

<u>Reconnaissance</u> <u>Flora and Vegetation Survey</u> <u>Golden Shamrock Prospect,</u> <u>Central Murchison Gold Project</u>

Prepared for



Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd

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1 INTRODUCTION

Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd (BBGO), a subsidiary of West Gold Resources Ltd (WGX), is planning to develop the Golden Shamrock Prospect (Golden Shamrock) as a component of the Central Murchison Gold Project (CMGP). The CMGP is located approximately 15 km southwest of Meekatharra, in the northern goldfields of Western Australia. The Golden Shamrock deposit is located approximately 32km southwest of Meekatharra (Figure 1).

BBGO commissioned Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS) to complete a reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation survey of Golden Shamrock from the 5th to 6th March 2018. A survey area which contains the conceptual disturbance footprint and associated infrastructure was provided by BBGO to NVS, covering an area of approximately 49.1 hectares.

The survey area is shown in Figures 1 & 2 and Appendix 4.





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1.1 Objectives

The objective of this report is to document the results of the flora and vegetation component of a reconnaissance assessment conducted in accordance with:

- Environmental Factor Guideline- Flora and Vegetation (EPA, 2016); and
- Technical Guidance- Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a).

A reconnaissance assessment has two components:

- 1). Desktop study which includes a literature review and a search of the relevant databases;
- 2). Reconnaissance survey of the survey area to verify the desktop survey, to define vegetation units present in the area, search for species of conservation significance and to determine potential sensitivity to impact.

As part of the reporting for the reconnaissance assessment, NVS has conducted a Flora and Vegetation Survey which includes broad-scale vegetation mapping and vegetation condition mapping of the survey area.

The scope of work for the Reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was:

- conduct a desktop study that includes a literature review and search of the relevant databases;
- describe the vegetation associations in the survey area;
- prepare an inventory of species occurring in the survey area;
- identify any vegetation communities or flora species of conservation significance;
- Map broad-scale vegetation groups found within the survey area, including vegetation condition; and
- provide recommendations, including the management of perceived impacts to flora and vegetation within the survey area.

1.2 Vegetation

The survey area lies in the Murchison (MUR) IBRA bioregion within the Western Murchison (MUR02) subregion which totals over 7.8 million hectares (CALM, 2002). The MUR02 subregion comprises vegetation dominated by Mulga low woodlands, often rich in ephemerals (usually with bunch grasses), on outcrop and fine textured Quaternary alluvial and eluvial surfaces (extensive hardpan wash plains that dominate and characterise the subregion) mantling granitic and greenstone strata of the northern part of the Yilgarn Craton. Surfaces associated with the occluded drainage occur throughout with hummock grasslands on Quaternary sandplains, saltbush shrublands on calcareous soils and *Tecticornia* low shrublands occur on saline alluvia (CALM, 2002).

1.3 Climate

The arid climate of the MUR02 subregion generally relies on winter rainfall (CALM, 2002).

The nearest official meteorological station to the survey area is located at Meekatharra Airport, approximately 34 km northeast of the survey area. Recordings of the local climatic conditions commenced at Meekatharra in 1944 (BOM, 2018) and data collected at this station 007045 was used for this report.

1.3.1 Temperature

Mean annual minimum temperature is 15.9°C and mean annual maximum temperature is 29°C. The coldest month is July (mean minimum temperature 7.4°C), the hottest is January (mean maximum temperature 38.3°C) and diurnal temperature variations are relatively consistent throughout the year (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Mean Temperature ranges for the Meekatharra Airport weather station

1.3.2 Rainfall

The area is arid and the annual average rainfall at Meekatharra is 238.2 mm, which falls (>1 mm) on an average of 28.5 rain-days. Most of the rain usually falls between January and July and this amount varies greatly both seasonally and annually (Figure 4). Rainfall for January and February 2018 exceeded monthly averages, by more than double, prior to the survey period (BOM, 2018).



Figure 4: Monthly and mean rainfall for the Meekatharra Airport weather station

2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Personnel and Reporting

The following personnel were involved in the Golden Shamrock reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey:

• Mr Eren Reid (*BSc- Biological Science*), Director/Principal Botanist, Native Vegetation Solutions, undertook the survey, vegetation mapping, data collation, field identification of flora, preparation and review of the report.

