SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

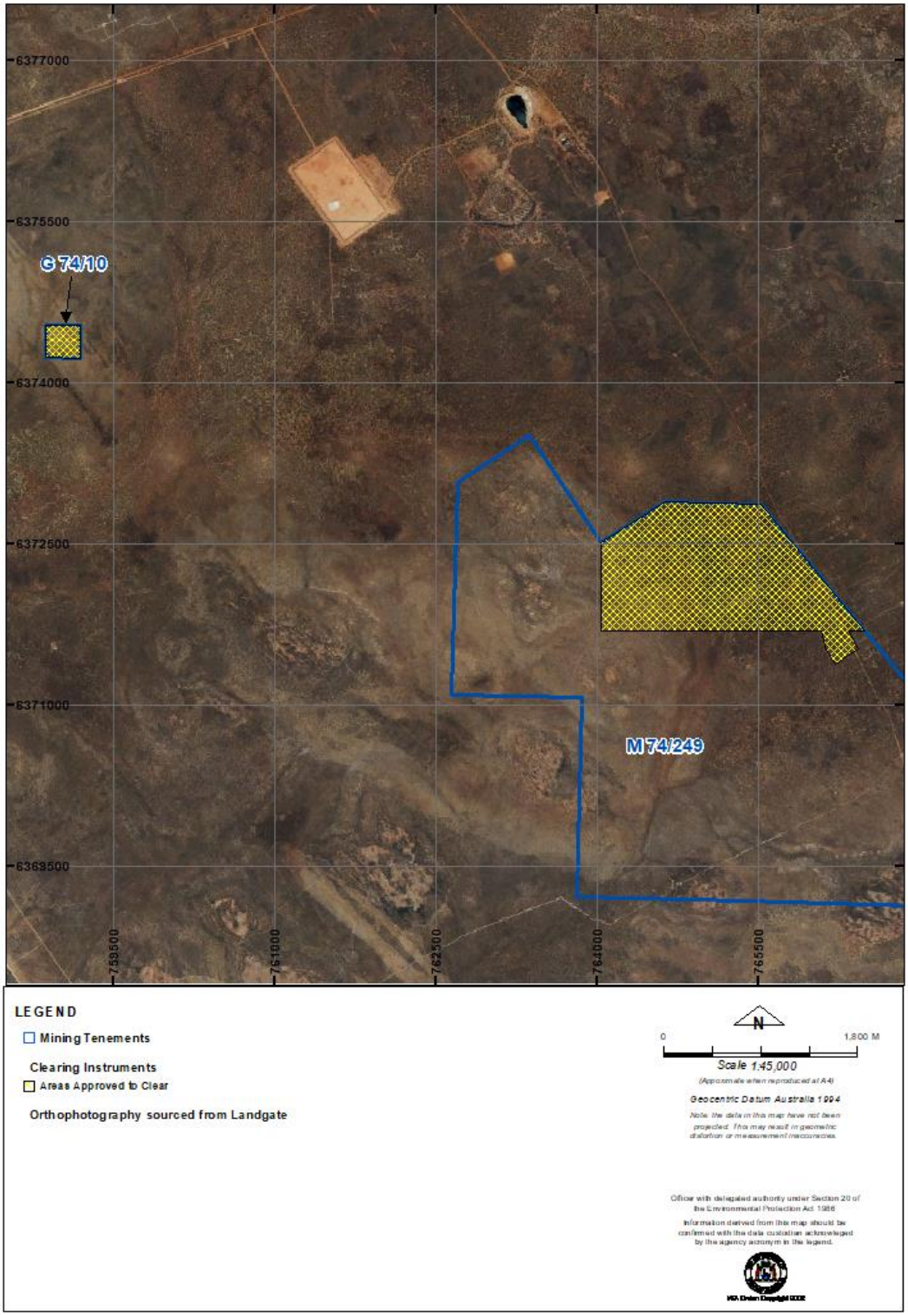

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

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

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9137/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Classic Minerals Limited
Application received:	2 December 2020
Application area:	85.2 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	General Purpose Lease 74/10
	Mining Lease 74/249
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Kondinin
Colloquial name:	Kat Gap Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Classic Minerals Ltd proposes to clear up to 85.2 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 240.9 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

The application is to allow for the mining and processing of gold at the Kat Gap Project.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	10 February 2022
Decision area:	85.2 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 2 December 2020 DMIRS advertised the application for public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received. During the assessment of the application, Classic Minerals Ltd modified the application to include additional areas on General Purpose Lease 74/10 and Miscellaneous Licence 74/57. The application was advertised for an additional period of 21 days on 28 October 2021, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix I), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- impacts to a threatened ecological community;
- impacts to habitat for conservation signifcant fauna;
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to have long-term adverse impacts on conservation

significant flora and fauna and the impacts of the 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;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- avoid known locations of the Priority flora species *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada.*

1.5. Site map

A site map of proposed clearing is provided in Figure 1 below. Figure 2 below also show the application area in a local context.

