Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

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| **Permit number:** | 9198/2 |
| **Permit type:** | Purpose permit |
| **Applicant name:** | Corona Minerals Pty Ltd |
| **Application received:** | 17 July 2025 |
| **Application area:** | 150 hectares |
| **Purpose of clearing:** | Mineral production |
| **Method of clearing:** | Mechanical removal |
| **Tenure:** | Mining Lease 15/1828 |
| **Location (LGA area):** | Shire of Coolgardie |
| **Colloquial name:** | Spargos Reward Project |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Corona Minerals Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 198.44 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (Karora, 2025). The project is located approximately 13 kilometres west of Kambalda West, within the Shire of Coolgardie (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 9198/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE)) on 22 April 2021 and was valid from 15 May 2021 to 14 May 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 198.44 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. To date, a total of 44.47 hectares has been cleared under CPS 9198/1 (Westgold Resources, 2025).

On 17 July 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9198/1 to extend the permit duration to 14 May 2031 and update the permit holder from Corona Minerals Pty Ltd to Karora (Higginsville) Pty Ltd. The area of authorised clearing and permit boundary remained unchanged.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

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| **Decision:** | Grant |
| **Decision date:** | 14 May 2026 |
| **Decision area:** | 150 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 G), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- potential clearing of unknown *Tetratheca spenceri* individuals, which would lead to a significant impact to the species if individuals occurred;
- potential clearing of conservation significant flora species that may be unknown within the application area;
- 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 breeding habitat for malleefowl;

- the loss of potentially suitable habitat for southern whiteface and western rosella (inland), however unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing as prior clearing in the application area has already degraded the habitats;
- the loss of potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly; 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;
- no clearing within 10 metres of priority flora species recorded;
- restricted clearing to tracks only for '*Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises' vegetation type;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- fauna management (malleefowl condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active [in use] malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds);
- fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants, if individuals are recorded); and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

The assessment has changed from the assessment of CPS 9198/1 in the case of principles (a), (b) and (c). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of the permit duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The permit holder has requested to update the permit name from Corona Minerals Pty Ltd to Karora (Higginsville) Pty Ltd, however, transfer of permit holders between companies cannot be done as part as an amendment under section 51K(1) of the EP Act.

## 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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

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, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 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 applicated stated that the minimal area required for mining disturbance will be cleared (Karora, 2025). 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 changed from the clearing permit decision report CPS 9198/1 in the case of principles (a), (b) and (c). Changes to the known distribution, additional information on habitat preferences and recent records of inland hairstreak butterfly since the original assessment meant further consideration was required under principles (a) and (b) of this assessment. Upon further review, the Delegated Officer identified that malleefowl required further consideration under principles (a) and (b) of this assessment, and *Tetratheca spenceri* required further consideration under principle (c) of this assessment.

### *3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing principle (a) and (c)*

Assessment

Two surveys were undertaken over all or a portion of the application area. A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken by NVS (2020) over all of the application area during October and December 2020. A targeted threatened flora survey and malleefowl mound search was undertaken by NVS (2022) over a small portion of the application area during April 2022. Note that this survey was not undertaken in the flora survey season recommended by EPA (2016) within the South-Western Interzone botanical province, which is September to November.

**Previously threatened flora**

*Seringia exastia* was recorded outside of the application area during the flora survey (NVS, 2020) which was threatened at the time. The recorded location is provided in Appendix E. This species has since been taxonomically revised and is now a common flora.

**Threatened flora**

*Tetratheca spenceri* was not discovered during the flora survey (NVS, 2020), although the species was searched for and possible suitable habitat occurs within the application area. The only known population of this species has four records and occurs on a low, lateritic outcrop, located within five kilometres of the application area (WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). The population is located uphill from the source of a minor non-perennial watercourse and seems restricted to a dark band of possibly iron-rich soil (Butcher & Cockerton, 2012; GIS Database). *Tetratheca spenceri* is associated with sparse mallee woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus stricklandii*, *Melaleuca leiocarpa*, *Ptilotus helichrysoides*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Ptilotus helichrysoides* and *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (P1) (Butcher & Cockerton, 2012; WAH, 1998-).