2.2 Preliminary Desktop Study

A preliminary assessment of the survey area and its potential constraints was undertaken by reviewing relevant government agency managed databases (Sections 2.2.1 to 2.2.6, and Appendices 1 & 2) and consulting with government agencies where necessary. The following sections provide a summary of desktop searches undertaken for the project.

2.2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Protected Matters

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* Protected Matters Search tool was utilised to provide results for matters of National Environmental Significance within the survey area using the survey area as the search criteria with a 1km buffer (DOTEE, 2018).

(http://www.environment.gov.au/arcgis-framework/apps/pmst/pmst-coordinate.jsf)

2.2.2 Threatened Flora and Communities

The Species and Communities Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) was contacted for a search of their databases containing known populations of threatened flora within a 15km buffer of the shapefile of the survey area (Reference: 11-0318FL). Threatened flora include Declared Rare Flora (DRF- extant, now redefined as 'Threatened') and Priority Flora.

The presence of Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TECs & PECs) was determined by examining Geographic Information System (GIS) data supplied by the DBCA upon request within a 15km buffer of the shapefile of the survey area (Reference: 11-0318EC).

2.2.3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and Conservation Reserves

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER, 2018) Clearing Permit System Map Viewer was used to determine the location of any ESAs and Conservation Reserves (<u>https://cps.der.wa.gov.au/main.html</u>).

2.2.4 Vegetation Type, Extent and Status

Vegetation extent and status data was sourced from the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) report "Land-Use and Vegetation in Western Australia- National Land and Water Resources Audit Report" and its associated GIS file (Shepherd *et al*, 2002). This data comprises Beard's Pre-European vegetation groups.

DBCA's Statewide Vegetation Statistics (DBCA, 2017) was also referenced for the current extent of Beard's Vegetation Groups.

2.2.5 Wetlands

The potential of wetlands within the project area was determined by examining DWER's Clearing Permit System Map Viewer (DWER, 2018).

2.2.6 Dieback

Dieback is only considered a potential issue for the project if both the mean annual rainfall of the area is >400mm, and if the project area resides south of the 26th parallel.

2.3 Site Investigation

A site visit was carried out by Botanist Eren Reid from Native Vegetation Solutions on the 5th and 6th March 2018 to examine the flora and vegetation groups contained within the survey area. A total of 6 hours was spent on site traversing the survey area on foot.

The survey was conducted in accordance with relevant EPA's Statements and Guidelines (Section 1.1).

The EPA uses the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) as the largest unit for Environmental Impact Assessment decision making in relation to the conservation of biodiversity. Given the scale and nature of the proposed disturbance as well as the existing disturbance, and that the survey area is located within the Murchison IBRA region, a reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was deemed adequate.

2.3.1 Licenses

Field work was conducted under Scientific License SL012187, held by Mr ER Reid with expiry 18/09/2018.

2.3.2 Field Methods

Prior to the field work, the aerial photography was examined and representative sample sites for relevés were chosen to provide coverage over all viable vegetation types.

In the field, these sites were visited and non-permanent 20 x 20m relevé sites were established in appropriate locations, considering representativeness of the site to surrounding vegetation and vegetation boundaries. Relevé sites are represented in Appendix 4.

Each relevé site was captured on a TwoNav Aventura GPS at ±4m accuracy, using Universal Transverse Mercator location on GDA94 datum. Digital photographs were taken of each representative vegetation group present in the survey area.

Data collected at each relevé included:

- Photograph of representative vegetation group:
- GPS Location:
- Species Present;
- Population Count/Estimate of Conservation Significant Flora (if present);
- Disturbance Level; and
- Vegetation Condition

Specimens of taxa not recognised by the Botanists were collected and pressed along with specimens of taxa recognised as, or thought to be, conservation-significant species.

The condition of each relevé was assessed using the method developed by Keighery (1994). Definitions of the condition scale are presented in Appendix 3.