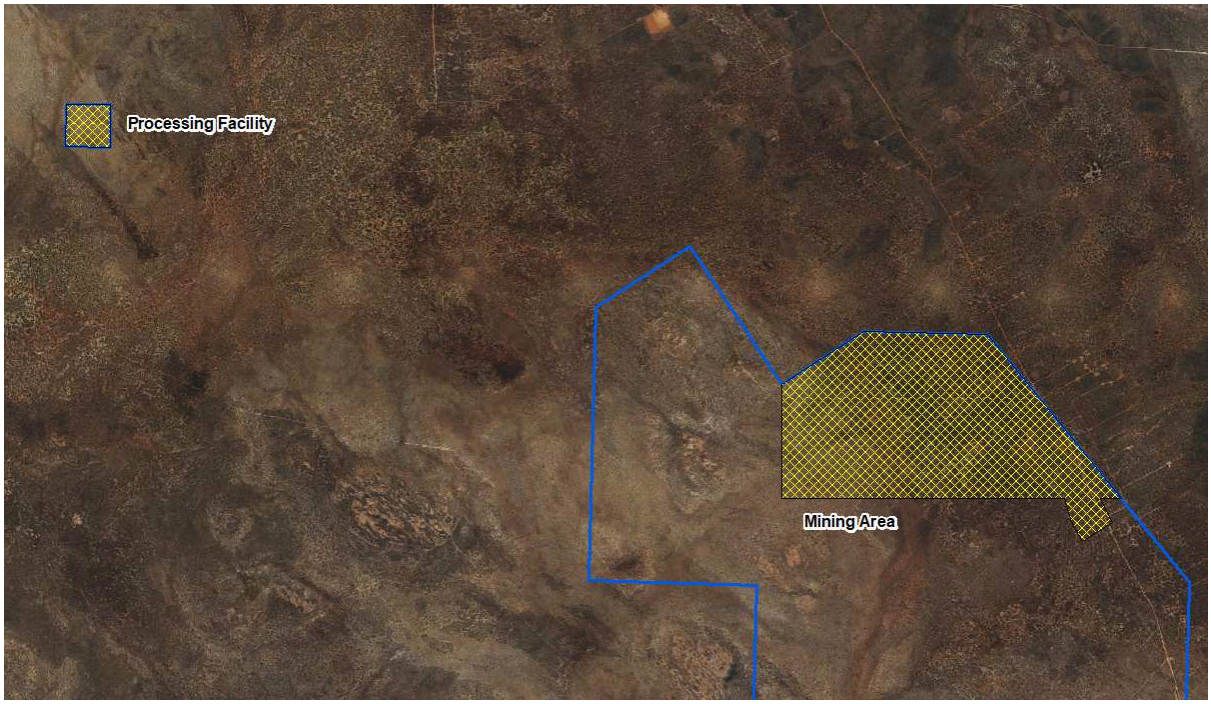

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

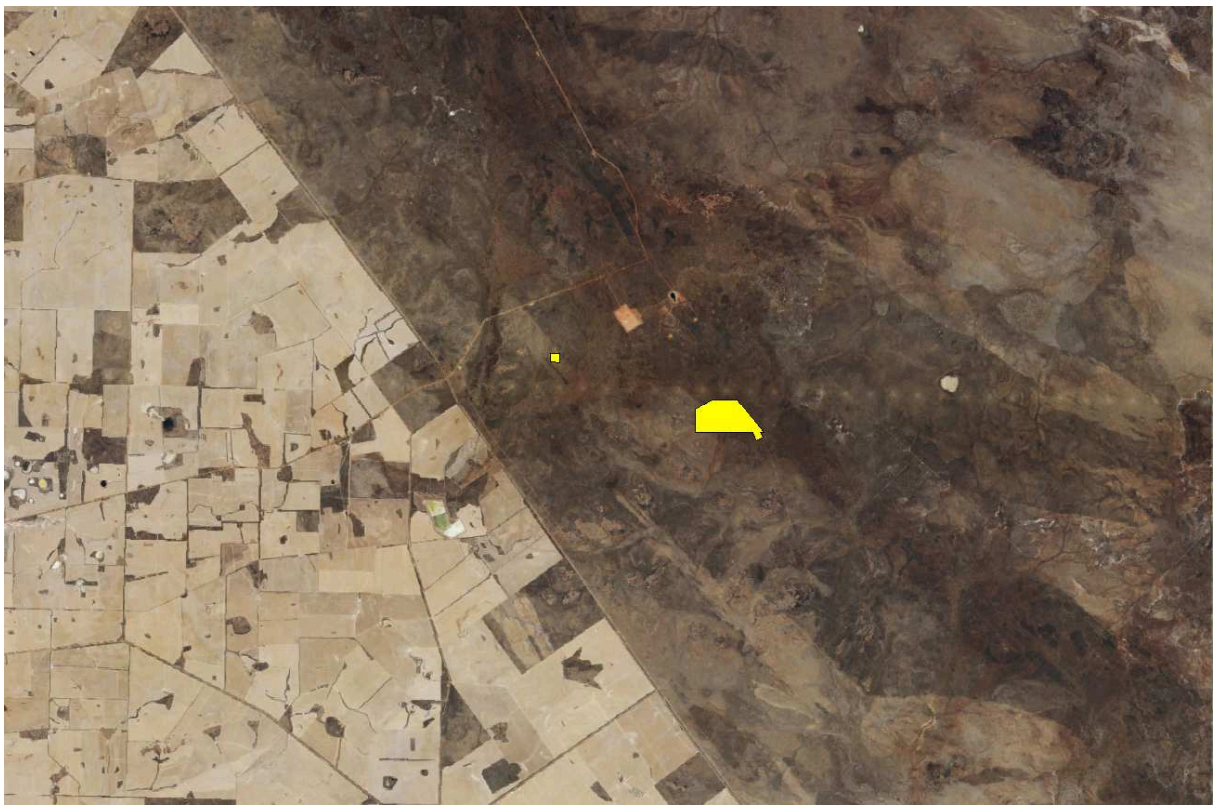

Figure 2. Map of the application area in a local context. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that the project had been designed to avoid impacts on the Priority flora species *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada*. However, whilst this application was under assessment it was identified that areas were cleared for the purpose of the processing facility, roads and proposed campsite without a clearing permit or valid exemption. This demonstrates that the applicant did not have adequate measures in place to ensure that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of proposed clearing on the environmental values. Classic Minerals has since developed a clearing management procedure to put controls in place to minimise clearing impacts.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

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

3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principles (a), (c), (d)

Assessment

A flora survey was undertaken in 2018 which included the majority of the application area over the proposed mining area (but also surveyed other sites approximately 60 kilometres to the north) (Terratree, 2018). There was two additional targeted surveys undertaken over the proposed mining area and a targeted survey of the processing facilities undertaken in 2021 (Terratree 2021a; 2021b; 2021c).

The 2018 survey recorded a total of 297 species from 107 genera and 41 families (Terratree, 2018). The most diverse community within the permit area was the EsMhHg community with 73 species recorded during the 2018 survey (Terratree, 2018).

There has been no species of Threatened flora recorded within the permit area (Terratree, 2018; 2021a; 2021b; 2021c; GIS Database). However, there are records of three Threatened flora species; *Banksia sphaerocarpa* var *dolichostyla, Boronia revoluta* and *Tetratheca aphylla* subsp. *megacarpa,* within 10 kilometres of the permit area (GIS Database). The 2018 flora survey which covered the majority of the permit area did not record any Threatened flora species (Terratree, 2018). There were also no species of Threatened flora species recorded during the targeted flora surveys undertaken in 2021 (Terratree, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c). However, the 2021 surveys were undertaken following a significant