



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9173/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	GMA Garnet Pty Ltd
Application received:	16 December 2025
Application area:	50.71 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 70/204
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Northampton
Colloquial name:	Lynton North Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

GMA Garnet Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 50.71 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 50.86 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (GMA, 2025b). The project is located approximately 4.2 kilometres north of Port Gregory, within the Shire of Northampton (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 9173/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 18 March 2021 and was valid from 10 April 2021 to 9 April 2031 (DMIRS, 2021a; 2021b). The permit authorised the clearing of up to 47.99 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 48.03 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (DMIRS, 2021a; 2021b).

On 30 August 2024, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 9173/1 to increase the permit boundary and increase the area to be cleared by 2.72 hectares (GMA, 2024). CPS 9173/2 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 29 April 2025 (DEMIRS, 2025b). The permit authorised the clearing of up to 50.71 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 50.86 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (DEMIRS, 2025b).

On 16 December 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 9173/2 to extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 9 April 2030, and to amend condition 8 (weed control) to remove the requirement to clean machinery prior to exiting the site (GMA, 2025). No changes to the area authorised to clear or permit boundary are requested (GMA, 2025; GIS Database).

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 31 July 2025), a total of 11.7 hectares of native vegetation has been cleared under the permit (GMA, 2025a). Rehabilitative works have been conducted in an area equal to 11.7 hectares (GMA, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	30 June 2026
Decision area:	50.71 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix C), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that is a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared; 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 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;
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion; and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within 12 months of clearing to ensure habitat is not permanently lost.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9173/2. The Delegated Officer determined that an extension of duration of the period in which clearing is authorised and the proposed amendment of the weed control condition 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)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant commits to undertaking staged clearing, undertaking progressive rehabilitation and following a dust management procedure (GMA, 2025b).

The applicant also has controls in place to prevent unauthorised clearing (GMA, 2025c).

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 9173/2.

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

Assessment

Flora

Balladonia aervoides, Priority 3, inhabits calcareous sand or sandy loam (Short, 2016). As this species is an annual and the survey by GHD (2020a) was conducted outside of the recommended season for the detection of annuals, this species may not have been detectable at the time of survey (Short, 2016). Apart from the type locality, recorded in the vicinity of Port Gregory, all

other collections have been from Dorre Island and the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (Short, 2016; GIS Database). Considering that 15 of 16 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records of this species have been collected on offshore islands, protected as part of the conservation estate, it is unlikely the habitat within the application area is critical for the conservation of this species (GIS Database).

Anthocercis intricata, Priority 3, inhabits sand or loam over limestone or consolidated sand dunes (WAH, 1998-). It is known from 35 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Geraldton Sandplains, Carnarvon and Yalgoo bioregions. As the species is known from multiple bioregions and has multiple records within the conservation estate, it is unlikely the habitat within the application area is critical for the conservation of this species (GIS Database).

Comesperma rhadinocarpum, Priority 3, inhabits sandy soils (WAH, 1998-). It is known from 20 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Geraldton Sandplains, Coolgardie, Great Victoria Desert, Jarrah Forest and Swan Coastal Plain bioregions. As the species is known from multiple bioregions and has multiple records within the conservation estate, it is unlikely the habitat within the application area is critical for the conservation of this species (GIS Database).

Fauna

Graceful sunmoth (*Synemon gratiosa*), Priority 4, can be found in sedgeland, heathlands, woodlands and open forest between Binningup and Shark Bay (Bishop et al., 2010; DEC, 2011). The graceful sunmoth breeds on two species of mat-rushes, *Lomandra maritima* and *Lomandra hermaphrodita* (DEC, 2011). *Lomandra maritima* was recorded in the survey by GHD (2020a) at Site 2. As this species was recorded in low abundance at only one site, and graceful sunmoth breeding sites usually have high densities of the host plant, the graceful sunmoth is considered unlikely to occur within the application area (Bishop et al., 2010; GHD, 2020a).