Vegetation groups were mapped (section 2.4.4 below).

Opportunistic sampling of plant taxa and vegetation group mapping was also utilised in the survey area between relevé sampling points, via wandering traverses. Smaller singular relevé sites were also utilised as opportunistic sample sites to collect flora specimens and assist in mapping vegetation groups.

All sample sites, relevés and GPS tracks are included in Appendix 4.

2.3.3 Post-Field Methods

Unknown specimens collected in the field were identified post field work by Eren Reid with reference to published keys, NVS' reference herbarium and information published on Florabase (WAHERB, 2017).

Species information was transferred into Microsoft Excel[®] worksheets representing presence/absence of species per vegetation group.

2.3.4 Mapping

Vegetation mapping was produced via GPS recorded information in the field, cross-referenced with vegetation descriptions made in the field, overlaid on aerial imagery of the survey area. The GPS utilized (TwoNav Aventura GPS) displayed aerial imagery, hence real-time mapping of vegetation groups was also available during field work.

Vegetation Health Condition was assessed in the field with reference to Keighery (1994).

GPS tracks and waypoints recorded during field work are presented in Appendix 4.

2.4 Limitations

Table 1 lists potential limitations that may have affected the survey. As shown, this survey was not limited by any factors listed below.

Potential Limitations	Constraint (Y/N)	Comment
Competency and experience of the consultants undertaking the survey	Ν	Mr Eren Reid is an experienced Botanist who has conducted many Flora and Vegetation surveys in the Goldfields, Murchison, Pilbara and South-west regions of WA.
Proportion of flora identified during survey	Ν	The survey was planned to target species of conservation significance as well as document species present. Sufficient identifications were made to allow vegetation descriptions to be made.
Sources of information	Ν	Threatened and Priority Flora GIS information was available from DBCA.
Proportion of the task achieved	Ν	All tasks completed
Timing/Season	Ν	The targeted survey was conducted in Autumn 2018. Above Average rainfall in January and February 2018 allowed the emergence of many ephemeral species, with many other species in flower.
Disturbance in survey area	Ν	Disturbance was present with some minor access tracks present, as well as clearing associated with extensive exploration, in certain areas.
Intensity of survey effort	Ν	Transects were walked through the survey area with all parts visited
Resources	Ν	Adequate resources were available
Access problems	N	No problems with access
Availability of contextual information on the region	Ν	Information on the Murchison Bioregion area is readily available.

Table 1: List of potential survey limitations

3. RESULTS

3.1 Preliminary Desktop Assessment

3.1.1 EPBC Act Protected Matters

The EPBC Protected Matters search tool revealed that the survey area could possibly be suitable habitat for weed species *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) (DOTEE, 2018).

Cenchrus ciliaris is native to Africa and India, was widely planted in Western Australian pastoral regions as a pasture grass, and has become a widespread weed of roadsides, creeklines, river edges and most vegetation types from Geraldton to the Pilbara, Kimberley and adjacent desert (Hussey *etc.* 2007). In the Murchison region it often colonises roadside table drains, excluding native everlastings. It seriously alters the fire characteristics of invaded plant cover by generating highly flammable fuel that is prone to more frequent fires.

The EPBC Protected Matters report indicated no TECs or Commonwealth Reserves within a 2km buffer region of survey area (DOTEE, 2018).

The results of the EPBC Protected Matters search are included in Appendix 1.

3.1.2 Threatened Flora and Communities

The DBCA database searches revealed a potential for no Threatened and 28 Priority Flora species to occur within a 15km radius of the survey area (DBCA, 2018a).

No known locations of Priority Flora occur within the survey area. The closest location of Priority Flora occurs 460m south of the survey area

Results of the threatened flora database search are included in Appendix 2.

The PEC/TEC search (DBCA, 2018) revealed that the survey area does not contain any TEC/PECs or lie within any nearby TEC/PEC buffer regions.

3.1.3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Conservation Reserves

No ESAs are located within the survey area (DWER, 2018).

No Conservation Reserves were identified within the survey area (DOTEE, 2018).