fire which burnt the area in December 2019 and many species of flora were not likely to be observed due to the slow recovery of vegetation (Terratree, 2021b). Based on their known habitats and the vegetation and soils present within the permit area, all three species have the potential to be present (Terratree, 2021b; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). The application area is located on the

western extremity of the Great Western Woodland which is an intact tract of woodland covering almost 16 million hectares (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). There is likely to be similar habitat present in surrounding areas, and the proposed clearing of 85.2 hectares is not likely to significantly impact on the continued existence of Threatened flora in the local area.

The 2018 flora survey in the greater Kat Gap area recorded five species of Priority flora; *Acacia sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula* (Priority 1), *Lepidosperma amantiferrum* (Priority 1), *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada* (Priority 3), *Pultenaea indira* subsp. *monstrosita* (Priority 3) and *Spyridium mucronatum* subsp. *recurvum* (Priority 3). There is also a record of *Grevillea lullfitzii* (Priority 1) within one kilometre of the application area, but this species was not recorded during the flora survey (Terratree, 2018). The targeted survey of the proposed processing facility also recorded *Gyrostemon ditrigynus* (Priority 4) (Terratree, 2021c).

The only species recorded during the 2018 flora survey that was located within the application area was *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada* (Terratree, 2018). There were four individuals identified, three of which are within the permit boundary (Terratree, 2021). There are also likely to be additional plants within other areas of suitable habitat within the permit area (DBCA, 2021). This species is known from 9 records at the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) however, if historical pre-1970 records are excluded, then this reduces the number of known locations to five (DBCA, 2021). The nearest known location of this species is approximately 35 kilometres southeast of the permit area which makes the population within the permit area regionally significant. The location of mining and infrastructure within the permit area has been positioned to avoid the known locations of *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada*.

