Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	8855/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Silver Lake (Rothsay) Pty Ltd
Application received:	17 March 2025
Application area:	157.244 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 59/39
	Mining Lease 59/40
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Perenjori
Colloquial name:	Rothsay Gold Mine

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Silver Lake (Rothsay) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 157.244 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 521 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 59 kilometres northeast of Perenjori, within the Shire of Perenjori.

Clearing permit CPS 8855/2 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 30 July 2020 and was valid from 22 August 2020 to 1 June 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 157.244 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 521 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

On 17 March 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8855/1 to extend the permit duration to 1 June 2030, and to change the name of the Permit Holder from Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd to Silver Lake (Rothsay) Pty Ltd.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	6 May 2025
Decision area:	157.244 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) 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 flora and vegetation and fauna surveys, 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;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that may be suitable for conservation significant fauna;
- impacts to riparian vegetation; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind and water erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- avoid clearing with area cross hatched red (Appendix 1.5);
- avoid clearing more than 10 percent of the total identified Priority flora;
- conduct pre-clearance surveys to identify critical habitat for listed Threatened fauna;
- avoid clearing riparian vegetation where possible and maintain existing water flows; and
- commence mineral production no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 8855/1, except in the case of principle (c), where it has been determined the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration and name change 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.

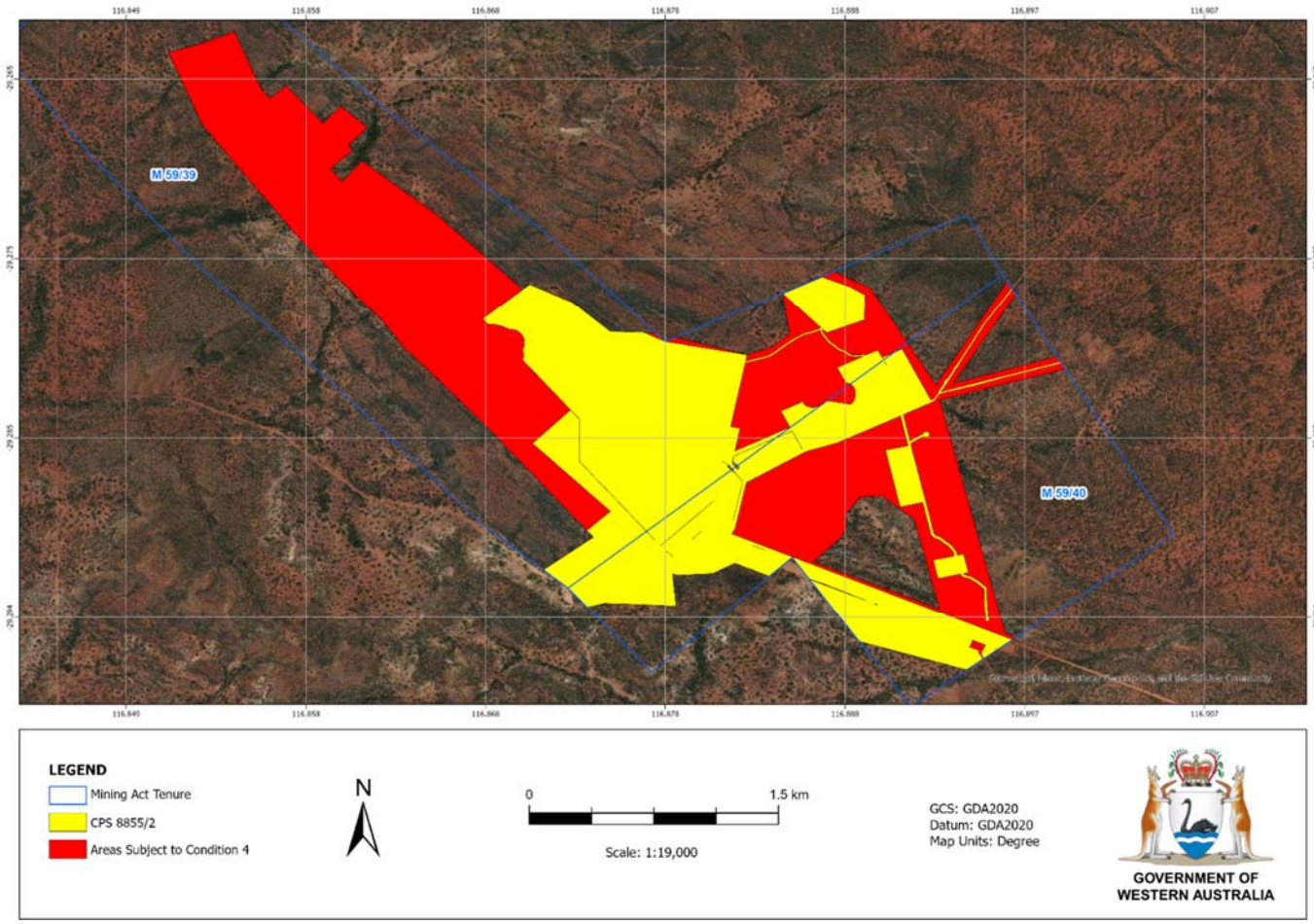

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit. The red area indicates the area within which clearing is not permitted unless a secondary approval is granted.

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

- the polluter pays principle

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, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

All clearing activities have been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken in manner that aims to avoid and reduce impacts on any environmental values and minimise the extent of native vegetation cleared. Utilisation of previously disturbed areas for mineral operations has been prioritised wherever possible, and any areas of PEC or potential PEC have been avoided. Raised blade clearing techniques have also been utilised where possible (Vault Minerals, 2025).