Tammar wallaby (*Notamacropus eugenii derbianus*), Priority 4, formerly occurred between Kalbarri and Cape Arid, but now is restricted to islands and limited mainland sites, mainly in the southern Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions and some parts of the Jarrah Forest (CALM, n.d.). As the most recent record of tammar wallaby in the local area (20 kilometre radius of the application area) is from 1964, and the application area is outside of the species' current distribution, tammar wallaby is unlikely to occur in the application area (CALM, n.d.; GIS Database).

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*), Vulnerable, can be found in a range of habitats including forest, mallee shrublands, woodland and desert (DEC, 2012). Prior to European settlement, chuditch occurred over approximately 70 percent of the Australian continent, but today it inhabits approximately five percent of its former range, mostly occurring in the southwest of Western Australia (DEC, 2012). In 2001, chuditch was successfully translocated into the Kalbarri National Park, north of the application area (DEC, 2012; Fischer, 2021; GIS Database). The nearest record of chuditch was recorded in 2008, 18.6 kilometres northeast of the application area and approximately 11 kilometres south of the Kalbarri National Park (GIS Database). Chuditch rely on complex habitats which contains suitable refuge such as hollow logs, rocky crevices and burrows, and sufficient prey biomass (DEC, 2012; Fischer, 2021). As the application area has mostly been cleared or degraded, it is unlikely that chuditch utilise habitats within the application area (GHD, 2020a).

Weed control

CPS 9173/2 is subject to a condition regarding weed control (DEMIRS, 2025a). This condition instructs the Permit Holder to:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known or weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared (DEMIRS, 2025a).

The applicant applied to amend the weed control condition to remove the requirement to clean machinery prior to exiting the site (GMA, 2025). The reasoning for this was that the applicant has multiple permits over one project area, and cleaning machinery between permit areas was not feasible for the applicant (GMA, 2026). The Department determined that cleaning machinery upon exiting the project area, instead of the CPS 9173/3 permit area, appropriately managed the environmental risk of weed spread.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant impacts to conservation significant fauna or flora. It is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on flora and fauna can be managed by rehabilitating an area of equivalent size to ensure the habitat is not permanently lost. It is considered that the proposed amendment of the weed control condition is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of spreading weeds.

Conditions

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

- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area of equivalent size within 12 months of clearing to ensure habitat is not permanently lost; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 13 March 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2020/001 - Yamatji Nation) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. 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.

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
The Department requested further information from the applicant regarding Beard vegetation associations found within the applicant. On 27 May 2026, GHD (2026) provided a response.	This information is considered in the assessment against clearing principle (e) and discussed in Appendix B.1.
The Department discussed the rationale behind requested amendment to the weed control condition with the applicant (GMA, 2026).	This information is considered in the assessment against clearing principle (a) (discussed in Section 3.2.1).