Gyrostemon ditrigynus was recorded during the targeted survey of the proposed processing facility area (Terratree, 2021c). This species is found on plains and low ironstone ridges (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). This species does not appear to be restricted as there are 35 records at the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) and it has a range of approximately 420 kilometres east-west and 150 kilometres north-south. Many *Gyrostemon* spp. have been recorded to be fire ephemeral pioneer species which germinate in large numbers following a fire and live for 6 months to four years (Terratree, 2021c). It is believed that *Gyrostemon ditrigynus* is also a pioneer species which germinated following the bushfire in 2019 (Terratree, 2021c).

Pultenaea indira subsp. *monstrosita* was recorded at one location outside of the permit area (Terratree 2018; 2021). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the permit area so it is possible that it could be present (DBCA, 2021). This species is known from seven locations, however plant numbers have not been recorded at most of the locations so quantifying impacts on this species is difficult (DBCA, 2021). Given the amount of habitat present outside of the permit area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species at a regional level however, depending on whether there are significant numbers within the permit area, it could have an impact at a local level (DBCA, 2021).

Acacia sclerophylla var. *teretiuscula* was recorded at two separate locations during the 2018 flora survey (Terratree, 2018). The populations are located approximately 500 metres south and 560 metres northwest of the permit area respectively (Terratree, 2021b). This species was not restricted to one vegetation association as it was recorded in the EsMhHg, EfAbAd, EcDnAb communities within the permit area and also the EeMsWc community which was not mapped within the permit area (Terratree, 2021). There were 105 plants recorded to the south of the permit area and based on the density of plants recorded it is estimated that the population is 9,646 individuals (Terratree, 2021). Based on the habitat within the permit area, this species may be impacted by the proposed clearing. However, given it was found across a range of vegetation communities and the amount recorded outside of the permit area, the proposed clearing would not be expected to have a significant impact on this species at a local level.

Lepidosperma amantiferrum was recorded at one location on a granite outcrop approximately 75 metres south of the permit area (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). This species is only known from one confirmed location approximately nine kilometres north of the permit area so this occurrence potentially represents a significant range extension and a new location (DBCA, 2021). The habitat description for this species is low mallee woodland, on the gentle lower slopes on yellow sandy loam soils with banded ironstone rocks/gravel (DBCA, 2021).

Spyridium mucronatum subsp. *recurvum* was recorded in three quadrats during the 2018 flora survey approximately 500 metres south of the permit area (Terratree, 2018). This species was only recorded within the EeMsWc vegetation community which was not mapped within the permit area (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). This species has a range of approximately 250 kilometres from Munglinup in the east to Borden in the west (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

Grevillea lullfitzii was not recorded during the 2018 flora survey but is known from a record approximately 450 metres north of the permit area (Terratree 2018; 2021b; GIS Database). This species currently has a restricted distribution being known only from nine populations over a range of 17 by 9 kilometres (DBCA, 2021). Habitat for this species is described as heath/open mallee woodland over orange/red brown/yellow loam with ironstone gravel (DBCA, 2021). Whilst it has not been recorded, suitable habitat for this species is present within the permit area (Terratree, 2018).

The flora survey undertaken in 2018 did not cover a portion of the application area along the eastern extent of the proposed mining area and an additional targeted survey was undertaken in May 2021. However, this survey was undertaken following a significant fire which burnt the area in December 2019 and many species of flora were not likely to be observed due to the slow recovery of vegetation (Terratree, 2021b). An additional search of the mining area was undertaken in September 2021 and the processing facility in October 2021 to allow further time for the area to regenerate following the fire (Terratree, 2021a, 2021c). Apart from the likely pioneer species *Gyrostemon ditrigynus,* all of the targeted searches in 2021 failed to record any presence of Threatened or Priority flora species within the application area, including previously recorded locations of *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada* (Terratree, 2021a; 2021a). The assessing officer also visited the permit area in September 2021 and confirmed that the area has been significantly impacted by fire and regeneration of the vegetation may take several years.

Based on the results of the flora surveys undertaken over the permit area and the known records and habitats of conservation significant flora species, the permit area may provide habitat for several species of Threatened and Priority flora (DBCA, 2021; Terratree, 2018, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c; GIS Database). Due to the slow recovery of the vegetation following the fire in 2019, the presence of these species was not able to be determined through additional targeted surveys. All of the vegetation communities identified within the permit area were also mapped outside of the permit boundary (Terratree, 2021b; 2021c). The permit area is located within a large tract of relatively uncleared vegetation so it is assumed that suitable habitat will also be present within surrounding areas of vegetation. Whilst the proposed clearing of 85.2 hectares has the potential to clear habitat for conservation significant flora, based on the current information it will not lead to a significant reduction in local populations or potential habitat in the local area (10 kilometre radius). Potential impacts to Priority flora species may be reduced by the implementation of a condition which requires the known records of *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada* within the permit area to be avoided.

