Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9148/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Black Cat (East Kal) Pty Ltd
Application received:	17 October 2025
Application area:	214.9 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 25/350
	Mining Lease 25/360
	Mining Lease 26/248
	Mining Lease 26/364
	Mining Lease 26/417
	Miscellaneous Licence 25/23
	Miscellaneous Licence 25/37
	Miscellaneous Licence 25/49
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Imperial-Majestic Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Black Cat (Bulong) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 214.9 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 375 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 35 kilometres south-east of Kambalda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Clearing permit CPS 9148/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 28 January 2021 and was valid from 20 February 2021 to 19 February 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 136.9 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 375 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

CPS 9148/2 was granted on 6 May 2021, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 214.90 hectares within the existing permit boundary of 375 hectares. The additional clearing was for a tailings storage facility and other miscellaneous areas which totalled to an increase of 78 hectares.

On 17 October 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9148/2 to extend the duration of the clearing permit, and to amend the name of the permit holder from Black Cat (Bulong) Pty Ltd to Black Cat (East Kal) Pty Ltd. During the assessment of the amendment the shapefile was modified to align with tenement boundaries which resulted in an increase in the permit boundary of 8.173 hectares.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	12 February 2026
Decision area:	214.90 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and one submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix C), relevant datasets (Appendix G), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix D), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to undertake mineral prudction and associated activities.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of potentially suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- the loss of potentailly suitable habitat for arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*);
- the loss of potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak buttefly (*Jalmenus aridus*); and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

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

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;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- pre-clearance targeted surveys for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB)) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals; and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak butterfly individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- staged clearing to minimise land degradation.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9148/3, except in the case of principles (a) and (b). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

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)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)

- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. The current mining proposal and previous annual clearing permit reports have demonstrated that reasonable efforts have been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values (Black Cat Syndicate, 2021; 2025).

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix C) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 9148/2, however updated information on conservation significant fauna species has been incorporated into this assessment.

Using the updated information on conservation significant fauna, it was assessed that the application may be at variance with principle (a) and principle (b). The flora and vegetation surveys provided by the proponent are considered outdated. Following a request for more information by the department, the proponent supplied a flora/vegetation and basic fauna survey from an adjacent mining tenement. Whether suitable habitat occurs within the application area for conservation significant fauna species remains uncertain, and as a result, conditions are necessary to manage the impact to conservation significant fauna.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora and fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Flora

A level 2 flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over the majority of Mining Lease 25/230, in the northern portion of the application area between 21 and 25 October 2010, and 9 to 13 May 2011 (Outback Ecology, 2011). A level 1 flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over the middle section of the proposed haul road by Outback Ecology (2011) from 21 to 25 October 2010. Further, a level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the northern part of the proposed haul road was undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2015) on 18 December 2014.

The flora and vegetation surveys did not record any conservation significant species within the respective survey areas (Botanica Consulting, 2015; Outback Ecology, 2011). However, the following species have suitable habitat within the application area:

Eremophila arachnoides subsp. *tenera*, Priority 3, is typically found in salmon gum woodlands on clay loam soils (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Suitable habitat for this taxon occurs within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2011; Botanica Consulting, 2015). There are 18 records of *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera* in Western Australia, 17 of which are located within a 60 kilometre radius of each other, east of Kalgoorlie in the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions (WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). The application area is in the western extent of its distribution, with the nearest record being located less than 6 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). The suitable habitat for the taxon is widespread and as a result, the proposed clearing of suitable habitat within the application area is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera*.

Eremophila praecox, Priority 2, is typically found in red-brown sandy loam with other Eremophila species, several WA Herbarium records also describe suitable habitat as featuring *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Senna artemisioides* (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Suitable habitat for this taxon occurs within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2011; Botanica Consulting, 2015). As the species is well represented within the region the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of *Eremophila praecox* (GIS Database).

