



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7555/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Billabong Gold Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease M52/149
Mining Lease M52/150
Mining Lease M52/309
Mining Lease M52/685
Mining Lease M52/797
Miscellaneous Licence 52/116
Miscellaneous Licence 52/164
Miscellaneous Licence 52/165
Miscellaneous Licence 52/166

Local Government Area: Shire of Meekatharra

Colloquial name: Hermes Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
525.21		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 April 2019

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. The clearing permit application area has been broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database):

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and
29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups.

A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over part of the application area by MMWC (2016) during 30 November to 3 December 2015. A total of 4 vegetation communities were identified within M 52/685:

Stony Plain

PL1 - High open shrubland of *Acacia pteraneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over scattered shrubs of *Eremophila longifolia*, *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Eremophila maculata* subsp. *brevifolia* (Majority of the survey area).

Clay Flat

PL2 - Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia pteraneura* over shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Eremophila spectabilis* subsp. *spectabilis* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* over scattered herbs of *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* and **Bidens bipinnata* (2% of survey area).

Creepline

CR1 - Woodland of *Acacia cyperophylla* var. *cyperophylla* and *Corymbia candida* subsp. *dipsodes* over high open shrubland of *Acacia craspedocarpa*, *Acacia kempeana* and *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Ptilotus obovatus* over open grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Tripogon loliiformis* and *Monachather paradoxus* (4% of survey area); and

CR2 - Low woodland of *Acacia pteraneura* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over high open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Keraudrenia velutina* subsp. *elliptica* over very open grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Tripogon loliiformis* (1% of survey area).

A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over the haul road by Matiske (2016b) from 18 to 21 January 2016. A total of ten vegetation communities were identified:

Scrub/Thickets/Shrublands

S1 - Scrub to thicket of *Acacia aneura* complex with occasional *Acacia ?pruinocarpa* and *Grevillea ?berryana* over *Senna ?glaucofolia*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* on red-brown-orange sandy clay flats and undulating plains with quartz and ironstone pebbles;

S2 - Open scrub of *Acacia aneura* complex over *Eremophila ?jucunda*, *Eremophila galeata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* and *Senna ?glaucofolia* on red to orange sandy clay flats;

S3 - Open scrub to scrub of *Acacia aneura* complex and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over *Eremophila galeata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and *Senna ?glaucofolia* over *Eriachne ?benthamii* on red to orange sandy clay and clay flats and washout areas;

S4 - Open low shrubland of *Eremophila galeata*, *Solanum lasiophyllum* and *Senna ?glaucofolia* with occasional emergent *Acacia aneura* complex over Poaceae sp. and *Sclerolaena eurotioides* on red-brown-orange sandy clay flats with quartz and ironstone pebbles;

S5 - Open scrub of *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* and *Acacia aneura* complex over *Solanum lasiophyllum* and *Senna ?sp.* Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) over Poaceae sp. and *Sclerolaena cuneata* on red to orange sandy clay flats;

S6 - Scrub of *Acacia aneura* complex, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Psyrax latifolia* over *Eremophila forrestii*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* over *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* on red-orange sandy clay soils along drainage lines;

S7 - Open scrub of *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* over *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Eremophea spinosa* and *?Enneapogon* sp. on red-orange clay flats;

S8 - Thicket of *Melaleuca glomerata* over *Enteropogon ramosus*, *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* and *Pluchea rubelliflora* on red sandy clay in washout creeks; and

S9 - Open scrub of *Acacia cuspidifolia*, *Acacia aneura* complex and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over *Eremophila ?phyllopoda*, *Enchylaena tomentosa* var. *tomentosa*, *Rhagodia eremaea* and *Tecticornia ?disarticulata* over *Sclerolaena cuneata* on red-brown sandy clay soils with quartz and ironstone pebbles on low rises.

Woodlands

W1 - Low woodland of *Acacia cyperophylla* var. *cyperophylla* and *Corymbia candida* subsp. *dipsodes* over *Acacia tetragonophylla* over *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi*, *Themeda triandra* and *Eriachne* sp. on red-orange-brown gravelly, clayey sand along larger drainage lines and creeks.

Clearing Description

Hermes Gold Project.

Billabong Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 525.21 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 587.213 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 17.5 kilometres north-east of Peak Hill, in the Shire of Meekatharra.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);

to:

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

Comment

The vegetation conditions were described using a scale based on Trudgen (1988) and has been converted to the corresponding conditions from the Keighery (1994) scale.