No weed species were recorded within the application area (Terratree, 2018; 2021b; 2021c). However, weeds are known disturbance invaders and following the fire in 2019 and clearing activities, there is a risk that weeds can be spread into the area and become established as weeds have the potential to out-compete native flora and reduce the biodiversity of an area.

Flora and vegetation surveys over the permit area have identified six vegetation units within the permit area (Terratree, 2018; 2021b; 2021c). The EuMpMa vegetation community was considered to be representative of the 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) which is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Terratree, 2021b). This community is also listed as a Priority Ecological Community (PEC) at a state level. The permit area is located on the western extremity of a large tract of intact woodland (GIS Database). It is likely that this community is also represented in the surrounding areas of vegetation (GIS Database). There was 157 hectares of the EuMpMa community mapped within the permit area (Terratree, 2021b). The proposed clearing will not clear all of the community within the permit area and it is still likely to maintain adequate representation in the local area.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on Threatened and Priority flora and the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC is not likely to be significant. There is also potential for the clearing to exacerbate the spread of weeds in the local area.

Conditions

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

- Take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- No clearing of the known locations of *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada* within the permit area.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

The following two broad fauna habitats have been recorded within the application area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020):

- Tall open woodland over Melaleuca shrubland
- Mallee woodland over mixed shrubland

The vegetation within the application area was burnt by a significant fire in December 2019. The vegetation has been slow to recover and at the time of assessment, the ability of the habitat to support fauna has been substantially reduced. However, the area is likely to recover over time and the future value of the habitat has been considered in determining its significance for native fauna.

The permit area is located on the western extremity of the Great Western Woodland which is an intact tract of woodland covering almost 16 million hectares (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). Whilst there has been large amounts of clearing for agricultural activities to the west of the permit area, the vegetation within the permit area is not part of a remnant of vegetation or forms part of a larger remnant. The vegetation of the permit area does not form part of an ecological linkage with any of the remnants in the cleared agricultural areas (GIS Database).

A desktop assessment of the fauna likely to be present in the permit area identified six species of conservation significant fauna which were considered likely to be residents; Lake Cronin Snake (*Paraplocephalus atriceps* – Priority 3), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* - Vulnerable), Western Rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* – Priority 4), Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii* – Vulnerable), Western Brush Wallaby (*Notamacropus irma* – Priority 4) and Central Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus major tor* – Priority 3) (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020).

A search of the permit area for Malleefowl mounds was undertaken in June 2020 (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). The search identified one inactive mound which has not been used for several years (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). Given the impact of the fire, the permit area is not likely to be used for nesting for several years. Conducting clearing whilst there are fewer Mallefowl utilising the area will reduce the likelihood of individuals being directly impacted by clearing.

The Chuditch is known from similar habitats in the Mount Holland and Forrestania area and is likely to utilise the vegetation within the permit area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). The Chuditch have been found to occupy home ranges varying

from 189 hectares to 2,125 hectares (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). Therefore, it is likely that the permit area only forms a small part of a larger range and the proposed clearing is not expected to have a significant impact on this species.

The Lake Cronin Snake has been recorded from the broader region and is likely to utilise the habitat within the permit area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). The Western Rosella and Brush Wallaby are also likely to be a resident of the permit area, using this habitat as part of a larger range (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). The Central long-eared Bat is likely to utilise the permit area, in particular relying on hollows in larger trees as roosting sites (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). Whilst the proposed clearing will result in a reduction of habitat for these species, there is suitable habitat present in the surrounding area and it is not expected to lead to a long term decline in these species populations over the long term.

There are several records of Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) within the local area (20 kilometre radius) however, this species is only likely to be an irregular visitor to the application area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). Whilst foraging habitat is likely to be present throughout the application area, the quality of the foraging habitat is low as key food species such as *Banksia* and *Hakea* species are scarce or absent (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020).

The fauna diversity in the region (surrounding 100 kilometres) is lower than historical levels due to factors such as significant clearing for agriculture, introduced predators and changing fire regimes (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020; GIS Database). The permit area was subject to an intense fire in December 2019 and the fauna diversity of the area is likely to be lower for a number of years until the vegetation fully recovers. There were two broad fauna habitats identified in the permit area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020). These habitats are not likely to support a greater level of faunal diversity than areas of surrounding vegetation.

Whilst the proposed clearing will reduce the amount of habitat available for fauna species in the local area, there is still significant amounts of similar habitat present in surrounding areas. Therefore, the proposed impact on fauna is not expected to be significant.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing of fauna habitat within the application area is not likely to have a significant impact to fauna species in the local area.

