Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	8051/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Silver Lake Resources Limited
Application received:	16 December 2022
Application area:	150 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 25/125
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Anomaly A Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Silver Lake Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 672 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 50 kilometres east of nearest Kambalda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The application is to allow for the approved Mt Belches Mining Complex activities.

Clearing permit CPS 8051/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 14 June 2018 and was valid from 7 July 2018 to 30 June 2023. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 672 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

On 16 December 2022, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8051/1 to extend the duration of the permit. No clearing has commenced under CPS 8051/1 to date.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	2 March 2023
Decision area:	150 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 6 January 2023. DMIRS 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 C), supporting information provided by the applicant, including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, 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:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see 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; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 8051/1. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposal to extend the duration for the permit for an additional five years 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.

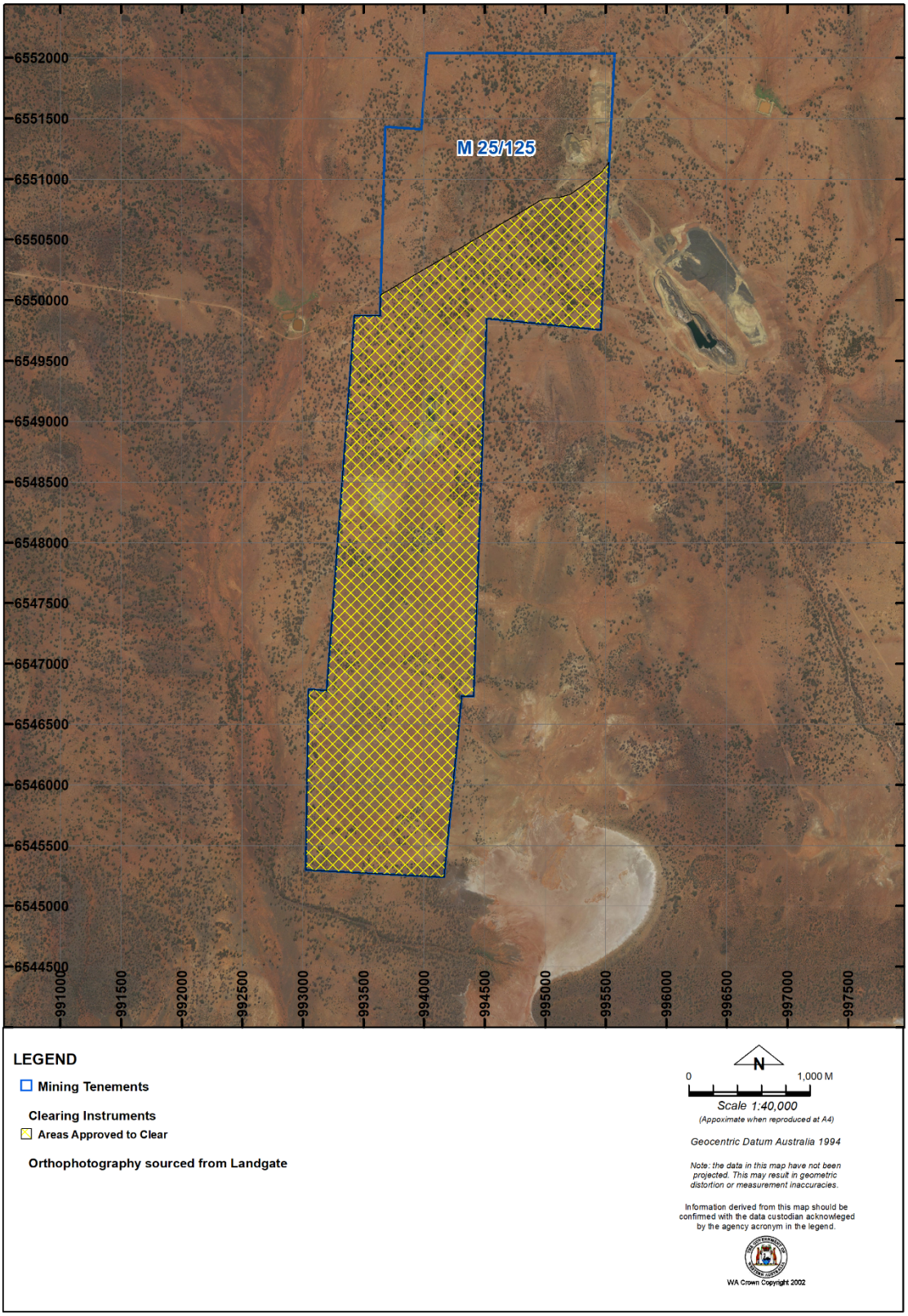

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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 (see 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)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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.