3.1.4 Vegetation Type, Extent and Status

Two vegetation units defined by Beard (1990) were identified as part of the desktop assessment. These vegetation units identify the Pre-European extent of vegetation, as mapped by Beard (1990).

Information relating to known Beard (1990) vegetation units within the survey area has been summarised in Tables 2 and 3 below. This information has been compiled through both desktop assessments and the site visit.

Table 2: Summary of information regarding Pre-European and current vegetation extent of vegetation association 18 within the survey area

Factor	Value					
Beard Vegetation Association*	18	18				
Vegetation Association Description*	Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura)					
			Scale			
Pre-European Extent (ha)	By Association (WA)	By Association (WA)	By IBRA Region (Murchison)	By IBRA Sub- region (Western Murchison)	By Shire (Shire of Meekatharra)	
	22,029,557*	19,892,306**	12,403,172**	2,133,275**	3,117,900**	
% Pre-European Extent Remaining	100.00%* 99.76%** 99.68%** 99.77%** 99.79%**					
Surrounding Land Use***	Mining, Exploration, Pastoral Lease					
Weed prevalence***	Low					
* Source: Shepherd et al.	(2002) Appendix 2					

**Source: DBCA, (2017)

*** Source: Field Assessment

Table 3: Summary of information regarding Pre-European and current vegetation extent of vegetation association 39 within the survey area

Factor	Value				
Beard Vegetation Association*	39				
Vegetation Association Description*	Shrublands; mu	lga scrub			
			Scale		
Pre-European Extent (ha)	By Association (WA)	By Association (WA)	By IBRA Region (Murchison)	By IBRA Sub- region (Western Murchison)	By Shire (Shire of Meekatharra)
	4,856,768*	6,613,567**	1,148,400**	437,071**	1,367,518**
% Pre-European Extent Remaining	100.00%*	99.83%**	99.10%**	99.78%**	99.87%**
Surrounding Land Use***	Mining, Exploration, Pastoral Lease				
Weed prevalence***	Low				

* Source: Shepherd et al. (2002) Appendix 2

**Source: DBCA, (2017)

*** Source: Field Assessment

3.1.5 Wetlands

No wetlands which are recorded on the DWER Clearing Permit System Map Viewer occur within the survey area (DWER, 2018).

3.1.6 Dieback

The survey area lies south of the 26th parallel however receives an average annual rainfall of 238.2mm, below the 400mm threshold mark. There is no record of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* establishing in natural ecosystems in regions receiving <400mm rainfall per annum (CALM, 2003). Therefore, Dieback is not considered an issue for this survey area, however all measures should be taken to prevent any possible soil contamination (seeds of non-native species etc.) which poses a risk in the survey area during seasonally favourable conditions.

3.2 Field Assessment

3.2.1 Threatened Flora

No flora located in the survey area, are gazetted as Threatened pursuant to Section 5(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

No plant taxa listed as Threatened pursuant to Schedule 1 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* were located within the survey area.

No Priority species were recorded in the survey area.

3.2.2 Vegetation Type, Extent and Status

A total of 18 Families, 35 Genera and 60 Species were recorded within the Golden Shamrock survey area. Three major vegetation groups were recorded in the survey area, a summary of the vegetation groups can be seen in Table 4 below.

Vegetation Group	Families	Genera	Species	Area (ha)	Percentage of Survey Area (%)
Open Mulga shrubland	15	25	44	47.82	97.38%
BIF Outcrop Vegetation	13	17	24	0.44	0.89%
Mulga Creekline shrubland	11	17	23	0.85	1.73%
Total	18*	35*	60*	49.11#	100.00%#

Table 4: Golden Shamrock Vegetation Group Summary

Note: * Within total survey area (not sum of column) # Sum of column

Most vegetation groups are considered to be in "Good" condition; with some areas "Degraded" (using the scale of Keighery 1994, see Appendix 3). Maps of the survey area can be seen in Appendix 4.

The Golden Shamrock vegetation groups are described in more detail in the sections below.

3.2.2.1 Open Mulga Shrubland

This vegetation group (Figure 5) consisted of 15 Families, 25 Genera and 44 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 47.82 ha which makes up 97.38% of the survey area.

