

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	7914/5
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	IGO Cosmos Pty Ltd
Application received:	26 May 2026
Application area:	180 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production and Associated Activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 36/127, 36/180, 36/212, 36/349, 36/371, 36/659 Miscellaneous Licence 36/159, 36/189
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Leonora
Colloquial name:	Cosmos Nickel Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

IGO Cosmos Pty Ltd (IGO) (2026a) proposes to clear up to 180 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,401.665 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 33 kilometres northwest of Leinster, within the Shire of Leonora.

Clearing permit CPS 7914/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 8 February 2018 and was valid from 3 March 2018 to 28 February 2023. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 77 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 917 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

CPS 7914/2 was granted on 2 August 2018, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 157 hectares, and increase the permit boundary to approximately 1,136 hectares.

CPS 7914/3 was granted on 4 August 2022, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 180 hectares, increase the permit boundary to approximately 1,155.22 hectares, extend the permit duration by four years, and add tenure.

CPS 7914/4 was granted on 28 March 2023, amending the permit to increase the permit boundary to approximately 1,401.665 hectares; no change to overall authorised clearing area.

On 26 May 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 7914/4 to extend the duration of the permit by five years and to change the permit holder name from Australian Nickel Investments Pty Ltd to IGO Cosmos Pty Ltd (IGO, 2026a). No change to the overall approved clearing area and the permit boundary is required (IGO, 2026a). Clearing undertaken to date is 100.382 hectares out of the allowed 180 hectares (IGO, 2026b). No clearing was undertaken during the 2025-2026 financial year (IGO, 2026b).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	24 September 2026
Decision area:	180 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), 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:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential impact to suitable habitat for malleefowl; and
- potential impact to riparian vegetation.

After consideration of the available information, 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 conditions currently imposed on clearing permit CPS 7914/4 are considered adequate to manage the impacts of clearing:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds; and
- watercourse management condition to reduce the impacts to riparian vegetation.

The assessment has changed since the assessment for CPS 7914/4. The level of variance for Principle (b) has also changed from the previous permit. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension to the permit duration by five years and change in permit holder name is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