The vegetation type '*Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises' described by NVS (2020) contains potentially suitable habitat for *Tetratheca spenceri* and covers approximately 7.5 hectares of the application area (Appendix E). This vegetation type is a low, sparse mallee woodland that contains *Eucalyptus stricklandii*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (P1) (NVS, 2020). This vegetation type was observed to support a high number of priority flora, as all the records of *Styphelia rectiloba* (P3), the majority of *Acacia crenulata* (P3) locations and half of the *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (P1) locations were recorded in this habitat (NVS, 2020). The proposed mine site clearing footprint has largely avoided clearing within the '*Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises' vegetation type, with less than 0.5 hectares proposed to be cleared for access roads (Karora Resources, 2021).

Although the species was not detected during the NVS (2020) flora survey; it was less likely to be detected due to poor seasonal conditions during the survey. No rainfall data is available from the nearest weather stations to the application area, so rainfall from Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport weather station has been utilised for these months. This showed Kalgoorlie received below average rainfall from August to October prior to the NVS (2020) survey. Compared to the monthly rainfall mean, August 2020 received approximately 63 per cent less rainfall, September 2020 received 100 per cent less rainfall and October received approximately 32 per cent less rainfall (BoM, 2026b). Additionally, the annual rainfall for 2020 was approximately 64 per cent lower than the annual mean (BoM, 2026b). In periods of below average rainfall, supplementary sampling in succeeding years with suitable rainfall may be necessary to compensate for low diversity recorded during a flora survey (EPA, 2016).

Additionally, the known population were collected in flower in November and mid-December, and the NVS (2020) flora survey occurred in early October, so it is unknown if *Tetratheca spenceri* would have been detectable at that time of year (Butcher & Cockerton, 2012; WAH, 1998-).

**Recorded priority flora**

The following four priority flora species are known to occur within the application area and are still considered to require protection for the conservation of their species (Appendix E; NVS, 2020; 2022; WAH, 1998-):

- *Lepidosperma lyonsii* (P1);
- *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (P1);
- *Acacia crenulate* (P3); and
- *Styphelia rectiloba* (P3).

The current permit has a flora management condition for no clearing within 10 metres of these species, except for one location of *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range where 30 individuals are permitted to be cleared, which will be retained as a condition on the permit.

Since CPS 9198/1 was granted, an additional record of *Acacia crenulata* was recorded within the application area in the flora survey by NVS (2022). This location contains two individuals and is isolated from the other populations, therefore if cleared, it would likely have no significant impact on the species.

One historic record (1981) of *Acacia kerryana* (P2) is within the application area (GIS Database), however, the habitat was searched in the flora survey by NVS (2020), and the record was not located.

**Potentially occurring priority flora**

There are some potentially occurring priority flora species within the application area which were not recorded within the flora survey (Appendix B.3; NVS, 2020). However, some species were unlikely to be detected due to poor seasonal conditions during the NVS (2020) survey. As a substantial amount of clearing has already occurred, if priority flora did occur, they may have already been cleared or experienced secondary impacts from mining including habitat degradation and genetic island effects. Risks may be lowered due to the '*Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises' vegetation type, which was observed to support a high number of priority flora (NVS, 2020).

**Range extensions of common flora species, adjacent to the application area**

The locations of two common flora species within the survey area, *Goodenia pinifolia* and *Scaevola restiacea* subsp. *restiacea*, represent modest range extensions for these species, based on known locations (NVS, 2020; WAH, 1998-). One location of *Goodenia pinifolia* was recorded within 25 metres of the application area, and two locations of *Scaevola restiacea* subsp. *restiacea* were recorded within 25 metres of the application area (NVS, 2020).

**Introduced flora**

Three weed species were recorded within the application area; *Agave americana* (century plant), *Opuntia ficus-indica* (sweet prickly pear) and *Opuntia* sp. (cactus) (NVS, 2020). *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *Opuntia* sp. are declared as pests under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 and are listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) under the EPBC Act (DPIRD, 2026b). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in:

- potential clearing of unknown *Tetratheca spenceri* individuals, which would lead to a significant impact to the species if individuals occurred;
- potential clearing of conservation significant flora species that may be unknown within the application area; and
- 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 survey information is sufficient for this assessment with environmental risks reviewed. However, given the flora survey was undertaken in poor seasonal conditions, the uncertainty of species occurrence is higher and a new flora and vegetation survey may be required for any future amendment applications by the permit holder.

Conditions

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

- no clearing within 10 metres of priority flora species recorded;
- restricted clearing to tracks only for '*Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises' vegetation type; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

### *3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (a) and (b)*

Assessment

Two surveys were undertaken over a portion of the application area. A site inspection and fauna habitat assessment was undertaken by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020) over majority of the application area during October 2020. A targeted arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) survey was undertaken by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2021) over the same portion of the application area as the survey by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020) during February 2021.