Dominant species were Acacia aneura, Acacia mulganeura, Acacia victoriae subsp. victoriae, Senna glutinosa subsp. chatelainiana and Eremophila fraseri subsp. fraseri.



Figure 5: Open Mulga Shrublands within the survey area

3.2.2.2 BIF Outcrop Vegetation

This vegetation group (Figure 6) consisted of 13 Families, 17 Genera and 24 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 0.44 ha which makes up 0.89% of the survey area.

Dominant species were Acacia aneura, A. tetragonophylla, Psydrax rigidula, Ptilotus obovatus, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei and Ptilotus rotundifolius.



Figure 6: BIF Outcrop vegetation within the survey area

3.2.2.3 Mulga Creekline shrubland

This vegetation group (Figure 7) consisted of 11 Families, 17 Genera and 23 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 0.85 ha which makes up 1.73% of the survey area.

Dominant species were Acacia quadrimarginea, A. tetragonophylla, A. pteraneura, Hibiscus coatesii, Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, Boerhavia repleta, Iseilema membranaceum and Tragus australianus.



Figure 7: Mulga Creekline shrubland within the survey area

3.2.3 Weeds

Four weed species were recorded in the survey area; *Chenopodium murale* (Nettle-leaf Goosefoot), *Citrullus lanatus* (Pie Melon), *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) and *Nicotiana glauca* (Tree Tobacco).

None of these species are declared pests (DPIRD, 2018).

3.2.4 Vegetation Condition

Evidence of cattle and rabbits was observed during the field assessment.

Overall, the condition of the vegetation was determined to be "Good" with some areas in "Degraded" condition. Most disturbances were in the form of historic exploration activities. A Map of the Vegetation Condition can be seen in Appendix 4.

4. DISCUSSION

The field assessment established that the condition of the vegetation in the proposed disturbance area is overall "Good", with few areas of "Degraded" vegetation condition, where exploration disturbances were more common.

No Threatened Flora or TECs were recorded in the area. No Priority Species or PECs were recorded in the survey area.

Any proposed disturbance/clearing of vegetation will result in a loss of species. However, given the size of the area and the extent of the Beard (1990) vegetation association elsewhere, the impact on the vegetation and its component flora will not affect the conservation values of either, or create fragmentation or patches of remnant vegetation.

The following recommendations arise from the Reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey:

- Where possible, clearing be aligned to existing roads, tracks and other barriers or follow the boundaries of broad-scale intact native vegetation; and
- Weed control measures to be implemented during and following clearing.

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6. GLOSSARY

Acronyms:

BOM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
BSc	Bachelor of Science
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DBCA)
CPS	Clearing Permit System (DWER)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DOTEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DPAW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth Act)
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia, DOTEE
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - commonly known as the
	World Conservation Union
km	Kilometres
m	Metres
MUR	Murchison Bioregion, IBRA
MUR02	Western Murchison Subregion, IBRA
NVS	Native Vegetation Solutions
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
Ramsar	A wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (UNESCO)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WA	Western Australia
WAHERB	Western Australian Herbarium, DBCA

Definitions:

{DPAW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia, May 2017}: -

T Threatened species:

Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened fauna is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' declared to be 'likely to become extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Threatened flora is flora that has been declared to be 'likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection', pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act. The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

CR Critically endangered species

Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

EN Endangered species

Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

VU Vulnerable species

Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

EX Presumed extinct species

Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.

IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement

Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

CD Conservation dependent fauna

Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

OS Other specially protected fauna

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

P Priority species

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened flora or fauna. Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:

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

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:

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

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1

Relevant Government Database Search Results



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about <u>Environment Assessments</u> and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

Report created: 09/04/18 16:12:10

Summary <u>Details</u> <u>Matters of NES</u> <u>Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act</u> <u>Extra Information</u> <u>Caveat</u> <u>Acknowledgements</u>



This map may contain data which are ©Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), ©PSMA 2010

<u>Coordinates</u>	
Buffer: 2.0Km	

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Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the Administrative Guidelines on Significance.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance:	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	None
Listed Threatened Species:	4
Listed Migratory Species:	7