Tecticornia flabelliformis, Priority 2, is an erect shrub found in low shrublands such as samphire vegetation and *Tecticornia arborea* shrubland as well as halophytic communities (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The species generally grows in clay sand and saline flats (Outback Ecology, 2011; WA Herbarium, 1998-). Suitable habitat occurs within the application area in the form of low open shrubland of *Tecticornia disarticulata*, low open shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*, and low open shrubland of *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata and Tecticornia disarticulata*. While records of *Tecticornia disarticulata* are restricted to the Coolgardie bioregion, there are no known records located within the application area (WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). Based on the provided information the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact potentially occurring conservation significant flora species.

Fauna

A reconnaissance flora/vegetation and basic fauna survey was submitted from an adjacent mining tenement to Mining Lease 25/230. This was used to assess some areas of the northern portion of the application area. The flora and vegetation surveys provided by Outback Ecology (2011) and Botanica Consulting (2015) were used to assess the fauna habitats within the application area (Appendix F), as well as a reconnaissance flora/vegetation and basic fauna survey from an adjacent mining tenement to Mining Lease 25/230.

Four conservation significant fauna species were identified within 20 kilometres of the application area:

Mammals

- malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata)

Birds

- red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)
- western grasswren (*Amytornis textilis textilis*)
- western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*)

Other species considered based on potential suitable habitat

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

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) occur in a wide range of habitats generally consisting of a sandy substrate with trees between 3 and 8 metres in height and a shrub layer providing horizontal cover (DCCEEW, 2024). This species particularly prefer shrublands with low woodlands dominated by mallee and also occur in some shrublands in Western Australia dominated by Acacia and eucalypts (Frith, 1962a; 1962b; DCCEEW, 2024). The large ground-dwelling bird favours long unburned and ungrazed mallee and constructs nests in sandy soils and leaf litter by building large mounds used for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). The application area contains suitable habitat features i.e. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open tree mallee of *Eucalyptus celastroides* over low scrub of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *virgata*/*Melaleuca sheathiana* and dwarf scrub of *Maireana triptera* (Botanica Consulting, 2015). There is also Acacia throughout several other vegetation associations within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2015; Outback Ecology, 2011). There are five records of malleefowl within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Given the potentially suitable foraging and breeding habitat within the application area, as well as the limited fauna survey information, potential impacts must be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey for Malleefowl, and directional clearing conditions.

The Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*) have a severely fragmented and restricted geographic distribution across two remaining subpopulations in Western Australia. They are known to have a complex dependency on the co-occurring sugar ant (*Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*) to complete their lifecycle, with ABAB larvae living entirely in the sugar ants nests during their development (WABSI, 2022). The preferred habitat for ABAB is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). The application area has suitable habitat for ABAB in the form of Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris/ Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open low scrub of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *virgata/ Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata* and low heath of *Maireana sedifolia*; and Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over Open Low Scrub of *Santalum acuminatum* over Low Heath of *Maireana sedifolia* (Botanica Consulting, 2015). Potential impacts to ABAB can be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey condition.

Inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*) is known from two locations near Kalgoorlie, however, it has been recorded from another 10 locations within an area extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species is open woodland with mature *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia* and mixed flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana*) with open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Inland hairstreak butterfly caterpillars feed on the flowers of *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia*. It also has a symbiotic relationship with the ant species *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023). There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of Open low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* over open low scrub of *Eremophila interstans/ Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and low heath of *Maireana sedifolia/ Tecticornia disarticulata* (CLP-EOW). Potential impacts to inland hairstreak butterfly can be minimised with the implementation of a pre-clearance survey condition.

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

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on potentially suitable conservation significant fauna can be managed by implementing fauna management conditions.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition to undertake a pre-clearance survey for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB)) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies; and
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak butterfly individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing amendment application was advertised on 5 December 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received from the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder noting that the City had no objections to the proposed amendment as the proposal is within an existing mining tenement.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim (WCD2025/003) has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Kakarra Part A). 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, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) and *Tecticornia flabelliformis* which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Applicant provided an additional IBSA survey upon request from the Delegated Officer.	IBSA survey was used in assessment against principles.