**Malleefowl**

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU) are primarily found in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands (three to eight metres in height) dominated by mallee and associated habitats (DCCEEW, 2024). In Western Australia, the species are also found in some shrublands dominated by *Acacia* (DCCEEW, 2024). Breeding habitat requires sandy or gravel substrate, abundant leaf litter and a dense canopy cover for the building of a large mound for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). Based on site photographs and vegetation descriptions from biological surveys (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020; NVS, 2020), the application area contains potentially suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl.

There are 10 recent records of malleefowl within the local surrounds (20 kilometres), with the closest being less than two kilometres east from the application area (GIS Database). One extinct malleefowl mound was recorded in the site inspection and fauna habitat assessment within the surveyed area (Appendix E; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). As malleefowl can disperse up to two kilometres per day and have a large home range, it is likely that malleefowl may utilise habitats in the application area (SAALB, 2024). Additionally, some disused malleefowl mounds have been recorded during other fauna surveys within the region and nearby areas (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). Given the presence of suitable habitat, the species range and regional records, malleefowl are likely to occur within the application area and may utilise the habitats for breeding.

**Southern whiteface**

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*; VU) was listed under the EPBC Act recently in March 2023 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Suitable habitat includes open woodlands and shrublands, usually dominated by *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* or saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.) with an understorey of grasses or shrubs (BirdLife Australia, n.d.; DCCEEW, 2023). This species is known to breed between July and October by building large bulky domed-shaped nests made out of grass, bark and roots within

hollows or crevices in trees and low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023). Critical habitat for southern whiteface includes relatively undisturbed habitats, areas with leaf litter for foraging and living and dead tree hollows and crevices for nesting and roosting (DCCEEW, 2023). As approximately 34 per cent of the application area is cleared (approximately 68 hectares; 23.51 hectares of historical mining activities and 44.47 hectares under CPS 9198/1; NVS, 2020; Westgold Resources, 2025), the habitats are not undisturbed, so the application area is unlikely to provide critical habitat for the species.

Three fauna habitats within the application area, open eucalypt woodland over shrubs, mallee and shrubs and eucalypt woodland over shrubs, may contain suitable foraging and nesting habitat for southern whiteface (Appendix E). The species was not recorded in the site inspection and fauna habitat assessment (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020), however the survey occurred before the species was listed as vulnerable (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Although there are no records of southern whiteface within 20 kilometres of the application area, it is within the current known range of the species (DCCEEW, 2023; GIS Database). It is considered possible this species could occur in the application area. It is recommended that trees containing hollows be inspected prior to clearing to avoid clearing any potential roosting or nesting habitat.

**Western rosella (inland)**

Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*; P4) inhabits drier eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), tall mallee and rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) (BirdLife Australia, 2017; DEC, 2009). The species nests in tree hollows and has a widespread distribution across the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions (DEC, 2009). Woodlands with mature trees provide critical habitat for western rosella (inland), with presence of tree hollows for breeding being a limiting factor for the species (Fox et al., 2016).

Western rosella (inland) was recorded recently in 2021 from near Kalgoorlie (Phoenix, 2024), within 50 kilometres of the application area. Many *Eucalyptus* species, including salmon gum, are present in the application area (NVS, 2020). Three fauna habitats within the application area, open eucalypt woodland over shrubs, mallee and shrubs and eucalypt woodland over shrubs, may support this species (Appendix E; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). Western rosella (inland) shows an association with granite outcrops (Fox et al., 2016). Two vegetation types within the application area, *Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises, and *Acacia quadrimarginea* and *Acacia acuminata* over granite outcropping (Appendix E; NVS, 2020), may be more suitable for the species as they contain granite outcropping. These two vegetation types occur within the mallee and shrubs fauna habitat. Recent aerial imagery indicates that these two vegetation types have been cleared and fragmented under CPS 9198/1, making habitat in the application area less suitable for the species to occur. It is recommended that hollow availability is assessed and hollows retained for the conservation of this species (Fox et al., 2016).