Appendix B. Site characteristics**B.1. Site characteristics**

Characteristic	Details
Local context and ecological linkage	The application area is located in the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion, the Geraldton Hills subregion and the Shire of Northampton (GIS Database). It is part of a remnant patch of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). Approximately 40 percent of the local area (20 kilometre radius from the application area) retains terrestrial native vegetation (GIS Database). The majority of the area to the east of the application area has been cleared for agriculture. The permit area is located within a relatively intact band of vegetation along the eastern edge of Hutt Lagoon that can function as an ecological linkage for fauna species moving through the landscape (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The application area is within the mapped extent of Beard vegetation association (BVA) 371, described as low forest; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> (GIS Database). Approximately 10.67 percent of the pre-European extent of BVA 371 remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). According to the biological survey by GHD (2020a), 75.7 percent of the application area has been cleared. The remaining vegetation is mapped as: • VT01: <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> open woodland (22.1 percent of the application area); • VT02: <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> shrubland to open shrubland (0.8 percent of the application area); and • Rehabilitation areas (1.3 percent of the application area) (GHD, 2020a). After comparing the vegetation within the application area to the description of BVA 371 provided in Beard & Burns (1976), it was determined that VT01 and VT02 represent BVA 17, not BVA 371 (GHD, 2026). BVA 371 is a low forest of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> occurring on black clay bottomland soils, with vegetation exceeding ten metres in height and forming a very dense, near-pure stand (Beard & Burns, 1976; GHD, 2026). BVA 17 is described as <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> thicket to woodland, approximately six metres in height (Beard & Burns, 1976; GHD, 2026). The vegetation within the application area matches the description of BVA 17 and therefore does not represent BVA 371 (GHD, 2020a; 2026). The extent of BVA 17 is provided in Appendix B.2.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). The Hutt Lagoon, which is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and an ANCA (Australian Nature Conservation Agency) wetland listed under the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, is located approximately 70 metres southwest of the application area (Environment Australia, 2001; GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Kalbarri Water Reserve located approximately 36 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	Eight threatened and 51 priority flora species are known to occur within the local area (20 kilometre radius from the application area) (GIS Database). According to information from the biological survey by GHD (2020a) and species' habitat requirements, habitat does not occur within the application area for 45 of these species (Anderson et al., 2023; Brown & Brockman, 2015; Davis & Brown, 2017; WAH, 1998-). The remaining 14 species are considered in Appendix B.3.

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	Two priority ecological communities (PECs) and no threatened ecological communities (TECs) are known within the local area (20 kilometre radius from the application area) (GIS Database). These communities are mapped 8.1 and 12.0 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). The vegetation communities within the application area are not consistent with any PECs or TECs (GHD, 2020a).
Fauna	There are 39 conservation significant fauna species that have been recorded within the local surrounds (20 kilometre radius from the application area) (GIS Database). Of these, 32 are migratory birds which are unlikely to be dependent on vegetation within the application area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; NWF, n.d.; GIS Database). The humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) has been recorded within the local area but does not require consideration as it is exclusively marine (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database). The remaining six species are considered in Appendix B.4.
Fauna habitat	According to the biological survey by GHD (2020a), 75.7 percent of the application area has been cleared. The remaining areas are mapped as the following fauna habitats: • <i>Acacia</i> woodland (22.1 percent of the application area); • <i>Melaleuca</i> shrubland on limestone (0.8 percent of the application area); and • Rehabilitated (1.3 percent of the application area) (GHD, 2020a).

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Geraldton Sandplains	3,136,038	1,404,424	~45	568,255	18.12
IBRA Subregion - Geraldton Hills	1,964,263	901,447	~46	355,757	18.11
Local Government - Shire of Northampton	1,258,429	930,229	~74	230,958	18.35
Beard vegetation associations - State					
17	76,634	67,605	~82	8,832	11.52
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Geraldton Sandplains)					
17	54,078	45,160	~84	6,068	11.22
Beard vegetation associations - subregion (Geraldton Hills)					
17	49,605	42,016	~85	5,573	11.23

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area and require consideration (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area, known regional records, and whether surveys conducted were adequate for detection (Cowan & Maslin, 1999; GHD, 2020a; 2020b; Rye, 2016; 2019; Sheather & Sheather, 2020; Short, 2016; WAH, 1998-; Wilkins, 2005; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Caladenia bryceana</i> subsp. <i>cracens</i>	T	Y	<5	Y	Unlikely
<i>Acacia latipes</i> subsp. <i>licina</i>	P3	Y	<5	Y	Unlikely

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Balladonia aervoides</i>	P3	Y	<5	N	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Lasiopetalum oldfieldii</i>	P3	Y	<10	Y	Unlikely
<i>Calytrix harvestiana</i>	P2	Y	<10	Y	Unlikely
<i>Anthocercis intricata</i>	P3	Y	<10	N	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Corynotheca acanthoclada</i>	P1	Y	<10	Y	Unlikely
<i>Comesperma rhadinocarpum</i>	P3	Y	<15	N	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp. Thevenard Island (M. White 050)	P3	Y	<15	Y	Unlikely
<i>Melaleuca huttenensis</i>	P3	Y	<15	Y	Unlikely
<i>Malleostemon costatus</i>	P2	Y	<15	Y	Unlikely
<i>Scholtzia oleosa</i>	P3	Y	<20	Y	Unlikely
<i>Hemiandra</i> sp. Kalbarri (D. Bellairs 1505)	P2	Y	<20	Y	Unlikely
<i>Styphelia allittii</i>	P3	Y	<20	Y	Unlikely