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has no objections as the proposed Application is within an existing mining tenement.	Noted for the assessment.

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Coolgardie bioregion. It is part of the Imperial Majestic Gold Project.
Ecological linkage	According to available datasets, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	A portion of the application area (approximately three kilometres of the proposed haul road) intersects with the Majestic Timber Reserve (Botanica Consulting, 2015; GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (GIS Database). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2011; Botanica Consulting, 2015; 2025): • Scattered Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Tecticornia disarticulata* and Atriplex spp; • Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* with occasional *E. salubris* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *M. pyramidata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Tecticornia disarticulata* and *Atriplex* spp; • Tall Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Pittosporum angustifolium* and *Santalum spicatum* over a mixed Shrubland; • Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *E. salmonophloia* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata;* • Low Open Woodland of *Casuarina obesa* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia;* • Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *E. yilgarnensis* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over a Low Scattered Shrubland of *Olearia muelleri*, *Enchylaena tomentosa* and other mixed shrubs; • Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila* spp., *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata* and *Maireana sedifolia;* • Tall Open Shrubland of *Casuarina pauper* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata* over a Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans;* • Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri* and *E. interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Prostanthera campbellii;* • Low Scattered Woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over an Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Dodonaea lobulata* over Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans;* • Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. Narrow phyllode (B. R. Maslin 7831) over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila granitica*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Dodonaea lobulata;* • Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *E. lesouefii* with occasional *E. celastroides* subsp. *celastroides* and *Casuarina obesa* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri*, *E. oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* over an Open Shrubland of

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia, E. glabra subsp. glabra and Atriplex nummularia subsp. spathulata and Maireana spp;
• Open Woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia, E. stricklandii and E. lesouefii over a Tall Open Shrubland of Eremophila dempsteri and E. oldfieldii subsp. angustifolia, over Open Shrubland of E. decipiens subsp. decipiens, Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia and Olearia muelleri;
• Woodland of Eucalyptus celastroides subsp. celastroides with occasional E. salmonophloia and E. salubris over a Tall Open Shrubland of Eremophila oldfieldii subsp. angustifolia and Exocarpos aphyllus over a Low Shrubland of E. decipiens subsp. decipiens and Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia;
• Open low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ Eucalyptus transcontinentalis over open low scrub of Eremophila interstans/Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia and low heath of Maireana sedifolia/Tecticornia disarticulata;
• Low woodland of Eucalyptus lesouefii over open low scrub of Eremophila interstans and dwarf scrub of Maireana sedifolia;
• Low woodland of Eucalyptus lesouefii over open tree mallee of Eucalyptus celastroides over low scrub of Eremophila interstans subsp. virgata/Melaleuca sheathiana and dwarf scrub of Maireana triptera;
• Low forest of Eucalyptus ravida over open scrub of Eremophila interstans and open dwarf scrub of Maireana triptera/Maireana georgei;
• Open low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/Eucalyptus ravida over low scrub of Melaleuca sheathiana and dwarf scrub of Scaevola spinescens;
• Eucalyptus salmonophloia low woodland over Acacia burkittii and Eremophila scoparia open shrubland over Maireana triptera low open shrubland; and
• Cleared vegetation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation surveys indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Very Poor (Trudgen, 1991) condition.

The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The climate of the region (Coolgardie) is semi-arid and experiences a low average annual rainfall of 257.3 millilitres (BoM, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>The soil is mapped as falling within the Gumland system, Woolibar system, and the proposed haul road intersects the Binneringie system, Coolgardie system, Monger system, Gumland system, and a disturbed section of the Monger system (DPIRD, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The application area is within the Gumland, Woolibar, Binneringie, Coolgardie and Monger land systems (GIS Database). These land systems can be described as (Waddell and Galloway, 2023):

