrina</i>	arid bronze azure butterfly	CR	CR	47	possible	suitable habitat present	Y
<b>MAMMAL</b>							
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	chuditch, western quoll	VU	VU	28	possible	some suitable habitat, but unlikely to be present as the nearest record is from an uncertain secondary sign	N
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	central long-eared bat	P3		36	possible	suitable habitat present, however tends to be found closer to the edge of the wheatbelt or around salt lakes further inland. Preferred habitat is widespread	N
<i>Pseudomys occidentalis</i>	western mouse	P4		33	unlikely	outside known range	N
<b>REPTILE</b>							
<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> (southwest subpopulation)	woma (southwest subpopulation)	P1		49	unlikely	limited suitable habitat present, the nearest record is from the 1960s, and the application area is at the edge of the southwest subpopulation range	N

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?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally significant flora habitat, flora, or assemblages of plants, however it does contain suitable habitat for a number of conservation significant fauna species.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>changed from CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</p>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	<p>At variance</p> <p>changed from CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</p>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for a number of conservation significant fauna species.</p>		
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There is one record of threatened flora species <i>Myriophyllum lapidicola</i> (EN) within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). This species is an aquatic herb and is therefore unlikely to occur within the application area due to the absence of permanent watercourses or wetlands, or major non-perennial watercourses or wetlands (WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).</p> <p>The flora and vegetation surveys of various parts of the application area and surrounds did not identify any species of threatened flora or habitats that may support threatened flora (Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance <i>as per CPS 7318/2</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known BC Act or EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is the EPBC Act listed ‘<i>Salmon Gum Woodlands of the wheatbelt</i>’ ecological community (CR), located approximately 200 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>Flora and vegetation, and fauna surveys of the application area and surrounds did not record any assemblages of flora, fauna, or microorganisms that would be representative of a TEC (BIOSTAT, 2020; Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance <i>as per CPS 7318/2</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b></p>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Murchison bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Murchison bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p> <p>The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum &amp; goldfields blackbutt; and 538: Shrublands; <i>Acacia brachystachya</i> scrub (GIS Database). Approximately 97-99% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p> <p>The application area is not representative of a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p>	<p>Not at variance <i>as per CPS 7318/2</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is not located within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is Clear And Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve, located approximately 42 kilometres south-southeast of the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance to Clear And Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance <i>as per CPS 7318/2</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b></p>		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><b>Principle (f):</b> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is intersected by three branching minor, non-perennial watercourses that meet and flow into Papertalk Brook to the north (GIS Database). Flora and vegetation surveys did not identify any vegetation types unique to these watercourses (Borger, 2016; JBBC, 2025).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Principle (g):</b> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The Helag land system is susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2026; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell &amp; Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). Diversion of sheet flow by tracks and gullies can also initiate erosion and cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope (DPIRD, 2026; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell &amp; Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).</p> <p>Borger (2016) observed sheet and gully erosion, and sedimentation within the application area.</p> <p>Potential erosion as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition, however the purpose for which the clearing is authorised will be altered to three months due to noticeable erosion present.</p>	<p>At variance</p> <p>changed from CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Principle (i):</b> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent watercourses or wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within or within close proximity to the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Principle (j):</b> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Sheet flow occurs for short periods after heavy storms or after persistent low intensity rainfall events throughout the Eastern Murchison and Eastern Goldfield subregions (Carnegie Gold Pty Ltd, 2025). The application area is located at a slight elevation compared to surrounding areas and there are no permanent watercourses present (GIS Database). The broad landform descriptions of the application area (gentle slopes and low rises) and topographic contours indicate that water flow is unlikely to stagnate and cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding (DPIRD, 2026; JBBC, 2025; Pringle et al., 1994; Waddell &amp; Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>as per CPS 7318/2</p>	<p>No</p>

**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 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.

Condition	Description
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 E. Sources of information

### E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- 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)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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## Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEMIRS</b>	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)

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

### Definitions:

**DBCAs (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.