1.5. Site map

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

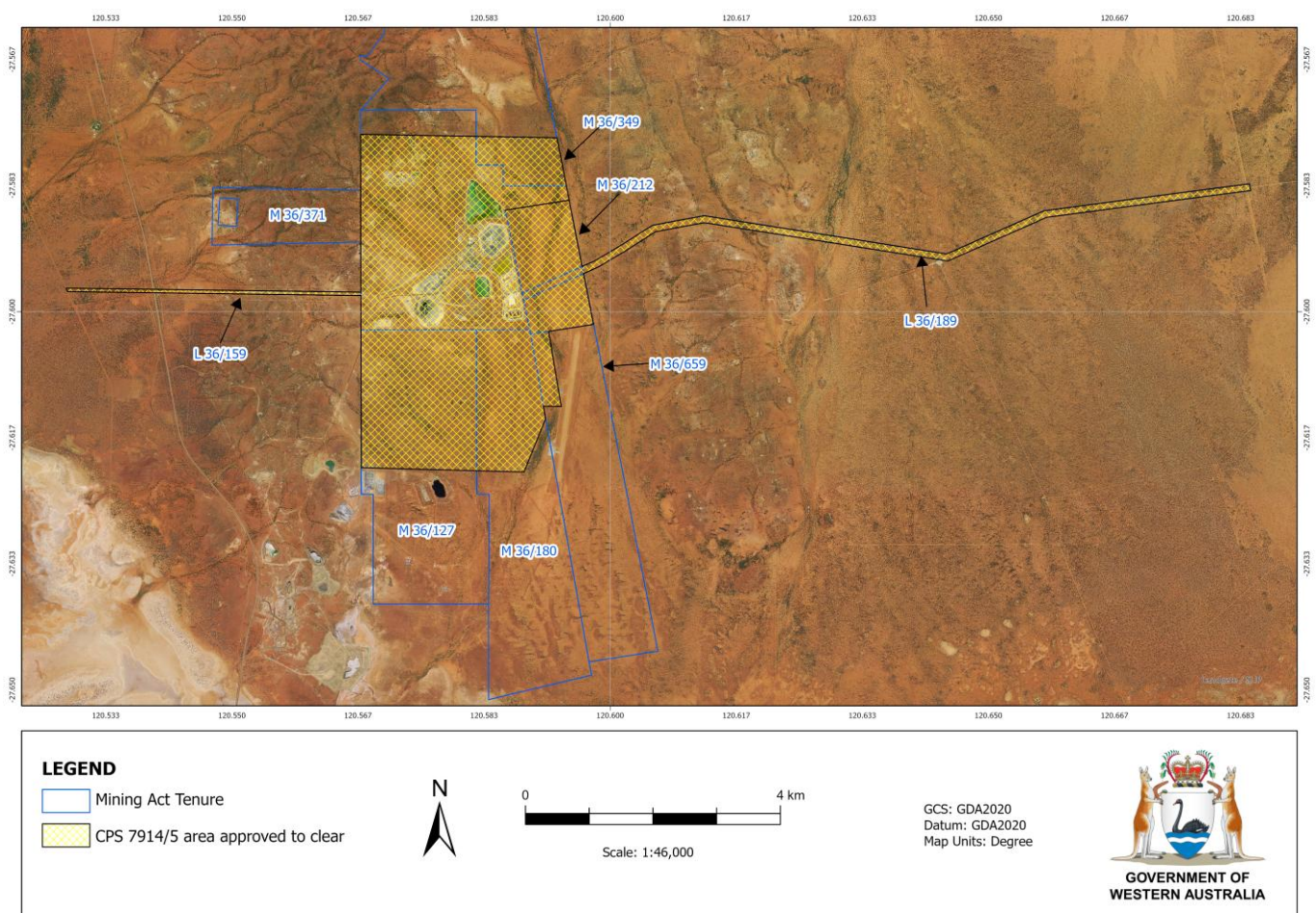


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

No new biological information has been provided in support of this amendment application. In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora and fauna). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

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

Assessment

Priority flora

Austroparmelina macrospora (Priority 3) is a lichen species found growing on the bark of living and dead trees and shrubs (commonly in *Acacia* sp., *Banksia* sp., *Casuarina* sp., *Allocasuarina* sp., *Eucalyptus* sp., *Melaleuca* sp. and *Hakea* sp.), and occurs on lateritic, granitic and clayey substrates (WAH, 1998-). The amendment area provides suitable habitat for this species and is considered possible to occur within the amendment area (PEK, 2017; WAH, 1998-). There are 64 records of this species across the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Esperance Plains, Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest, Mallee, Murchison, Warren and Yalgoo bioregions in Western Australia, indicating that it is not locally or regionally restricted (ALA, 2026; WAH, 1998-). Therefore, the area proposed to clear is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation of this species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impact on the conservation significant flora species.

Conditions

No flora management conditions required.

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

Assessment

The amendment area may provide suitable habitat for several conservation significant water and migratory birds due to the number of drainage lines present (Western Areas, 2022; GIS Database). Given the highly mobile nature of these species and infrequent rain events, it is unlikely that any birds are reliant upon the habitats present within the amendment area (Western Areas, 2022). However, Lake Miranda, located south of the amendment area, is likely to provide suitable habitat for these birds (GIS Database).

No conservation significant fauna other than migratory or specially protected bird species have been previously recorded within the amendment area (Western Areas, 2022).

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, occurs in a range of habitat types and is primarily found in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris* spp.) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nests are constructed in sandy soil and leaf litter as large mounds for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). The desktop assessment recorded 15 records of malleefowl (including sightings, tracks and mounds) within the radius of 50 kilometres, with the nearest record being approximately 20 kilometres north of the amendment area (GIS Database). PEK (2017) conducted a basic fauna survey over the amendment area and no evidence of malleefowl were recorded. The amendment area provides suitable habitat for this species and malleefowl is considered possible to occur within the amendment area (PEK, 2017; WAH, 1998-). As proposed clearing impacts the habitat suitable for malleefowl a targeted survey is required to determine the presence of this species within the amendment area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of suitable habitat of malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on malleefowl can be managed by implementing fauna management conditions on the granted permit.

Conditions

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

- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 18 August 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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 two 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.