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage

A <u>permit</u> may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Land:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	9
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Marine:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

State and Territory Reserves:	None
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Invasive Species:	6
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
Key Ecological Features (Marine)	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed Threatened Species		[Resource Information]
Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Calidris ferruginea		
Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Leipoa ocellata		
Malleefowl [934]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Pezoporus occidentalis		
Night Parrot [59350]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Other		
Idiosoma nigrum		
Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider, Black Rugose Trapdoor Spider [66798]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Listed Migratory Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name on th	he EPBC Act - Threatened	Species list
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Migratory Marine Birds	Throatoniou	
Apus pacificus		
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Migratory Terrestrial Species		
Motacilla cinerea		
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla flava		
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Migratory Wetlands Species		
Actitis hypoleucos		
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris acuminata		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea		
Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Name

Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858] Threatened

Type of Presence

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name on t	he EPBC Act - Threatened	Species list.
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Birds		
Actitis hypoleucos		
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Apus pacificus		
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Ardea alba		
Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Calidris acuminata		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea		
Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Calidris melanotos		
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Merops ornatus		
Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla cinerea		
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla flava		
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area

Extra Information

Invasive Species

[Resource Information]

likely to occur within area

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resouces Audit, 2001.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Columba livia		
Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove, Domestic Pigeon [803]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Mammals		
Capra hircus		
Goat [2]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Felis catus		
Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Oryctolagus cuniculus		
Rabbit, European Rabbit [128]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Vulpes vulpes		
Red Fox, Fox [18]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Plants		
Cenchrus ciliaris		
Buffel-grass, Black Buffel-grass [20213]		Species or species habitat

Native Vegetation Solutions Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey- Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd, Golden Shamrock Prospect

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World and National Heritage properties, Wetlands of International and National Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been derived through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, maps are derived using either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc) together with point locations and described habitat; or environmental modelling (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where very little information is available for species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc). In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More reliable distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions as time permits.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

Such breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Coordinates

-26.8769 118.3349

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales -Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria -Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania -Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia -Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory -Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland -Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia -Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT -Birdlife Australia -Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme -Australian National Wildlife Collection -Natural history museums of Australia Museum Victoria -Australian Museum -South Australian Museum -Queensland Museum -Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums -Queensland Herbarium -National Herbarium of NSW -Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria -Tasmanian Herbarium -State Herbarium of South Australia -Northern Territory Herbarium -Western Australian Herbarium -Australian National Herbarium, Canberra -University of New England -Ocean Biogeographic Information System -Australian Government, Department of Defence Forestry Corporation, NSW -Geoscience Australia -CSIRO -Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns -eBird Australia -Australian Government - Australian Antarctic Data Centre -Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory -Australian Government National Environmental Science Program -Australian Institute of Marine Science -Reef Life Survey Australia -American Museum of Natural History -Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania -Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania -Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the Contact Us page.

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DWER Clearing Permit System Map Viewer showing no ESA's (dark green shaded areas) within the survey area (DWER, 2018)



DWER Clearing Permit System Map Viewer showing no waterbodies within the survey area (DWER, 2018)