Conditions
No specific fauna management conditions are required on the permit to address impacts to fauna.

3.2.3. Land degradation - Clearing Principles (g)

Assessment

The application area lies within the Newdegate and Perilya land systems (DPIRD, 2021).

The Newdegate land system is described as undulating terrain with rock outcrops and lateritic breakaways (gently undulating rises, gently undulating plains) on deeply weathered mantle over granitic rocks (DPIRD, 2021). Soils are grey and yellow/brown sandy duplexes, alkaline grey shallow duplexes, shallow gravels and duplex sandy gravels (DPIRD, 2021). The vegetation of this land system contains low woodlands of Mallee-form Eucalyptus with understorey of Melaleuca heath with lesser areas of Allocasuarina low woodland and Proteaceous heath on ironstone gravelly uplands (DPIRD, 2021).

The Perilya land system is characterised by ferrunginised greenstone footslopes, rolling rises and colluvial slopes supporting eucalypt woodlands with sclerophyllous understoreys. The Perilya land system covers a greater area of the permit boundary in the eastern portion (DPIRD, 2021).

The most common soil types likely to be present within the permit area are alkaline red shallow (and deep) loamy duplexes and alkaline yellow-brown shallow sandy duplexes (DPIRD, 2021). Wind erosion risk is unlikely in the area covered by the Perilya land system and soils within the Newdegate land system are generally only moderately prone to wind erosion (DPIRD, 2021). Sandsheets and lunettes represent a high and very high wind erosion risk if present. However, the assessing officer did not observe sandsheets or lunettes within the permit area during a visit of the site.

If undisturbed, a stony surface mantle over much of the soils within the permit area will protect these soils from water erosion (DPIRD, 2021). However, the risk of water erosion is greatly increased once the protective stony mantle is disturbed (DPIRD, 2021). Therefore, the water erosion risk of the clearing is likely to be high to very high if the surface mantle is removed and overland flow becomes concentrated along track or track margins by windrows (DPIRD, 2021). Even minor surface disturbances can significantly and detrimentally impact overland flow and exacerbate water erosion (DPIRD, 2021). The erosion risk can be managed by implementing raised blade clearing to retain the surface mantle where possible (DPIRD, 2021). In areas where this is not possible water runoff should be controlled to minimise erosion impacts (DPIRD, 2021). The majority of the proposed activities will not be able to utilise raised blade clearing. The control of surface water over the constructed mine features will be considered under the relevant approvals submitted under the *Mining Act 1978.* In order to reduce risks of erosion, open cleared areas should be kept to a minimum.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in increased risk of water erosion. Given the above, the Delegated Officer determined that the impacts of water erosion can be managed to be environmentally acceptable through permit conditioning which requires cleared areas are utilised within three months of clearing being undertaken.

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

- A staged clearing condition requiring cleared areas are utilised within three months of the clearing being undertaken.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work issued under *Mining Act 1978*.
- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan issued under *Mining Act 1978*.
- Works approval / licence issued under Part V Division 3 of the EP Act.

The permit area is within the South West Native Title Settlement area (DPLH, 2022). This settlement resolves Native Title rights and interests over an area of approximately 200,000 square kilometres within the south west of Western Australia. 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, 2022). 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 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. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Targeted flora survey	A targeted flora survey for conservation significant flora and vegetation assemblages representative of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Terratree, 2021b). The survey covered the proposed mining area.
Targeted flora survey	A targeted flora survey for conservation significant flora (Terratree, 2021a). The survey covered the proposed mining area.
Targeted flora survey	A targeted flora survey for conservation significant flora and vegetation assemblages representative of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Terratree, 2021c). The survey covered the proposed processing facility.
Updated application form	Classic Minerals amended the application to include additional areas for the proposed processing facility on General Purpose Lease 74/10 and a road on Miscellaneous Licence 74/connecting the processing facility to the mining area. The amount of clearing being applied for also increased to 85.2 hectares. The road and most of the processing facility have already been cleared but are to be included in the permit area to cover for any future maintenance clearing that would need to be undertaken.
Updated application	The area of the road was removed from the application area as the area proposed does not match the actual on ground location of the existing road and appropriate tenure in the correct location will need to be applied for.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application is located approximately 37 kilometres north, northeast of Lake King within the Shire of Kondinin. The area proposed to be cleared is located on the western extremity of the Great Western Woodland which is an intact tract of woodland covering almost 16 million hectares (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). Whilst there has been large amounts of clearing for agricultural activities to the west of the permit area, the vegetation adjacent to the permit area has remained largely uncleared.
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	The closest conservation area is the Jackson Nature Reserve which is located approximately 6.5 kilometres southwest of the permit area.
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 519: Shrublands; mallee scrub, *Eucalyptus eremophila*; 936: Medium woodland; salmon gum; and 2048: Shrublands; scrub-heath in the Mallee region (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the majority of the permit area by Terratree during September 2018. Additional targeted surveys were undertaken in May and October 2021.

