

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9043/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Paddington Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	19 August 2025
Application area:	380 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 24/165 Mining Lease 24/182 Mining Lease 24/229 Mining Lease 24/451 Miscellaneous Licence 24/163
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Rose Dam North Expansion

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Paddington Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 380 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 716.17 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 26 kilometres northwest of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Clearing permit CPS 9043/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 5 November 2020 and was valid from 28 November 2020 to 27 November 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 380 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 716.17 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

On 19 August 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9043/1 to extend the permit duration by five years to 27 November 2030. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	27 November 2025
Decision area:	380 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), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to undertake mineral production and associated activities.

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 impacts to riparian vegetation and waterflows;
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion;
- the loss of native vegetation that is potentially suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- potentially suitable habitat for arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*); and
- potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*).

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 watercourses where practicable, and ensure surface flows are maintained or reinstated downstream;
- commence permitted activities no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition to identify active ('in use' / 'active') malleefowl mounds and avoid clearing within 200 metres of any mounds from 1 September to 31 January; and
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB)) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individual; and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies; and
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9043/1, except in the case of principle (b). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

## 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)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, 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

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. The mining proposal includes an environmental management plan encompassing measures for flora, fauna, weeds, malleefowl, bushfires, flood and groundwater (Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, 2018a, 2018b, 2024).

#### 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 9043/1, however updated information on conservation significant fauna species has been incorporated into this assessment.

Using the updated information on conservation significant fauna, it was assessed that the application may be at variance with principle (b). There is suitable habitat within the application area for conservation significant fauna and records of nearby individuals to the application area. The Delegated Officer determined that, with conditions in place, the proposed extension of duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

##### 3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

###### Assessment

A desktop assessment has identified one conservation significant fauna species record within the application area (GIS Database). In addition to this, there is suitable habitat for two more conservation significant fauna species. There were also three bird species located within 20 kilometres of the application area as per Section A.3 (Botanica Consulting, 2020E; GIS Database).

###### Mammals

- malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

###### Birds

- sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
- hooded plover (*Charadrius cucullatus*)
- common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

###### Invertebrates

- inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*)
- arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*)

###### **Malleefowl**

Malleefowl occur in a wide range of habitats generally consisting of a sandy substrate with trees between 3 and 8 metres in height and a shrub layer providing horizontal cover (DCCEEW, 2024). The large ground-dwelling bird favours long unburned and ungrazed mallee and constructs nests in sandy soils and leaf litter by building large mounds used for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). One mound was recorded in the application area from a survey completed in 2018 (GIS Database). The application area contains suitable habitat features i.e. low open woodland dominated by mallee (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over open low scrub of *Acacia kalgoorliensis* and dwarf scrub of *Atriplex vesicaria* / *Maireana pyramidata* / *Tecticornia disarticulate*) (Botanica Consulting, 2020). There are 20 records of malleefowl within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Given potentially suitable foraging and breeding habitat may occur within the application area, impacts can be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey and directional clearing conditions.

###### **Arid bronze azure butterfly and inland hairstreak**

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) have a severely fragmented and restricted geographic distribution across two remaining subpopulations in Western Australia. They are known to have a complex dependency on the co-occurring sugar ant (*Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*) to complete their lifecycle, with ABAB larvae living entirely in the sugar ants nest during their development (WABSI, 2022). The preferred habitat for ABAB is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understory (DBCA, 2020). The application area has several shared characteristics with the suitable habitat description for ABAB, namely the existence of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland (Botanica Consulting, 2020). Botanica Consulting (2020) previously considered ABAB, however, species information and guidelines have been updated since the last fauna survey was conducted over the application area (DBCA, 2020). Potential impacts to ABAB can be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey condition.

Inland hairstreak butterfly is known from two locations near Kalgoorlie, however, has been recorded from another 10 locations within an area of extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species is open woodland with mature *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia* and mixed flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana*) with open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the hostplants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Inland hairstreak caterpillars feed in the flowers from *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia*. It also has a

symbiotic relationship with the ant species *Froglattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023). The application area occurs within mapped potential habitat area for inland hairstreak, particularly occurring in the form of *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia* which occurs in Eucalyptus low open woodland with undulating plains (CLP-EW1) and Eucalyptus low open woodland with drainage channels (DD-EW1). Botanica Consulting (2020) previously considered inland hairstreak, however, the information relating to this species has been updated since the last fauna survey was conducted over the application area (Eastwood et al., 2023). Potential impacts to inland hairstreak butterfly can be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey condition.