**Arid bronze azure butterfly**

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*; CR) populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands, on soil ranging from loamy to sandy, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020; WABSI, 2022). ABAB has an obligate association with sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*, associated with smooth-barked eucalypt woodlands (DBCA, 2020). ABAB larvae live entirely within the nest of the sugar ant species during their development (WABSI, 2022). The most critical factor for habitat occupancy by ABAB is the presence of large colonies of the host ant (WAM, 2026). The application area is 40 kilometres south of the original population at Lake Douglas (WABSI, 2022; GIS Database).

Smooth bark eucalypt trees are present within the application area and the majority of the application area were identified as potentially suitable habitat for ABAB (NVS, 2020; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021). Both the host ant and ABAB were searched for during the targeted survey on 23 February 2021 by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2021) and mapping is provided in Appendix E. Note that the south section of the application area, approximately 46 hectares, was not considered in the targeted survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021). Following DBCA (2020) guidelines, the accepted method is to first survey for the host ant. No individuals of *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* were recorded from the 125 trees sampled in the survey area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021). No ABAB individuals were recorded in the survey area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021). However, the survey did not search for the butterfly during the main adult ABAB activity period of September to November (WAM, 2026). Though potentially suitable habitat occurs in the application area, the targeted survey considered ABAB absent due to the absence of the host ant (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021).

**Inland hairstreak butterfly**

Inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*; P2) is data deficient. The preferred habitat for this species is summarised as open woodland, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, variety of flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola* and *Maireana*) and open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Based on biological survey information, the application area contains potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak (NVS, 2020; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* are the two host plant species of inland hairstreak butterflies, both of which have very broad distributions across Western Australia (Eastwood et al., 2023). Inland hairstreak forms an obligate association with ant species *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023). The host ant species is widely distributed through open woodlands across most of Australia (Eastwood et al., 2023). The wide distribution of both host plants and host ants means the presence of both cannot predict the likely presence of the butterfly. There are no guidelines for surveying inland hairstreak, and they are difficult to survey as adults are present for only a few weeks each year with most specimens recorded in October (Eastwood et al., 2023).

Six of the ten known inland hairstreak locations are within the Eastern Goldfields Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion, which the application area is within (Eastwood et al., 2023). The application area is 40 kilometres south of the original population at Lake Douglas (Eastwood et al., 2023; GIS Database). Potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak occurs in the application area where host plant *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* is present along with a mix of *Eremophila*, *Scaevola* and *Maireana* shrubs (Appendix E; NVS, 2020).

Inland hairstreak was considered unlikely to occur in the site inspection and fauna habitat assessment survey due to a lack of recent records and a lack of suitable habitat (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). Since this survey occurred, nine new locations

have been recorded and there is additional information on habitat preferences (Eastwood et al., 2023). Taking this into consideration, it is possible that inland hairstreak occurs in the application area. Furthermore, inland hairstreak has been determined to have a 30 per cent chance of going extinct in the wild by 2040 without proper management such as habitat protection (Geyle et al., 2021).

The site inspection and fauna habitat assessment by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020) does not contain sufficient information to determine if breeding habitat is present within the application area, as this species was not targeted by biological surveys (DBCA, 2024). A survey targeting inland hairstreak and the identification of breeding habitat is therefore required (DBCA, 2024).

**Other priority fauna**

Several species have the potential to occur within the application area due to habitat suitability, however there is a low likelihood of occurrence due to distance or age of the nearest record for the following species: chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Australian Museum, 2019; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DEC, 2012; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; Menkhorst et al., 2019; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of:

- potentially suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl;
- potentially suitable habitat for southern whiteface and western rosella (inland), however unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing as prior clearing in the application area has already degraded the habitats. It is recommended that trees containing hollows be inspected prior to clearing to avoid clearing any potential roosting or nesting habitat; and
- potentially suitable habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly.

Arid bronze azure butterfly, central long-eared bat, chuditch and peregrine falcon are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to malleefowl and southern whiteface and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- fauna management (malleefowl condition within potentially suitable breeding habitat requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active [in use] malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds); and
- fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants, if individuals are recorded).