Characteristic	Details
	The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Terratree, 2018; 2021): Mining Area EuMpMa: Tall open woodland of *Eucalyptus urna* and *Eucalyptus extensa* over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *pauperiflora, Melaleuca adnata* and *Melaleuca thyoides* shrubland over low sparse *Microcybe albiflora, Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Olearia muelleri;* EsMhHg: Sparse open mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus subangusta* subsp. *subangusta, Eucalyptus pileata and Eucalyptus scyphocalyx* over closed shrubland of *Melaleuca hamata, Allocasuarina acutivalvis subs acutivalvis* over *Hibbertia gracilipes* and *Gastrolobium spinosum;* EfAbAd: Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus flocktoniae subs flocktoniae* and *Eucalyptus pileata* over shrubland of *Acacia binata, Melaleuca johnsonii, and Acacia ?sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula,* over *Acacia deficiens* and *Grevillea huegelii;* and EcDnAb: Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus extensa* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over shrubland of *Daviesia nematophylla*, *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *pauperiflora*, *Daviesia aphylla* and *Melaleuca villosisepala* over *Acacia binata*, *Pultenaea arida, Grevillea acuaria* and *Acacia deficiens*. Processing facility Mallee vegetation community 1: Open shrubland of *Eucalyptus* sp. (mallee), over open shrubland of *Rutaceae* sp. and *Melaleuca lateriflora* over isolated grasses of *Schoenus breviculmis* and other mixed grasses; Mallee vegetation community 2: Low regrowth following fire of open mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus* sp. (mallee) over open low shrubland of resprouting species including shrubs, sedges and grasses.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation surveys by Terratree (2018; 2021a; 2021b; 2021c) and DMIRS site inspection indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in excellent to very good condition (Keighery, 1994) condition. The vegetation within the permit area has been impacted by a fire which burnt the entire area in December 2019 (Terratree, 2021b). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E. Representative photos are available in Appendix F.
Climate and landform	The application area is mapped within elevations of 360-400 metres AHD. The annual average rainfall (Hyden) is 340.2 millimetres (BoM, 2022).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as AC1, Ms8 and X17 (GIS Database). The AC1 soil unit is described as gently sloping to gently undulating plateau areas, or uplands, on granites, gneisses, and allied rocks, with long gentle slopes and, in places, abrupt erosional scarps, some granitic bosses, and tors; and irregularly traversed by narrow shallow valleys and flats: chief soils are yellow earthy sands and sandy yellow earths on depositional sites, and ironstone gravels on erosional sites where they are underlain by hardened mottled-zone material. Soil dominance varies locally (Northcote et al., 1960-68). The Ms8 soil unit is described as gently sloping to gently undulating plateau areas or uplands with long and very gentle slopes and, in places, abrupt erosional scarps: chief soils are (i) on depositional slopes, sandy yellow earths containing some ironstone gravels, and yellow earthy sands often with ironstone gravels at depths below 6-7ft; and (ii) on erosional ridges and slopes, ironstone gravels, all underlain by hardened mottled-zone material by depths of 12-24 in (Northcote et al., 1960-68). The X17 soil unit is described as slopes and valleys: chief soils are sandy neutral and alkaline yellow mottled soils (Northcote et al., 1960-68).
Land degradation risk	The application area has been mapped as the Newdgate and Perilya land systems. Wind erosion risk is unlikely in the area covered by the Perilya land system and soils within the Newdegate land system are generally only moderately prone to wind erosion (DPIRD, 2021). Sandsheets and lunettes represent a high and very high wind erosion risk if present.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no watercourses within the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area within the Kondin-Ravensthorpe proclaimed groundwater area under the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline.
Flora	There are no previous records of Threatened or Priority flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys undertaken by Terratree in 2018 and 2021 recorded the Priority flora species *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. polyclada and *Gyrostemon ditrigynus*.

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) within the application area. The Ironcaps BIF PEC is mapped within one kilometre of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	According to available databases, three conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). The most frequently recorded species is the Carnaby's Cockatoo and Western Rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*).