### Other conservation significant fauna

Several conservation significant species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, however there is a low likelihood of occurrence for many of these species including; sharp-tailed sandpiper, hooded plover, and common greenshank. While the application area contains some potentially suitable habitat for the remaining bird species, it is unlikely these species will be significantly impacted at a regional level. However, it is recommended that trees containing hollows be inspected prior to clearing to avoid clearing any potential roosting or nesting habitat. Local impacts can be minimised with the implementation of a directional clearing condition to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat

### Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on potentially suitable conservation significant fauna habitat can be managed by implementing pre-clearance fauna survey conditions for malleefowl, ABAB and inland hairstreak along with a directional clearing condition.

### Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition to identify active ('in use' / 'active') malleefowl mounds and avoid clearing within 200 metres of any mounds from 1 September to 31 January; and
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals; and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies; and
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants.

## 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing amendment application was advertised on 7 October 2025 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 (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Marlinyu Ghoorlie). 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 and arid bronze azure butterfly 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 Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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 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. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions. It is part of the existing Rose Dam North Expansion project (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is Crown reserves, grazing of native pastures, conservation and mining activity (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available datasets, the application does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located in any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record is the Bullock Holes Timber Reserve located approximately 41 kilometres east of the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2020; GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 125: Bare areas; salt lakes;</li> <li>• 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum &amp; goldfields blackbutt; and</li> <li>• 540: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; sheoak over saltbush (GIS Database).</li> </ul> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during May and June 2020. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over open low scrub of <i>Acacia kalgoorliensis</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Atriplex vesic</i> / <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> / <i>Tecticornia disarticulata</i></li> <li>• Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> / <i>E. oleosa</i> over low scrub of <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> / <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Maireana sedifolia</i></li> <li>• Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over open low scrub of <i>Acacia kalgoorliensis</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> / <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> / <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> / <i>Tecticornia disarticulata</i> in drainage depression</li> </ul>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica Consulting, 2020) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is characterised by the arid to semi-arid climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion and has an average annual rainfall of 264.7 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils in the application area are in the majority mapped as calcareous loamy earth and red loamy earth. Some areas of the application area feature calcareous stony soil (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	<p>The application area lies within the Gumland, Coolgardie and Illaara land systems (GIS Database).</p> <p>The Gumland land system covers the majority of the proposed clearing area. It is described as featuring alluvial plains which support eucalypt woodlands with halophytic shrub understoreys. This land system is not susceptible to land erosion of any kind (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).</p> <p>The Coolgardie land system is described as featuring low hills, uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones which support eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands. Foothills are susceptible to water erosion when not protected by a stony mantle and consequent degradation can occur as a result of overgrazing (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).</p> <p>The Illaara land system is described as featuring low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles which support eucalypt woodlands and mulga-casuarina shrublands. This land system is not susceptible to erosion of any kind (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).</p>
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that five minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	<p>The application area is not within any legislated surface water areas, there are two settling ponds situated within close proximity to the east and west of the proposed clearing area and Black Flag Lake, a non-perennial lake located approximately 2 kilometres south of the proposed clearing area. The Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area is the closest public drinking water source located approximately 4 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area which has a mapped groundwater salinity of 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).</p>

Characteristic	Details
Flora	There are no records of conservation significant flora within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2020; GIS Database). There are eight conservation significant flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is part of the Priority 3 Ecological Community 'Emu Land System' located approximately 33 kilometres north northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There is one record of a Vulnerable fauna species within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2020). There are six other conservation significant fauna species within 20 kilometres of the proposed clearing area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Botanica Consulting (2020) identified one fauna habitat within the proposed clearing area referred to as 'Low open eucalyptus woodland' which covered approximately 94 per cent of the survey area (Botanica Consulting, 2020).

## A.2. Flora analysis table

Conservation significant flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area (Western Australia Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)
<i>Acacia epedunculata</i>	P1	Y	Y	Y	<20	1
<i>Angianthus prostratus</i>	P3	Y	Y	Y	<5	3
<i>Calandrinia lefroyensis</i>	P1	Y	N	N	<10	1
<i>Eremophila praecox</i>	P2	Y	Y	Y	<10	10
<i>Eucalyptus jutsonii</i> subsp. <i>jutsonii</i>	P4	Y	Y	Y	<20	1
<i>Ptilotus rigidus</i>	P1	N	Unknown	N	<10	1
<i>Ptilotus</i> sp. Kalgoorlie (J. Jackson & B. Moyle 260)	P1	N	N	N	<5	2
<i>Rhodanthe uniflora</i>	P1	Y	Y	Y	<20	1