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area and require consideration (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (CALM, n.d.; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; 2022; DEC, 2011; 2012; DWER, 2016; GHD, 2020a; Valentine & Stock, 2008; GIS Database).

Species name		Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common	Scientific	WA	EPBC			
Carnaby's cockatoo	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	EN	EN	N	4.0	Unlikely
A short-tongued bee	<i>Neopasiphae simplicior</i>	EN	CR	N	4.5	Unlikely
Graceful sunmoth	<i>Synemon gratiosa</i>	P4	-	Y	4.8	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Tammar wallaby	<i>Notamacropus eugenii derbianus</i>	P4	-	Y	10.4	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Margaret River hairy marron	<i>Cherax tenuimanus</i>	CR	CR	N	15.1	Unlikely
Chuditch	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	VU	VU	Y	18.7	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, MI: migratory, CD: conservation dependent, OS: other specially protected, P: priority

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No species of threatened or priority flora were identified during a flora survey of the application area and surrounding areas (GHD, 2020a; 2020b). Fifteen species of weeds were recorded during the field survey of the application area and surrounding areas (GHD, 2020a). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a weed management condition.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"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."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain critical habitat for conservation significant fauna. However, the application area forms part of an ecological linkage running northwest to southeast, with Hutt Lagoon to the west and large areas of cleared farmland to the east (GIS Database). This linkage is likely to be significant for fauna species in the local area. A revegetation and rehabilitation condition will continue to be implemented on the clearing permit to avoid permanent loss of this linkage.	May be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (GHD 2020a; 2020b; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"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."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No threatened ecological communities (TECs) are known from the local area (20 kilometre radius from the application area) (GIS Database). No TECs were detected in the survey of the application area (GHD, 2020a).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Although the extent of the Beard vegetation association 17 is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia, the application area is part of a remnant patch of native vegetation in an area which has been extensively cleared (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; GIS Database; Appendix B.2).	At variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"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> <u>Assessment:</u> The nearest conservation area is the Utcha Well Nature Reserve which is located approximately seven kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
No watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest waterbody is Hutt Lagoon located approximately 70 metres southwest of the application area, however the flora survey of the area did not identify any vegetation as riparian (GHD, 2020a).		
<u>Principle (g):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation." <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils are susceptible to wind erosion when cleared (DPIRD, 2021). The permit area also has potential for water erosion due to the slope of land (DPIRD, 2021). Noting the extent of the application area, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	May be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> "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." <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance (36 kilometres) from the nearest public drinking water source (PDWSA) the proposed clearing is unlikely to deteriorate the water quality of PDWSAs (GIS Database). There are no watercourses within the permit area and the flora survey of the area did not identify any vegetation as riparian (GHD, 2020a; GIS Database). The nearest waterbody is Hutt Lagoon located approximately 70 metres southwest of the application area (GIS Database). The permit area is located on a slope which can cause localised areas of erosion; however, the risk of water erosion in the area is low (DPIRD, 2021). The proposed clearing is not likely to cause sediment runoff into the nearby Hutt Lagoon.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent watercourses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located on a slope, and any removal of vegetation has the potential to increase the velocity of water runoff following rainfall events. Based on the soils present the proposed clearing has a low risk of increasing the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events (DPIRD, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9173/2)	No

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.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 Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- 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)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)

- Offsets Register - Offsets (DWER-078)
- Offsets Register - Projects (DWER-079)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , 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	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (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	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , 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.