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. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Eastern Murchison of the Murchison bioregion as described in Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is grazing of native pastures (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the amendment area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There is no conservation areas located within the amendment area (GIS Database). The closest conservation area is Wanjarri Nature Reserve located approximately 11 kilometres north of the amendment area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the amendment area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub (GIS Database). No recent surveys have been conducted over the amendment area; however, multiple flora and vegetation surveys were undertaken over the amendment area over the years by Mattiske (2006; 2011), PEK (2017) and Botanica (2018). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the amendment area (Botanica, 2018; Mattiske, 2006; 2011; PEK, 2017): A1: Low Woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> with occasional <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i>, <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i>, and <i>Santalum spicatum</i> over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>galeata</i>, <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i>, <i>Monachather paradoxus</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>; A2: Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i> over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>galeata</i>, <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> x <i>oligophylla</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>; A3: Tall Shrubland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>argentea</i>, <i>Santalum lanceolatum</i> and <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> over <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, interchanging varieties of <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> over <i>Eragrostis leptocarpa</i>, <i>Digitaria brownii</i>, <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>, <i>Eragrostis leptocarpa</i> and <i>Enneapogon caeruleus</i>. This community occurs on red gravelly clays in minor flow-lines; A4: Tall to Tall Open Shrubland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>intermedia</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i> over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>, <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> var. <i>schwartzii</i>, <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> over <i>Eriachne helmsii</i>, <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>, <i>Enneapogon caeruleus</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Eriachne pulchella</i> subsp. <i>pulchella</i>. This community occurred on red clayey loams that generally had a covering of ironstone or quartz pebbles; A5: Tall Shrubland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> with <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>argentea</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>fuscaneura</i> over <i>Eremophila gilesii</i> subsp. <i>variabilis</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>, <i>Rhagodia eremaea</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>, <i>Triodia basedowii</i>, <i>Euphorbia drummondii</i> subsp. <i>drummondii</i> and <i>Dysphania kalpari</i>. This community was found on flat red clay soils; A6: Low Woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>, <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> and <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> with occasional patches of <i>Eucalyptus kingsmillii</i> subsp. <i>kingsmillii</i> over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> grass, <i>Hakea lorea</i> subsp. <i>lorea</i>, <i>Duboisia hopwoodii</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> and <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> over <i>Senna</i> species; S1: Shrubland of <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> with emergent <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>fuscaneura</i> over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. x <i>sturtii</i>, <i>Rhagodia eremaea</i>, <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> subsp. <i>microcephala</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> over <i>Enneapogon caeruleus</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i>, <i>Ptilotus roei</i> and <i>Euphorbia australis</i>. This community was found on gentle slopes of red sandy clay with ironstone and quartz scree; S2: Shrubland of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> with occasional low <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> over <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i>, <i>Sclerolaena densiflora</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Enneapogon caeruleus</i> and <i>Ptilotus roei</i>. This community occurs on red clayey loams with a large covering of quartz and ironstone rocks and pebbles;

Characteristic	Details
	S5: Open shrubland of <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> with <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i>, <i>Maireana triptera</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> x <i>oligophylla</i> and occasional emergent <i>Acacia</i> species; and S7: Open shrubland of <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>galeata</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> with occasional emergent <i>Acacia</i> species over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> x <i>oligophylla</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i>.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation surveys (Mattiske, 2011; PEK, 2017) and aerial imagery indicate that the vegetation within the amendment area is in very good to completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid with bimodal rainfall that usually falls in winter (CALM, 2002). The amendment area receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 235.5 millimetres (BoM, 2026).
Soil description and Land degradation risk	The soils of the amendment area are broadly mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database): • Ararak land system: It is dominated by broad, gently undulating plains with red earths, sandy red earths, and gravelly soils, often covered by ironstone gravel and hardpan surfaces. This system is mildly susceptible to water starvation during prolonged dry periods, which can reduce vegetation vigour and ground cover, potentially increasing degradation risk over time (Pringle et al., 1994); • Brooking land system: It is described as prominent ridges of banded iron formation supporting mulga shrublands. This land system is not generally susceptible to erosion (Pringle et al., 1994); • Bullimore land system: It is dominated by sandplain landscapes formed from Quaternary aeolian (wind-blown) sands derived mainly from gneiss and granite. The land consists of gently undulating sandplains with occasional linear dunes and minor drainage zones. This land system is not likely to be susceptible to erosion (Pringle et al., 1994); • Jundee land system: It consists of hardpan plains with ironstone gravel mantles supporting mulga shrublands. This land system may be susceptible to erosion (Pringle et al., 1994); • Laverton land system: It is dominated by greenstone hills and ridges supporting acacia shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). Stony mantels protect most of this land system from erosion, except for narrow drainage tracts which may be mildly susceptible to water erosion (Pringle et al., 1994); • Violet land system: It consists of stony and gravelly plains with red earths and sandy soils protected by ironstone gravel mantles. This system is not likely to be susceptible to erosion (Pringle., et al, 1994); • Duketon land system: It consists of stony wash plains with red sandy and gravelly soils over ironstone mantles. This system is not likely to be susceptible to erosion (Pringle., et al, 1994); and • Monk land system: It consists mainly of hardpan plains with sandy banks and red sandy soils. The drainage lines within this system are mildly susceptible to water erosion (Pringle., et al, 1994).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The amendment area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1000 - 3000 milligrams and >35000 per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish and hypersaline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 13 Priority flora species within a 20 kilometre radius of the amendment area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The amendment area is located partially within the Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone Belt) vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation), a Priority 1 PEC (GIS Database).
Fauna	Previous surveys of the surrounding areas identified 11 fauna species of conservation significance that have the potential to occur, with malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) being the most likely to occur (PEK, 2017).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)

IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,586	28,044,823	~99	2,185,987	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. - 18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	1,317,179	6.62
Veg Assoc No. - 39	6,613,567	6,602,578	~99	795,070	12.02
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. - 18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99	614,964	4.96
Veg Assoc No. - 39	1,148,400	1,138,064	~99	40,834	3.56

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within a 20 kilometres radius of the amendment area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information (PEK, 2017; Western Areas, 2022; WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Likelihood of occurrence	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Anacampseros</i> sp. Eremaean (F. Hort, J. Hort & J. Shanks 3248)	1	N	Unlikely	<20	8	Y
<i>Austroparmelina macrospora</i>	3	Y	Possibly	<15	54	N
<i>Bossiaea eremaea</i>	3	N	Unlikely	<20	19	N/A
<i>Eremophila pungens</i>	4	N	Unlikely	<15	46	Y
<i>Goodenia</i> sp. Beyondie (L.W. Sage & S. van Leeuwen LWS 2518)	1	N	Unlikely	<3	5	N/A
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	4	N	Unlikely	<4	63	Y
<i>Hemigenia exilis</i>	4	N	Unlikely	<15	45	Y
<i>Hibbertia</i> sp. Sherwood Breakaways (R.J. Cranfield 6771)	2	N	Unlikely	<20	11	N/A
<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Perrinvale Station (J. Warden & E. Ager WB 10581)	1	N	Unlikely	<5	18	N/A
<i>Pigea</i> sp. Chloroxantha (E. Bennett & D. Bright EUC 1810)	3	N	Unlikely	<20	26	N/A
<i>Swainsona katjarra</i>	1	N	Unlikely	<5	6	N/A
<i>Tribulus adelacanthus</i>	3	N	Unlikely	<15	19	N/A

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have records within a 50 kilometres radius of the amendment area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability, likelihood of occurrence and impact was determined utilising biological survey information (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; PEK, 2017; Western Areas, 2022; GIS Database).

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
		WA	EPBC				
<i>Amytornis oweni oweni</i>	sandhill grasswren	P4		N	<30	Unlikely	N/A

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
		WA	EPBC				
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	southern whiteface	VU	VU	N	<40	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	red-necked stint	MI	MI	N	<40	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Dasyercus blythi</i>	brush-tailed mulgara	P4		N	<10	Unlikely	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS		N	<20	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i>	northern shield-backed trapdoor spider	P3		N	<20	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Kwonkan moriartii</i>	Moriarty's trapdoor spider	P2		N	<10	Unlikely	Y
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	malleefowl	VU	VU	Y	<25	Possibly	N
<i>Leporillus conditor</i>	greater stick-nest rat, wopilkara	CD	VU	N	<20	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Liopholis kintorei</i>	great desert skink	VU	VU	N	<25	Unlikely	Y
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	black-flanked rock-wallaby, black-footed rock-wallaby, moororong	EN	EN	N	<40	Unlikely	N/A
<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	princess parrot	P4	VU	N	<25	Unlikely	Y

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." <u>Assessment:</u> The amendment area intersects the Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone Belt) vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) Priority 1 Ecological Community (GIS Database). However, as the amendment relates to only extending the permit duration by five years and changing the permit holder name, it will not result in any additional clearing or change to the extent of impact previously assessed.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.
<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." <u>Assessment:</u> The amendment area has suitable habitat for malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) and is considered possible to occur within the amendment area (PEK, 2017; Western Areas, 2022).	May be at variance (changed from CPS 7914/4)	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.
<u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora." <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain threatened flora or habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act (Mattiske, 2006; PEK, 2017; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (d):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the amendment area (GIS Database). Flora and vegetation surveys of parts of the amendment did not identify any vegetation that would be part of a TEC (Mattiske, 2005; Mattiske, 2011; PEK, 2017).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.” <u>Assessment:</u> The amendment 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). Approximately 99 percent of the pre-European extent of the mapped vegetation type remains uncleared at both state and bioregional levels (Government of Western Australia, 2019; GIS Database). The vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no conservation areas located within the amendment area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Wanjarri Nature Reserve, located approximately 11 kilometres north of the amendment area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are several ephemeral drainage lines that intersect the amendment area (GIS Database). There are many similar drainage lines scattered throughout the local area, which likely only flow following a significant rain event. Mattiske (2011) identified vegetation growing in association with these drainage lines. It is likely this vegetation occurs within the drainage lines within the amendment area. Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse may be managed by the continued implementation of a watercourse management condition.	At variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.” <u>Assessment:</u> The amendment area is broadly mapped within the Ararak, Brooking, Bullimore, Jundee, Laverton, Duketon, Monk and Violet land systems (GIS Database). The majority of these land systems are mild to moderately susceptible to erosion, however alteration to natural sheet flow and drainage lines can initiate soil erosion and lead to water starvation of native vegetation (DPIRD, 2023). However, given that the amendment is to extend the duration of the permit, it is unlikely to significantly increase erosion potential.	May be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There are no permanent watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the amendment area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.		
Principle (j): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are several ephemeral drainage lines that intersect the amendment area, and flow following large rainfall events (Western Areas, 2022; GIS Database). The topographic contours of the amendment area are at the highest in the east and goes down a gradient to the west and south (GIS Database). Any sheet flow following rainfall events is likely to flow to the west or south to Lake Miranda, located outside the amendment area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 7914/4)	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