## 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 10 October 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007 - Marlinyu Ghoorlie) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal 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.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl and southern whiteface, 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 Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*
- 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 |
|---|---|
| On 15 April 2026, the applicant provided a targeted flora and malleefowl mound survey by NVS (2022), which occurred since CPS 9198/1 was granted and covers approximately four hectares in the north section of the application area.<br>On 8 May 2026, the applicant provided the ISA number for this survey, ISA-0001364. | This information is considered in the assessment of principles (a) and (b), and Sections 1.4 and 3.2. |

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.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 (GIS Database). It is surrounded by gold and lithium mine operations and native vegetation within the Great Western Woodlands (GIS Database).<br>The predominant land use in the region is UCL, Crown Reserves, grazing, native pastures, conservation and mining leases (CALM, 2002). |
| Ecological linkage | According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database). |
| Conservation areas | There are no conservation areas within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Kambalda Timber Reserve, located five kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database). There are an additional three conservation areas in the local surrounds (20 kilometres); Kambalda Nature Reserve, Yallari Timber Reserve and Scahill Timber Reserve (GIS Database). |
| Vegetation description | The application area occurs within the Eastern Goldfields subregion (COO03) of the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the Beard vegetation associations 9 and 1413, as described in decision report CPS 9198/1 (DMIRS, 2021; GIS Database).<br>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area (NVS, 2020) during October and December 2020. Eight vegetation associations were recorded within the application area, as described in decision report CPS 9198/1 (DMIRS, 2021; NVS, 2020; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020): |

| Fauna habitat | Vegetation type |
|---|---|
| **Dense shrubs** | *Eucalyptus horistes* over *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Calothamnus gilesii* shrubland |
| **Open eucalypt woodland over shrubs** | *Eucalyptus torquata* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland on undulating hills |
| | *Eucalyptus ravida* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland |
| | *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over *Melaleuca sheathiana* on undulating hills |
| **Mallee and shrubs** | *Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over low breakaway rises |
| | *Eucalyptus griffithsii* and *Eucalyptus livida* over *Acacia acuminata* shrubland |
| | *Acacia quadrimarginea* and *Acacia acuminata* over granite outcropping |
| **Eucalypt woodland over shrubs** | Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland |

| |
|---|
| Mapping of vegetation types is provided in Appendix E (NVS, 2020). |

| | |
|---|---|
| Vegetation condition | The vegetation survey (NVS, 2020) of the application area found the vegetation to be in Very Good to Good Keighery (1994) condition. As approximately 11.8 per cent (approximately 23.51 hectares) of the application area was cleared prior to the granting of CPS 9198/1 due to previous mining and exploration activities (NVS, 2020), and 44.47 hectares have been cleared under CPS 9198/1 (Westgold Resources, 2025), part of the application area is in Completely Degraded Keighery (1994) condition.<br>Therefore, the vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from Very Good to Completely Degraded Keighery (1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. |

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| Climate and landform | The climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion is described as arid to semi-arid, with average annual rainfall of 286.7 millimetres recorded at the nearest weather station, with rainfall sometimes in summer but usually in winter (BoM, 2026a; CALM, 2002).<br>The application area is mapped with elevations ranging between 400 to 420 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). |
| Soil description and land degradation risk | The soil within the application area is mapped as the following systems (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database):<br>• **Johnston**: Gently undulating plains with occasional granite rises, supporting eucalypt woodlands and non-halophytic shrublands. Is moderately susceptible to erosion.<br>• **Coolgardie**: Uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands. Is susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is reduced or if soil surface is disturbed.<br>• **Bannar**: Level to gently undulating gravelly sandy plains with *Acacia* and *Allocasuarina* scrublands, commonly with scattered native pines and emergent mallees. May be susceptible to erosion following fire.<br>• **Sedgman**: Gritty surfaced plains with granite outcrop and low granite domes and hills supporting acacia tall shrublands. Is generally not susceptible to erosion.<br>Calcareous earths are the dominant soil group in the Eastern Goldfields subregion and cover much of the plains and greenstone areas (CALM, 2002).<br>Habitat assessment described the soil at majority of sample sites as sandy clay, some as gravel, and some as stony (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). |
| Waterbodies | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses intersect the application area (GIS Database). There are three minor, non-perennial watercourses within one kilometre of the application area (GIS Database). The nearest waterbody is Lake Lefroy, approximately 13 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database).<br>There are no Wetlands of National or International Importance within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The nearest Wetland of National Importance is Rowles Lagoon System located approximately 100 kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database). |
| Hydrogeography | The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 85 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database).<br>The groundwater salinity is mapped as 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database). |
| Flora | There are no records of threatened flora species within the application area, and records of one threatened flora species *Tetratheca spenceri* within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (NVS, 2020; GIS Database). Four priority flora were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2020; 2022). Mapping of conservation significant flora locations is provided in Appendix E (NVS, 2020).<br>There are records of 24 priority flora species within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). Additional flora identified by the flora survey (NVS, 2020) have also been considered. |
| Ecological communities | There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (NVS, 2020; GIS Database). The nearest known PEC is Mount Belches *Acacia quadrimarginea*/*Ptilotus obovatus* (banded ironstone formation) (P3), approximately 65 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database). |
| Fauna | There are no records of conservation significant fauna species within the application area, although one extinct malleefowl mound was recorded (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020; GIS Database).<br>There are records of three conservation significant fauna species within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). Additional fauna has been considered that were identified in the site inspection and fauna habitat assessment (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020) and butterfly survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021), or due to changes in conservation listing since CPS 9198/1. |
| Fauna habitat | A site inspection and fauna habitat assessment was conducted over majority of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020) during October 2020. There are four broad fauna habitats described within the application area, in addition to cleared area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020):<br>• Open eucalypt woodland over shrubs;<br>• Dense shrubs;<br>• Mallee and shrubs; and |