Clearing activities at Rothsay have and will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the Weed Management Procedure. All earth-moving machinery undergo a vehicle hygiene inspection prior to arriving site, with a requirement of pre-mobilisation cleaning. If the machinery is to be re-used on-site for other activities, it is required to be washed at the on-site washdown bay before moving to the next location. All vehicle movement is required to remain on designated tracks, with this communicated to all personnel in the site induction (Vault Minerals, 2025).

No riparian vegetation or wetlands have been impacted from clearing activities to date. Some have intercepted minor drainage lines in previously disturbed areas and has been managed via installation of culverts to maintain the existing surface water flow patterns (Vault Minerals, 2025).

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8855/1.

Austrostipa blackii used to be listed as a Priority 3 species when the original permit (CPS 8855/1) was granted. Since then, this species has been removed from the Priority flora list. Although no conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the application area, it is expected that the malleefowl and the shield-backed trapdoor spider are present in shrublands on low hills around the margins of the application area, although probably at regionally low densities (DMIRS, 2020). Some significant species are likely to occur as residents of the survey area, or at least as regular visitors (BCE, 2017). The woodland habitat favoured by the Western Spiny-tailed Skink is degraded and thus the species may not be present although it cannot be ruled out. Suitable habitat for the gilled slender blue-tongue was also present in the application area. (DMIRS, 2020). The potential impacts from the proposed clearing can be managed by standard avoid and minimise, weed hygiene, staged clearing, and watercourse management conditions. Additionally, a flora management and fauna management condition have been placed on the clearing permit to mitigate impacts to these biological values.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (a), (b), and (f), it may be at variance with principle (g), it is not at variance with principle (e), and it is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles. Detailed assessment of the clearing principles can be found in the decision report for CPS 8855/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 17 April 2025 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2020/001) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Yamatji Nation). 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 no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl, shield-backed trapdoor spider, western spiny-tailed skink, and gilled slender blue-tongue which are a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Federal) Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Environment for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