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that avoidance and mitigation measures such as those listed below will be utilised:

- clearing will be kept to a minimum;
- previously disturbed areas will be utilised where possible; and
- induction and ongoing education program will be used to reinforce awareness of procedures to prevent and control the spread of weeds, dust management and clearing within the Timber Reserve.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8051/1.

The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna; does not contain, or form a part of a threatened ecological community; or impact on any riparian vegetation (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database). At the bioregion (Coolgardie), over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019) and therefore is not at variance to principle (e). The application area is partly located within the Randell Timber Reserve (GIS Database). The condition of the vegetation in Randell Timber Reserve has been previously degraded by stock and feral animals (Outback Ecology, 2009), and historical mineral production has occurred within the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is therefore at variance to principle (h) however it is not likely to significantly impact on the environmental values of this area (GIS Database).

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the permit area, are well represented in surrounding areas (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database). The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to principle (a), (b), (c) and (d). The duration extension of five years is unlikely to result any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable impacts to surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding and therefore is not likely to be at variance to principle (g), (i) and (j) (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 8051/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 6 January 2023 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). 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, 2023). 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 Proposal / Mine Closure Plan 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.

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is located approximately 50 kilometres east of Kambalda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (GIS Database). The area is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by similar vegetation and previous historical mining production (Silver Lake Resources, 2021a).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The northern portion of the application area is located within the Randell Timber Reserve (GIS Database). The application area is partly located within the Randell Timber Reserve (GIS Database). The condition of the vegetation in Randell Timber Reserve has been previously degraded by stock and feral animals (Outback Ecology, 2009), and historical mineral production has occurred within the application area (GIS Database). Previous advice from DPaW (2014) and aerial imagery (GIS Database) indicates that the proposed clearing will have some impact to the flora or vegetation values of the reserve, however not significantly.

Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
	• 506: Succulent steppe with woodland; salmon gum & bluebush;
	• 501: Medium woodland; goldfields blackbutt; and
	• 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (GIS Database).
	
	A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Outback Ecology during June and October, 2008 (Outback Ecology, 2009). The following 14 vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009):
	
	• **Eucalypt open forest/woodland over Chenopod heath**
	  • **EglM:** *Eucalyptus griffithsii* Woodland, *Eucalyptus lesouefii*, *Myoporum platycarpum* Scattered Stands over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland;
	  • **EgMp:** *Eucalyptus griffithsii* Open Forest over *Maireana pyramidata* Low Open Heath;
	  • **EslMs:** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus lesouefii* Open Forest over *Maireana sedifolia, Tecticornia* sp. Low Shrubland;
	  • **EslEo:** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia, Eucalyptus lesouefii* Open Forest over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *oldfieldii* Scattered Low Trees over *Maireana sedifolia*, *Tecticornia* sp. Low Shrubland; and
	  • **EmlMs:** *Eucalyptus melanoxylon*, *Eucalyptus lesouefii* Open Forest over *Maireana sedifolia* Open Low Heath.
	
	• **Creek and major drainage line complex**
	  • **Ecgf:** *Eucalyptus celastroides* subsp*. celastroides, Eucalyptus griffithsii* Woodland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland; and
	  • **Euc:** Mixed *Eucalyptus* Open Forest.
	