Clearing permit CPS 7555/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) on 8 June 2017. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of up to 428.51 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 489.68 hectares for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

Billabong Gold Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 7555/1 for the purpose of increasing the permit boundary to 587.213 hectares and the amount of approved clearing to 525.21 hectares.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The application area occurs within the Augustus subregion of the Gascoyne Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by Mulga woodland with *Triodia* occurring on shallow stony loams on rises, while the shallow earthy loams over hardpan on the plains are covered by Mulga parkland (CALM, 2002).

A flora and vegetation assessment of the survey area identified 76 species of flora from 42 genera and 21 families (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019). Of these 76 species, none represent conservation significant species (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019). Species composition and vegetation types within the application area are typical of the local region and not considered to be unusually diverse (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019; MMWC, 2016). The area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be remnant vegetation and areas have been disturbed by historical exploration activities (GIS Database).

A search of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's (now the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) Threatened and Priority Flora database revealed no records of Threatened Flora or Priority Flora species within a 5 kilometre radius of the application area (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019; GIS Database). Based on habitat type within the amendment area, it is unlikely that any Threatened flora species would occur within the amendment area (GIS Database). No Threatened or Priority Flora species, Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified within the amended application area (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019; MMWC, 2016).

There were two weed species identified by MMWC (2016) (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by maintaining the current weed management condition.

The faunal habitat types recorded within the amendment application area are considered to be common and widespread within the subregion and faunal assemblages are unlikely to be different to those found in similar habitat located elsewhere in the region (Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, 2019; MMWC, 2016; GIS Database)

MMWC (2016) found that the Stone Plain and Riverine habitats were the most extensive over the application area. Riparian vegetation within the Riverine habitat may provide important habitat for fauna, as the vegetation can provide faunal habitat of a moderate range of microhabitats with logs, leaf litter and tree hollows (GIS Database). Provided disturbance to riparian habitats is avoided or minimised where possible, and strict weed hygiene procedures are followed, the proposed works are not expected to substantially impact this vegetation association. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised by maintaining the current vegetation management condition.

According to the available datasets the amendment area intersects the Beasley, Durlacher, and Phillips land systems (GIS Database).

The Beasley land system consists of low ridges, hills and lateritised residuals above stony footslopes and broad, stony lower plains, which support scattered mulga and snakewood-dominated shrublands. This land system is mostly resistant to erosion, however minor erosion is possible on drainage tracts (Hennig et al., 1994).

The Durlacher land system consists of stony plains, lower tributary drainage plains and low stony rises, which support scattered tall shrublands of mulga and other Acacias. In some areas pasture degradation has led to serious erosion by sheeting and gullyng (Payne et al., 1987).

The Phillips land system consists of low hills and undulating uplands of crystalline rocks supporting mulga and other acacia-dominated tall shrublands. This land system is susceptible to erosion (Payne et al., 1987).

The amendment application area has an annual average evaporation rate that highly exceeds the annual average rainfall (BoM, 2019). Based on this information, surface flows during normal rainfall events are likely to be short lived and recharge to groundwater would be considered minimal. This would reduce the likelihood of salinity increasing as a result of the proposed clearing.

The amendment application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the proclaimed East Murchison groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water.

The amendment application area has a groundwater salinity that is marginal (500 to 1,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved solids (TDS) (GIS Database). With high annual evaporation rates and low annual rainfall, there is little recharge into regional groundwater. The proposed clearing is unlikely to further deteriorate the quality of underground water (GIS Database).

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 7555/1.

Methodology Billabong Gold Pty Ltd (2019)
BoM (2019)
CALM (2002)
MMWC (2016)
Payne et al. (1987)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes

- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Soils, Statewide
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

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

Comments

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal / determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are several registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2019). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The amendment application was advertised on 11 March 2019 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2019)

4. References

- BoM (2019) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Three Rivers, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_007080.shtml (Accessed 8 April 2019).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- Billabong Gold Pty Ltd (2019) Hermes Mining Area Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment. Supporting Information for Clearing Permit CPS 7555/2 prepared for Billabong Gold Pty Ltd by MMWC Environmental Pty Ltd, 2019.
- DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 8 April 2019).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- MMWC (2016) Hermes Mining Area Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Northern Star Resources Ltd, by MMWC Environmental Pty Ltd, March 2016.
- Payne, A.L., Curry, P.J. and Spencer, G.F. (1987) An Inventory and Condition Survey of Rangelands in the Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia

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

Definitions:

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

T Threatened species:

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

EN Endangered species

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

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

VU Vulnerable species

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

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

EX Extinct species
Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).
Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

EW Extinct in the wild species
Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).
Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

Specially protected species:

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

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

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

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

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

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

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

OS Other specially protected species
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

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

P Priority species:
Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

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

P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

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

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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