C.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA Managed Lands
IBRA Bioregion - Name Mallee	7,395,894	4,180,937	~57	Least Concern	18
Beard vegetation associations - State					
* 519	2,333,414	1,440,062	~62	Least Concern	11
936	698,752	676,689	~97	Least Concern	4
Beard vegetation associations - Mallee Bioregion					
519	2,100,313	1,248,661	~59	Least Concern	11
936	77,222	60,708	~79	Least Concern	12

Government of Western Australia (2019)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains potential habitat for several species of Priority flora.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat for the conservation significant species Malleefowl, Chuditch, Lake Cronin Snake, Western Rosella (inland), Western Brush Wallaby and Central Long-eared Bat.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains vegetation which has been identified as the 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). This TEC is a listed threatened ecological community as defined in the Commonwealth Environment Act section 528**;** This community is listed as a Priority Ecological Community in Western Australia.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The application area falls within the Mallee Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 56% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Mallee IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 591 and 936 (GIS Database). Over 50% of the pre-European extent of each of these vegetation associations remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level which gives them a conservation status of least concern (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002; Government of Western Australia, 2019). The permit area is located on the western extremity of the Great Western Woodland which is an intact tract of woodland covering almost 16 million hectares (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). Whilst there has been large amounts of clearing for agricultural activities to the west of the permit area, the vegetation within the permit area is not part of a remnant of vegetation or forms part of a larger remnant. Therefore, the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	Not at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the application area. The nearest DBCA managed land is the Jackson Nature Reserve which is located approximately 6.5 kilometres southwest of the permit area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). The vegetation surveys over the permit area did not identify any vegetation as being riparian vegetation (Terratree 2018; 2021b).	Not at variance	No .

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: Soils within the application area have a stony surface mantle which protects against erosion however, the risk of water erosion is greatly increased once this mantle is disturbed (DPIRD, 2021).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). The permit area is located within a large tract of uncleared vegetation and the proposed clearing of 85.2 hectares has a low probability of leading to salinity developing within or outside the permit area (DPIRD, 2021). The groundwater trend beneath the surrounding vegetation is most likely to be stable and in equilibrium and the proposed clearing is highly unlikely to affect the regional water balance (DPIRD, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The flood risk within the permit area is likely to be low to very low as it sits high in the local landscape (DPIRD, 2021). Minor, temporary increases in water accumulation can be expected downslope of cleared area in extreme rainfall events, however these are unlikely to cause significant detriment to adjacent vegetation (DPIRD, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix E. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.

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

Appendix F. Photographs of the vegetation

Photos from flora survey undertaken by Terratree in 2021 (Terratree, 2021b)

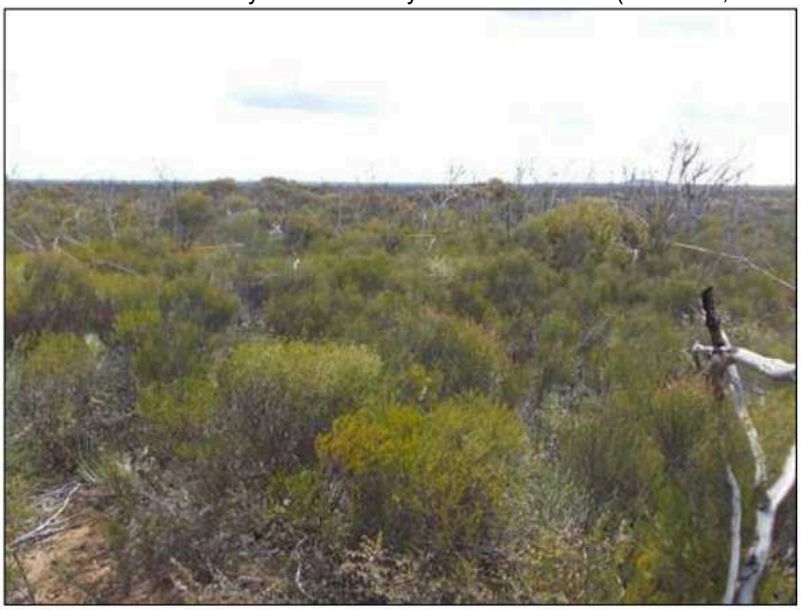

Photo 1: Vegetation community EsMhHg in 2018.

Photo 2: Vegetation community EsMhHg in 2021.

Photo 3: Vegetation community EuMpMa in 2018.

Photo 4: Vegetation community EuMpMa in 2021.

Appendix H. Sources of information

H.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)

- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo WTBC Breeding
- Black Cockatoo FRTBC Breeding
- Black Cockatoo BC Roosts
- Black Cockatoo BC Feeding SCP
- Black Cockatoo Feeding JF
- Black Cockatoo Feeing Areas Buffered
- Black Cockatoo Baudins Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Forest Red Tail Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Carnabys Distribution
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

H.2. References

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Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

Terratree (2021a) Results of Targeted Survey for Flora of Conservation Significance Within Clearing Permit Application Area – CPS 9137-1 at Classic Minerals Kat Gap Project. Prepared for Classic Minerals, by Terratree Pty Ltd, 14 October 2021.

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4. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**

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

Threatened fauna is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

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

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

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

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

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

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

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

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

Specially protected species:

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

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

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

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

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS **Other specially protected species**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P **Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories

are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

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

P1 **Priority One - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

P4 **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

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

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.