	• **Acacia tall shrubs/low trees over low Shrubland**
	  • **Ab:** *Acacia burkittii* Tall Open Scrub over mixed Open Shrubland over scattered Herbs
	  • **AqPoM:** *Acacia quadrimarginea* Scattered Shrubs over *Ptilotus obovatus, Maireana triptera* Low Open Shrubland;
	  • **AqDlMs:** *Acacia quadrimarginea* Low Open Forest over *Dodonaea lobulata, Maireana sedifolia* mixed Low Shrubland; and
	  • **AqMtp:** *Acacia quadrimarginea* Low Woodland over *Maireana triptera, M. pyramidata* Low Open Shrubland.
	
	• **Chenopod shrublands**

Characteristic	Details
	• **AaMp:** *Acacia aneura* Low Woodland over *Maireana pyramidata* Low Shrubland in drainage lines; • **AtPa:** *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Pittosporum angustifolium* Scattered Low Trees over *Maireana sedifolia* Open Low Heath; and • **EoMs:** *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *oldfieldii* Scattered Low Trees over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Outback Ecology, 2009) indicated the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in 'Very Good' to 'Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.
Climate and landform	The region characterised as semi-arid warm Mediterranean climate with a mean annual rainfall of 264.6 millilitres (BoM, 2023). The application area is located within the Kalgoorlie Province which consists of undulating plains (with some sandplains, hills and salt lakes) on the granite rocks and greenstone of the Yilgarn Craton (Tille, 2006).
Soil description	The soils of the application area are broadly mapped as the following soil type: • 265k9: Mx43 atlas system. Gently undulating valley plains and pediments; some outcrop of basic rock (DPIRD, 2023).
Land degradation risk	The Atlas land system associated with the application area is not susceptible to erosion (Tille, 2006).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no permanent watercourses or water bodies mapped within the application area (GIS Database). A non-perennial lake is located approximately 0.2 kilometres east of the application area and one minor non-perennial watercourse is mapped across the northern section of the application area (GIS database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the proclaimed Goldfields groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database).
Flora	A total of 65 flora taxa from 34 genera and 17 families were recorded within the larger survey area (Outback Ecology, 2009). No species of Threatened flora or Priority Flora species have been recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database). The Priority 3 'Mt Belches *Acacia quadrimarginea*/*Ptilotus* Banded Ironstone Community' was found on low-relief Banded Ironstone Formation (BIF) ridges east of the application area within the Randell Timber Reserve, and is historically known from the project area where it has been disturbed by mining (Outback Ecology, 2009).
Fauna	There was no fauna survey conducted over the application area. Based on the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2009), the application area does not contain significant fauna habitat and the survey did not identify critical feeding or breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species (GIS Database).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent Remaining %	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA Managed Lands
IBRA Bioregion - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	97.96	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 506	98,187.43	98,050.28	99.86	12,572.20	12.80
Veg Assoc No. 501	48,022.40	47,889.33	99.72	6,766.43	14.09
Veg Assoc No. 468	592,022.32	583,902.76	98.63	135,197.44	22.84

Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 506	98,187.43	98,050.28	99.86	12,572.20	12.80
Veg Assoc No. 501	43,938.63	43,805.56	99.70	6,766.43	15.40
Veg Assoc No. 468	583,357.71	575,360.61	98.63	130,719.16	22.41

Government of Western Australia (2019)

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix C. Sources of information

C.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Bush Forever (Regional Scheme) (DPLH-022)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Interim Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas

- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

C.2. References

BoM (2023) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/. Accessed 22 February 2023.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2023) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 22 February 2023).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2023) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 22 February 2023).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.pdf

DPaW (2014) Advice regarding Randells Timber Reserve for CPS 6329/1. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Environmental Management Branch, December 2014.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available from: http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.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

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Outback Ecology (2009) Salt Creek Level 2 and Maxwells/Cock-Eyed Bob Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Surveys. Report prepared for Integra Mining Limited, April 2009.

Silver Lake Resources (2021a) Mining Proposal. Mt Belches Mining Complex. Unpublished report prepared by Silver Lake Resources, September 2021.

Silver Lake Resources (2021b) Mt Belches Mining Complex. Mine Closure Plan. Unpublished report prepared by Silver Lake Resources, September 2021.

Tille, P (2006) Soil-landscapes of Western Australia's Rangelands and Arid Interior. Technical Report 313. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. ISSN 1039-7205.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
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)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)

DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.

(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.