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.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and native vegetation of the Yalgoo bioregion (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within a conservation area. The nearest DBCA managed land is the former Karara Pastoral Lease which slightly intersects the application area and is located approximately 320 metres southwest of the area approved to clear at its nearest point (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 355: Shrublands; bowgada & jam scrub with scattered York gum & red mallee; 358: Shrublands; bowgada & Acacia quadrimarginea on stony ridges; 420: Shrublands; bowgada & jam scrub; and 936: Medium woodland; salmon gum (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Woodman Environmental Consulting (Woodman) during October, 2016. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Woodman, 2017): **VT1:** Tall shrubland to open shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia latior*, *Acacia sibina*, *Melaleuca nematophylla* and occasionally *Acacia incognita* over mid open to sparse shrubland dominated by *Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia* over low sparse shrubland dominated by *Xanthosia kochii* and *Dianella revoluta* over low open to sparse forbland dominated by *Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata*, *Helipterum craspedioides*, *Velleia rosea*, *Brunonia australis* and *Haloragis odontocarpa* forma *rugosa* on red brown to pale brown clay loam soils with ironstone gravel on lower slopes and undulating plains **VT2:** Tall open to sparse shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia aulacophylla* and *Acacia umbraculiformis* over mid open to sparse shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei*, *Thryptomene costata*, *Mirbelia* sp. Bursarioides (T.R. Lally 760) and *Grevillea extorris* over sparse low shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Prostanthera patens* and *Styphelia serratifolia* over sparse low forbland of mixed species dominated by *Borya sphaerocephala*, *Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata* and *Podolepis lessonii* on pale brown clay loam with duricrust stones over duricrust outcropping on low breakaways. **VT3:** Tall shrubland to open shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Acacia assimilis* subsp. *assimilis*, *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *prinsepiana*, *Melaleuca nematophylla* and *Calycopeplus paucifolius* over mid open to sparse shrubland dominated by *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Eremophila clarkei* over low sparse shrubland dominated by *Xanthosia kochii* over low sparse forbland of mixed species including *Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata*, *Calocephalus multiflorus* and *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* on red brown clay loam soils with banded or laterised ironstone stones over banded or laterised ironstone outcropping on upper slopes and crests of low hills. **VT4:** Low open woodland to woodland dominated by *Allocasuarina dielsiana* and *Melaleuca hamata* over tall shrubland to open shrubland dominated by *Acacia acuminata* and *Allocasuarina tessellata* over mid sparse shrubland dominated by *Acacia karinae* and occasionally *Melaleuca radula* over low open to sparse forbland and tussock grassland of mixed species including *Waitzia nitida*, *Lobelia rhytidosperma*, *Goodenia berardiana*, *Ptilotus helipteroides* and *Austrostipa blackii* on red clay-loam soils with basalt stones on the slopes and crests of low hills. **VT5:** Low open woodland dominated by *Melaleuca hamata* over tall shrubland to open shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia sibina* over low sparse shrubland dominated by *Eremophila eriocalyx* and *Ptilotus obovatus* over low sparse forbland of mixed species including *Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata*, *Calocephalus multiflorus*, *Velleia rosea*, *Ptilotus gaudichaudii* subsp. *eremita* and *Cephalipterum drummondii* on red or red brown clay loam soils with quartz and ironstone gravel on lower slopes, undulating plains and in minor drainage lines. **VT6:** Low open woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus clelandii* over low sparse shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia erinacea, Eremophila pantonii* and *Ptilotus obovatus* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of mixed species including *Sclerolaena fusiformis, Sclerolaena drummondii*, *Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Maireana georgei* and *Maireana trichoptera* over low sparse tussock grassland and forbland of mixed species including *Austrostipa scabra* subsp. *scabra*, *Calandrinia baccata, Ptilotus nobilis* and **Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* on pale brown clay loam soils with predominantly calcrete gravel on lower slopes and low rises. **VT7:** Low open woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus salubris* over sparse tall to mid shrubland of mixed species including *Eremophila pantonii* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over low sparse samphire shrubland