<table>
<tr><th>Land system</th><th>Description</th><th>Degradation and erosion risk</th></tr>
<tr><td>Binneringie land system</td><td>Undulating stony plains, pediments and footslopes, supporting acacia shrublands with scattered eucalypts.</td><td>Generally not prone to erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Coolgardie land system</td><td>Uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands.</td><td>Where not protected by a stony mantle, footslopes and valley floors are susceptible to water erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Gumland land system</td><td>Alluvial plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrub understoreys.</td><td>Susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Monger land system</td><td>Low rises, breakaways and very gently undulating plains with ironstone gravel mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands, dissected by saline alluvial tracts that support halophytic shrublands.</td><td>Generally not prone to erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Woolibar land system</td><td>Gently undulating calcareous gravelly plains, supporting</td><td>Saline plains and lower alluvial plains are very</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	<table><tr><td></td><td>bluebush shrublands and eucalypt woodlands.</td><td>susceptible to erosion where not protected by a gravelly mantle and when associated with weathered felsic volcaniclastic rocks.</td></tr></table> The majority of the area proposed to be cleared falls within the Gumland and Woolibar land systems which are both prone to erosion. It is noted that the haul road to the south of Mining Lease 25/350 has already been cleared and in use (GIS Database).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the application area intersects with three minor, non-perennial watercourses (GIS Database). The vegetation survey did not identify any riparian vegetation (Botanica Consulting 2015; Outback Ecology, 2011).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act* 1914 (GIS Database),
Flora	There are no conservation significant flora species that occur within the application area (GIS Database). According to available datasets, there are three conservation significant flora species that occur within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area is not within a Threatened Ecological Community (GIS Database). The closest Threatened Ecological Community is the Mount Belches BIF located approximately 25 kilometres south-east east (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no conservation significant fauna within the application area (GIS Database). According to available datasets. There are four conservation significant fauna species within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	The flora and vegetation surveys undertaken by Outback Ecology (2011) and Botanica Consulting (2015) do not adequately identify fauna habitats within the application area.

C.2. Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Eremophila arachnoides subsp. *tenera*	P3	Y	<5	18
Eremophila praecox	P2	Y	<10	52
Tecticornia flabelliformis	P2	N	<10	9

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

C.3. Fauna analysis table

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

Species name	Common name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Calidris ruficollis	red-necked stint	MI	Possible	<10
Leipoa ocellata	malleefowl	VU	Y	<15
Amytornis textilis textilis	western grasswren	P4	Possible	<20
Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys	western rosella (inland)	P4	Possible	<20
Jalmenus aridus	inland hairstreak butterfly	P2	Y	<40

Species name	Common name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Ogyris petrina	arid bronze azure butterfly	CR	Y	<50

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

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 suitable habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna.	May be at variance (changed from CPS 9148/2)	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 may contain habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant fauna.	May be at variance (changed from CPS 9148/2)	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: No Threatened flora species were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2011; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	No
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: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	No
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 extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	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: The application area intersects the Majestic Timber Reserve, a DBCA managed reserve covering approximately 2,204 hectares (Botanica Consulting, 2015; GIS Database). There is an existing road through the Majestic Timber Reserve that the proponent will utilise, however DBCA (2021) have requested that activities within the Majestic Timber Reserve are undertaken in accordance with the relevant tenement conditions under the *Mining Act 1978*. Given that the section of the application area within the Majestic Timber Reserve has been previously degraded by an existing road which will be utilised by the proponent,	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
the proponent n is not likely to have a significant additional impact on the environmental values of the Majestic Timber Reserve.		
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 permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). There are three minor, non-perennial watercourses within the application area which flow following periods of heavy rainfall (GIS Database). The vegetation surveys of the application area did not identify any riparian vegetation (Botanica Consulting, 2015; Outback Ecology, 2011). As a result, the proposed clearing is not likely a variance this principle.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The soils and land systems within the application area are not generally susceptible to erosion, however native vegetation clearing should be staged where possible to minimise the area of land exposed to land degradation at any one time and may be minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	No
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: The closest Public Drinking Water Course Area (PDWSA) I located approximately 76 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	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: The average annual rainfall at the nearest weather station, Bulong, is 257.3 millimetres (BoM, 2026). Average annual evaporation is between 2,400 and 2,800 millimetres per year, exceeding rainfall (BoM, 2006). The Kalgoorlie area receives evenly distributed but unreliable annual rainfall, and intense thunderstorms or ex-tropical cyclones generating summer rainfall (Milewski, 1992). Flooding may occur following intense rainfall events, however the incidence or intensity of flooding is not likely to be significantly influenced by the proposed vegetation clearing.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9148/2)	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 Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.