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

## A.3. Fauna analysis table

Conservation significant fauna species within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)
Arid bronze azure butterfly ( <i>Ogyris petrina</i> )	CR	Y	Y	<15	14
Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> )	MI	N	N	<15	1
Hooded plover, hooded dotterel ( <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i> )	P4	N	N	<10	1
Inland hairstreak ( <i>Jalmenus aridus</i> )	P2	Y	Y	<10	5
Malleefowl ( <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> )	VU	Y	Y	0	20
Sharp-tailed sandpiper ( <i>Calidris acuminata</i> )	MI	N	N	<15	1

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?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no conservation significant flora species within the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The flora survey undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2020) identified three vegetation types and one major fauna habitat within the application area: Eucalyptus low open woodland (Botanica Consulting, 2020). The vegetation found in the application area is considered moderately diverse and regionally well represented (Paddington, 2020). It should be noted that part of the application area was identified by Botanica Consulting as 'Completely Degraded' as a result of previous mining operations.</p> <p>There are several species of weeds likely to occur within the application area, however none of these are listed as Weeds of National Significance or declared pest plants in Western Australia under the <i>Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007</i>. It is necessary to maintain the weed management condition as weeds have the potential to outcompete native flora and subsequently reduce the biodiversity in the area.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9043/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant fauna.</p>	<p>At variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 9043/1)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</p>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica Consulting, 2019; GIS Database)</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9043/1)</p>	No
<p><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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Botanica Consulting, 2020).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9043/1)</p>	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9043/1)</p>	No
<p><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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9043/1)</p>	No



Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).</p> <p>There are five minor, non-perennial watercourses within the application area which are all ephemeral watercourses draining into either Rose Dam, Black Flag Lake, or various other salt lakes located approximately 2.2 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The potential impacts to vegetation can be managed with the continued implementation of a vegetation management condition.</p>	At variance (as per CPS 9043/2)	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The soil in the application area can be described as (Northcote et al., 1960-68; GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BB5:</b> Rocky ranges and hills of greenstones-basic igneous rocks: chief soils seem to be shallow calcareous loamy soils and similar soils, with shallow brown and grey-brown calcareous earths below which weathered rock occurs at shallow depths (Northcote et al., 1960-68).</li> <li>• <b>SV15:</b> Salt lakes and their associated areas: common soils are gypseous and saline loams together with gypseous and saline soils on the lake beds. Associated are sandy red earths on lunettes; soils on plains; soils on eroded plains; and small areas of soils on clay pans (Northcote et al., 1960-68).</li> </ul> <p>As detailed in the original permit CPS 9043/1, advice was sought from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation for an adjacent area. It was determined that the red loamy soils or duplex soils that support scattered Eucalypt woodland with chenopod understoreys is generally not prone to erosion, however removal of vegetation and disturbance of the protective stony mantles may result in water erosion if surface water is not appropriately managed (DPIRD, 2020).</p> <p>Impact to land degradation may be minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.</p>	May be at variance (as per CPS 9043/1)	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The closest Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) is located approximately four kilometres north of the application area. However, as it is located uphill of the application area, any proposed clearing is not likely to affect salinity, pH levels, or nutrient levels of the PDWSA. The ephemeral creek lines within the application area are non-perennial, flowing briefly after significant rainfall (CALM, 2002; GIS Database).</p> <p>Due to the current levels of groundwater salinity in the application area it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would result in all incremental increase in groundwater salinity, nor cause deterioration in the quality of underground water.</p> <p>As a result, significant impacts to surface water and underground water are considered unlikely.</p>	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9043/1)	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The climate in the region is arid to semi-arid with an annual rainfall 200 to 300 millilitres mainly over summer, with the occasional rainfall in summer. There are five</p>	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9043/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>drainage lines within the application area that run dry for most of the year, only flowing after significant rainfall (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall event (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>The proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.</p>		

### 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.

### Appendix D. Biological survey information excerpts / photographs of the vegetation / DMPE site inspection report

The following photographs represent the dominant vegetation communities in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2020).



Figure 1. Eucalyptus low open woodland with undulating plains



Figure 2. Eucalyptus low open woodland with low rises



Figure 3. Eucalyptus low open woodland with drainage channels

## Appendix E. Sources of information

### E.1. GIS datasets

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

- 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)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- 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)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- 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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## Glossary

### Acronyms:

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

### Definitions:

**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.