Appendix 2

Threatened Flora Databases Search Results

	Conservation		Flowering
Taxon	Code	Distribution	Period
Acacia dilloniorum	P1	Weld Range	Aug
Acacia sclerosperma subsp. glaucescens	P3		Jul-Aug
		Nannine, Yalgoo, Norie Stn, Coodardy Stn,	
Acacia speckii	P4	Meekatharra, Madoonga Stn	
Beyeria lapidicola	P1	Bulga Downs, Weld Range, Lake Way Stn.	Jul
		Tuchanana Ck, Yoothapina Stn, Mt Hale,	
Calytrix verruculosa	P3	Meekatharra, (Leinster, Mt Keith)	Aug-Oct
Eremophila fasciata	P3	Yagahong Hill, Annean Stn, Mooloogool Stn	Jul-Aug
		Eareheedy, Meekatharra, Lake Way, Barwidgee,	
		Wanjarri, Wiluna, Wonganoo, Granite Peak, Lorna	
Eremophila pungens	P4	Glen Hmstd, Agnew, Leinster, Mooloogool	Jun-Oct
Eremophila retropila	P1	Meekatharra	Jul-Aug
Eremophila rhegos	P1	Waldburg Stn, Weld Range	Sep
Eremophila sp. Meekatharra (D.J. Edinger 4430)	P1	Meekatharra, Mooloogool Stn.	Jul, Oct
		Belele Stn, Coolcalalaya, Mt James, Cue, Gabyon Stn,	
Goodenia berringbinensis	P4	Killara Stn, Mt Augustus, Credo Stn.	Jun-Oct
		Cue, Meekatharra, Yakabindie, Sandstone, Melrose,	
Grevillea inconspicua	P4	Leinster, Mt Magnet	Jul-Aug
Hemigenia virescens	P3	Belele Stn, Annean Stn	Jul,Aug
		Belele Stn., Coodardy Stn., Kanandah Stn., Eastern	
Hibiscus krichauffianus	P3	States	Mar, Oct
		Carnegie Stn, Wiluna, Doolgunna Stn, Weld Range,	
Homalocalyx echinulatus	P3	Mount Hale, Windidda, Wongawal Stn	Dec
		Hamersley Range, Meekatharra, West Angelas,	
Indigofera gilesii	P3	Rawlinson Range, Tanami Desert	May,Aug
Lepidium xylodes	P1	Belele Stn, Moorarie Stn, Lake Wells	Aug,Sep
		Meekatharra, Cue, Mt Phillips Station, Marymia,	
Maireana prosthecochaeta	P3	Bulloo Downs, Lake Way Stn.	Jul
		Watheroo, Yilgarn, Meekatharra, Paynes Find,	
Menkea draboides	P3	Yardina Rock	Aug,Sep
Micromyrtus placoides	P3	Cue, Weld Range, Mt Narryer, Tallering Peak	Aug,Sep
		Wongan Hills, Kwolyin, Lake Anneen, Nannine,	
		Nangeen Hill, Lake Champion, Shackelton, Derdibin	
		Rock, Baladgjie Lake NR, Wannarra Stn, Mullewa,	
Podotheca pritzelii	P3	Morawa	Oct
Prostanthera petrophila	P3	Cue, Mt Barloweerie, Woolgorong, Weld Range,	Jul-Aug
Ptilotus crosslandii	P3	Meekatharra, Dalgety Downs, Paraburdoo, Glenburgh	Sep
		Beringarra, Belele Station, Mt Hale Stn., Polelle Stn.,	
Ptilotus lazaridis	P3	Meekatharra, Yarrabubba Stn.,	Jul
		Meekatharra, Mt Alice, Mount Magnet, Lake Way	
Different handler		Stn., Doolgunna Stn.Boogardie Stn., Polelle Stn.,	
Ptilotus luteolus	P3	Gienburg Stn., Milbillille Stn.	<u> </u>
	54	Beleie Station, Woodlands Station, Ex-Doolgunna	
Ptilotus sp. Doolgunna (D. Edinger 4419) PN	P1	Station	
knodanthe sphaerocephala	۲1	Belele, Meekatharra	Uct
The difference in the first state in the	50	Lake Anneen, Mt Margaret, Nannine, Yuin, Lorna	
l'ecticornia cymbiformis	P3	Giên Sth.	1

Appendix 3

Vegetation Condition Scale (Keighery, 1994)

Pristine (1). Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.

Excellent (2). Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species.

Very Good (3). Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance.

For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeating fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing.

Good (4). Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance.

Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it.

For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.

Degraded (5). 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 grazing.

Completely Degraded (6). 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 compromising weed or crop species with isolated trees or shrubs.