Condition	Description
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix F. Vegetation types

The following vegetation types were identified by Botanica Consulting (2015).

Vegetation	Representative photograph	Vegetation Code	Condition (Trudgen, 1991)	Area (Survey Area)
Open low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* / *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* over open low scrub of *Eremophila interstans* / *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and low heath of *Maireana sedifolia* / *Tecticornia disarticulata*.		CLP-EOW	Good	9.7 ha 17.8%
Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open low scrub of *Eremophila interstans* and dwarf scrub of *Maireana sedifolia*.		CLP-EW1	Good	12.7 ha 23.3%
Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open tree mallee of *Eucalyptus celastroides* over low scrub of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *virgata* / *Melaleuca sheathiana* and dwarf scrub of *Maireana triptera*.		CLP-EW2	Good	6 ha 11.0%
Forest low of *Eucalyptus ravida* over open scrub of *Eremophila interstans* and open dwarf scrub of *Maireana triptera* / *Maireana georgei*.		CLP-EW3	Good	0.5 ha 0.9%
Open low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* / *Eucalyptus ravida* over low scrub of *Melaleuca sheathiana* and dwarf scrub of *Scaevola spinescens*.		RH-EW1	Good	9.2 ha 16.9%

Low woodland of *Eucalyptus stricklandii* / *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over low scrub of *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* and dwarf scrub of *Maireana triptera*.		RH-EW2	Poor	12.6 ha 23.1%
Low woodland of *Eucalyptus stricklandii* over dwarf scrub of *Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *nematophylla* and dwarf scrub of *Dodonaea lobulata*.		RH-EW3	Poor	3.8 ha 7.0%

The following vegetation types were identified by Outback Ecology (2011).

Vegetation description	**Representative photograph**	**Vegetation code**	**Quadrant(s)**
Tall Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla, Pittosporum angustifolium* and *Santalum spicatum* over a mixed Shrubland.		AtPa	QM10, QM26
Low Scattered Woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over an Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Dodonaea lobulata* over Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans.*		CpAt	QM20
Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) over an O pen Shrubland of *Eremophila* spp., *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Dodonaea lobulata, Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata* and *Maireana sedifolia*		EgAnp	QM01, QM25
Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. Narrow phyllode (B. R. Maslin 7831) over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila granitica, Scaevola spinescens* and *Dodonaea lobulata.*		EgAnpEg	QM27, QM28

Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri* and *E. interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata, Maireana sedifolia, Scaevola spinescens* and *Prostanthera campbellii*.		EgEd	QM12, QM15
Woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*.		ElMs	Nil.
Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* with occasional *E. salubris* over a T all Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe*, *Maireana sedifolia, M. pyramidata, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Tecticornia disarticulata* and *Atriplex* spp.		EsaEi	QM02, QM03, QM05
Scattered Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe, Maireana sedifolia, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Tecticornia disarticulata* and *Atriplex* spp.		EsaMs	QM04, QM11
Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *E. salmonophloia* over a T all Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*.		EslEs	QM07, QM08, QM13, QM14
Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *E. yilgarnensis* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over a Low Scattered Shrubland of *Olearia muelleri, Enchylaena tomentosa* and other mixed shrubs.		EslEy	QM22

Tall Open Shrubland of *Casuarina pauper* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata* over a Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans.*		IMs	QM20

Appendix G. Sources of information

G.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

G.2. References

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

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

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

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN **Endangered species**

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

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P **Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

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

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

P1 **Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.

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

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

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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