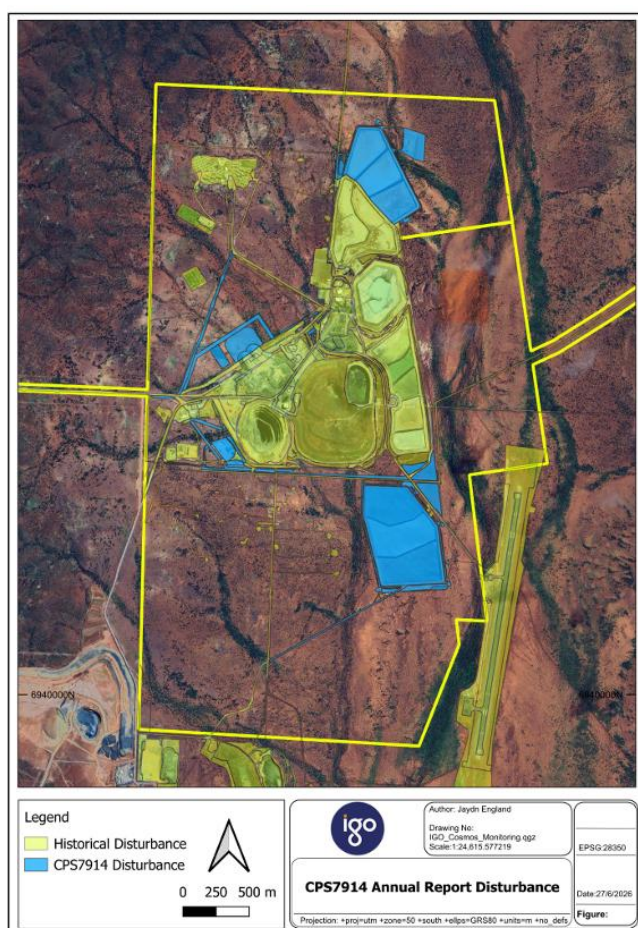


Figure 2: Disturbance undertaken in clearing permit CPS 7914/4 (IGO, 2026b).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

E.2. References

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- Botanica (2018) Memorandum: Cosmos Water Management Pond Expansion Flora and Vegetation Desktop Assessment. Report prepared for Western Areas Limited, by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd, May 2018.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2019) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Groundwater Information – Average Salinity. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/insight/metadata.shtml> (Accessed 19 August 2026).
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Pinnacles (012067). Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 19 August 2026).
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- Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl> (Accessed 26 August 2026).
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2024) National Recovery Plan for the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-recovery-plan-malleefowl.pdf>
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- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 19 August 2026).
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- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 19 August 2026).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
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- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- IGO Cosmos Pty Ltd (IGO) (2026a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 7914/5, received 26 May 2026.
- IGO Cosmos Pty Ltd (IGO) (2026b) Annual Clearing Permit Report for CPS 7914/4 Cosmos Nickel Operation, prepared on 31 July 2026.
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- Mattiske (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Proposed Evaporation Pond Extensions: Cosmic Nickel Project. Prepared for Xstrata Nickel Australasia Operations Pty Ltd, by Mattiske Consulting, April 2011.

PEK (2017) Cosmos Nickel Project – Level 1 vegetation, flora and fauna survey, Cosmos Nickel Mine Water Management Ponds and Coreyard Expansion. Report prepared for Australian Nickel Investments Pty Ltd, by PEK Enviro, January 2017.

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

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