Appendix 4

Vegetation Mapping









Appendix 5

Species List

Family	Genus	Species	A, P, NN	Open Mulga shrubland	BIF Outcrop Vegetation	Mulga Creekline shrubland
Amaranthaceae	Ptilotus	aervoides	А	*		
Amaranthaceae	Ptilotus	nobilis	А		*	
Amaranthaceae	Ptilotus	obovatus	Р	*	*	*
Amaranthaceae	Ptilotus	roei	Р	*		
Amaranthaceae	Ptilotus	rotundifolius	Р		*	
Apocynaceae	Marsdenia	australis	Р	*	*	
Asteraceae	Pterocaulon	sphacelatum	Р		*	
Chenopodiaceae	Atriplex	bunburyana	Р		*	
Chenopodiaceae	Chenopodium	murale	A, NN	*		
Chenopodiaceae	Maireana	georgei	Р	*	*	
Chenopodiaceae	Maireana	triptera	Р	*	*	
Chenopodiaceae	Rhagodia	eremaea	Р	*		*
Chenopodiaceae	Salsola	australis	А	*	*	
Cucurbitaceae	Citrullus	lanatus	A, NN	*	*	
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia	drummondii	А	*	*	
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia	tannensis subsp. eremophila	А	*		
Fabaceae	Acacia	aneura	Р	*	*	
Fabaceae	Acacia	grasbyi	Р	*		
Fabaceae	Acacia	mulganeura	Р	*		
Fabaceae	Acacia	pteraneura	Р	*		*
Fabaceae	Acacia	quadrimarginea	Р			*
Fabaceae	Acacia	rhodophloia	Р	*		
Fabaceae	Acacia	tetragonophylla	Р	*	*	*
Fabaceae	Acacia	victoriae subsp. victoriae	Р	*		
Fabaceae	Senna	artemisioides subsp. helmsii	Р	*	*	*
Fabaceae	Senna	artemisioides subsp. sturtii	Р	*		*
Fabaceae	Senna	glutinosa subsp. chatelainiana	Р	*	*	*
Fabaceae	Senna	pleurocarpa var. pleurocarpa	Р	*		*
Goodeniaceae	Goodenia	quasilibera	А	*		
Goodeniaceae	Scaevola	spinescens	Р			*
Malvaceae	Hibiscus	coatesii	Р	*		*
Malvaceae	Sida	calyxhymenia	Р	*	*	*
Malvaceae	Sida	ectogama	Р	*		
Malvaceae	Sida	sp. Golden calyces glabrous	Р	*		
Nyctaginaceae	Boerhavia	repleta	А		*	*
Poaceae	Aristida	contorta	А	*		
Poaceae	Austrostipa	elegantissima	Р			*
Poaceae	Cenchrus	ciliaris	A,NN			*
Poaceae	Cymbopogon	ambiguus	Р	*		
Poaceae	Enneapogon	caerulescens	Р	*		
Poaceae	Eragrostis	eriopoda	Р	*		
Poaceae	Eriachne	helmsii	Р		*	
Poaceae	Eriachne	pulchella subsp. pulchella	A	*	*	
Poaceae	Iseilema	membranaceum	A			*
Poaceae	Monachather	paradoxus	Р		*	
Poaceae	Tragus	australianus	A	*		*
Proteaceae	Hakea	preissii	Р			*
Proteaceae	Hakea	recurva subsp. recurva	Р	*		

Family	Genus	Species	A, P, NN	Open Mulga shrubland	BIF Outcrop Vegetation	Mulga Creekline shrubland
Rubiaceae	Psydrax	rigidula	Р		*	
Santalaceae	Santalum	lanceolatum	Р	*		
Scrophulariaceae	Eremophila	forrestii subsp. forrestii	Р	*	*	*
Scrophulariaceae	Eremophila	fraseri subsp. fraseri	Р	*		*
Scrophulariaceae	Eremophila	latrobei subsp. latrobei	Р		*	
Scrophulariaceae	Eremophila	mackinlayi subsp. spathulata	Р	*		
Solanaceae	Nicotiana	glauca	P, NN			*
Solanaceae	Solanum	lachnophyllum	Р	*		
Solanaceae	Solanum	lasiophyllum	Р	*		*
Surianaceae	Stylobasium	spathulatum	Р	*		
Zygophyllaceae	Tribulus	astrocarpus	Р	*	*	*
Zygophyllaceae	Tribulus	suberosus	Р	*		