Characteristic	Details
	dominated by *Tecticornia disarticulata* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of mixed species including *Rhagodia drummondii*, *Sclerolaena densiflora, Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Maireana tomentosa* subsp. *tomentosa* and *Enchylaena tomentosa* var. *tomentosa* over low sparse tussock grassland and forbland of mixed species including *Erymophyllum glossanthus*, *Austrostipa scabra* subsp. *scabra*, *Ptilotus gaudichaudii* subsp. *eremita* and **Rostraria pumila* on pale brown clay loam soils with colluvial gravel on lower slopes and flats. **VT8:** Low open woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *supralaevis* and/or *Eucalyptus salubris* over tall sparse shrubland of mixed species including *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *oldfieldii*, *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over sparse mid shrubland of mixed species including *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Dodonaea inaequifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over low sparse shrubland and tussock grassland of mixed species including *Acacia erinacea*, *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Austrostipa elegantissima* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of mixed species including *Maireana georgei*, *Maireana trichoptera*, *Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Sclerolaena densiflora* and *Rhagodia drummondii* over low sparse tussock grassland and forbland of mixed species including *Austrostipa scabra* subsp. *scabra*, *Cephalipterum drummondii*, *Ptilotus nobilis, Roepera ovata* and *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* on red, red brown or brown clay loam soils with colluvial gravel, and occasionally with laterite outcropping, on lower slopes, plains and occasionally lateritic breakaways. **VT9:** Tall sparse shrubland of mixed species including *Melaleuca hamata* and *Acacia acuminata* over mid shrubland dominated by *Thryptomene costata* and *Malleostemon tuberculatus* over low sparse shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Grevillea pityophylla*, *Hemigenia* sp. Yalgoo (A.M. Ashby 2624), *Stachystemon intricatus* and *Eremophila eriocalyx* over low sparse forbland of mixed species including *Borya sphaerocephala*, *Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata*, *Calocephalus multiflorus*, *Velleia rosea* and *Goodenia berardiana* on red brown clay loam soils with ironstone gravel on undulating plains.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Woodman, 2017) and aerial imagery indicate that excluding the areas mapped as cleared land, the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.
Climate and landform	The application area falls within a winter seasonal rainfall zone marked by wet winter and low summer rainfall. The area has an annual average rainfall (Perenjori) of 328.5 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils mapped within the application area are described as calcareous loamy earth, friable non-cracking clay, red shallow sandy duplex, stony soil, red shallow loam, red deep sand, red loamy earth, and red shallow sand (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The application falls within various land systems. These land systems are described as below (DPIRD, 2025; Payne et al., 1998): **Graves land system:** Basalt and greenstone rises and low hills, supporting eucalypt woodlands with prominent saltbush and bluebush understoreys. Alluvial plains are susceptible to water erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed. **Moriarty land system:** Low greenstone rises and stony plains supporting halophytic and acacia shrublands with patchy eucalypt overstoreys. Slopes of low rises without protective stone mantles, alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. **Singleton land system:** Rugged greenstone ranges with dense casuarina and acacia shrublands. Stone mantles protect most of this land system against soil erosion. **Tealtoo land system:** Level to gently undulating loamy plains with fine ironstone lag gravel supporting dense acacia shrublands. The system is not generally prone to soil erosion. **Yowie land system:** Loamy plains supporting shrublands of mulga and bowgada with patchy wanderrie grasses. This system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that two minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 7,000-14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal quality (GIS Database).
Flora	No Threatened flora species were identified within the application area. Nine Priority flora have been identified inside the application area (Woodman, 2019).
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No conservation significant fauna have been recorded in the application area. Two extinct malleefowl mounds and several trapdoor spider burrows were found in the application area (BCE, 2019).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna habitat	A fauna assessment was conducted over the application area by Bamford Consulting Ecologists (BCE) during January, 2017. The following vegetation and substrate associations were recognised in the application area (BCE, 2017): **VSA1:** Open woodland and shrubland on gravelly loam soils of hills and plains. This lies largely outside impact areas and is the most significant VSA for fauna as it is structurally complex and supports a suite of significant species. **VSA2:** Low woodland to tall shrubland and thickets on clayey-loam flats and lower slopes. Some of this VSA falls within development areas. **VSA3:** Open eucalypt woodlands generally with sparse understorey on loam or clayey loam flats low in the landscape. Includes drainage lines with occasional large eucalypts and dense thickets of tall shrubs. Much of this is degraded by grazing (especially from Goats). This VSA occupies much of the impact area. **VSA4:** Old mine shafts and bare ground. These occur within much of the impact area.

A.2. Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Total individuals recorded (survey area)	Total individuals to be cleared	Percentage of individuals to be cleared
Acacia karinae	P3	8,835	811	9.18%
Allocasuarina tessellata	P3	26,695	2,602	9.75%
Grevillea scabrida	P3	4,320	89	2.06%
Hemigenia tichbonii	P1	1,825	186	10.2%
Lepidosperma sp. Blue Hills	P1	1,610	43	2.67%
Millotia dimorpha	P1	18,595	1,310	7.05%
Grevillea subtiliflora	P3	284	34	11.97%
Persoonia pentasticha	P3	96	8	8.33%
Rhodanthe collina	P3	25,865	1,930	7.46%

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

(Woodman Environmental, 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.

Condition	Description
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):

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- 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)
- 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)

C.2. References

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (BCE) (2017) Rothsay Project Area Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Egan Street Resources by Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 24 March 2017.

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (BCE) (2019) Egan Street Resources; Rothsay Gold Project: Pre-Clearing Fauna Notes - M.J. & A.R. Bamford Consulting Ecologists. Unpublished report prepared by Bamford Consulting Ecologists for Egan Street Resources, July 2019

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

Payne, A L, van Vreeswyk, A M, Leighton, K A, Pringle, H J, and Hennig, P. (1998), *An inventory and condition survey of the Sandstone-Yalgoo-Paynes Find area, Western Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 90. https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/tech_bull/6

Submission (2023) Public submission in relation to clearing permit application CPS xxxx/x, received XX Month 2023.

Vault Minerals Limited (2025) Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd Rothsay Gold Mine Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Amendment CPS 8855/1

Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Woodman) (2017) Rothsay Gold Project Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Report for Egan Street Resources Limited, prepared by Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd, March 2017.

Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Woodman) (2019) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Document. Report for Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd, prepared by Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd, June 2019.

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)
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
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
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	*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 (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.