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| | • Eucalypt woodland over shrubs.<br>Note that the south section of the application area, approximately 46 hectares, was not considered by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020), although, no different vegetation types occur in this area, therefore it is unlikely that any different fauna habitats exist in this area.<br>Mapping of fauna habitat types is provided in Appendix E and representative photos are provided in Appendix F (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). |

## 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 - Coolgardie | 12,912,204.35 | 12,648,491.39 | 97.96 | 2,114,349.37 | 16.37 |
| Beard vegetation associations - State | | | | | |
| 9 | 240,509.33 | 235,161.94 | 97.78 | 18,984.28 | 7.89 |
| 1413 | 1,679,916.32 | 1,286,855.48 | 76.60 | 222,015.35 | 13.22 |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Coolgardie) | | | | | |
| 9 | 240,441.99 | 235,100.97 | 97.78 | 18,984.28 | 7.90 |
| 1413 | 1,061,212.28 | 1,042,553.77 | 98.24 | 192,883.70 | 18.18 |

Government of Western Australia (2019)

## B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area or in biological surveys (NVS, 2020; 2022; GIS Database). The assessment of these species included consideration in field surveys, potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (Barrett, 2007; Butcher & Cockerton, 2012; Carter, 2010; Chinnock, 2007; Cowan & Maslin, 1999; Erickson & Willis, 1956; Hislop & Wedge, 2020; Hislop, 2019; Jones & French, 2016; Maslin, 1982; Nicolle & French, 2023; NVS, 2020; 2022; Obbens, 2018; Rye, 2007; 2020; Shepherd, 2007; Trudgen & Rye, 2014; WAH, 1998-; WANOSCG, n.d.; Wilson & Albrecht, 2002; GIS Database).

| Species name | Suitable habitat features? [Yes, Potential, No] | Suitable vegetation type? [Yes, Potential, No] | Suitable soil type? [Yes, Potential, No] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Likelihood of occurrence within application area (Recorded, Likely, Possible, Unlikely, Very unlikely) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Threatened** | | | | | | |
| *Tetratheca spenceri* | Potential | Yes | Potential | <5 | 4 | Possible |
| **Priority 1** | | | | | | |
| *Acacia websteri* | Yes | Yes | Potential | <5 | 21 | Possible |
| *Calandrinia lefroyensis* | No | No | Potential | <20 | 11 | Unlikely |
| *Cyathostemon divaricatus* | Yes | Yes | Potential | <10 | 7 | Possible |
| *Lepidosperma lyonsii* | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | 72 | **Recorded** |
| *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (N. Gibson & M. Lyons 2094) | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | 7 | **Recorded** |
| *Pterostylis xerampelina* | Yes | Yes | Yes | <15 | 15 | Possible |
| *Ricinocarpos digynus* | Yes | Potential | Potential | <20 | 10 | Unlikely |
| *Tecticornia mellarium* | No | No | No | <20 | 21 | Unlikely |
| *Thryptomene planiflora* | Yes | Yes | Yes | <5 | 23 | Possible |

| Species name | Suitable habitat features? [Yes, Potential, No] | Suitable vegetation type? [Yes, Potential, No] | Suitable soil type? [Yes, Potential, No] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Likelihood of occurrence within application area (Recorded, Likely, Possible, Unlikely, Very unlikely) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Priority 2** | | | | | | |
| *Acacia kerryana* | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | 16 | Possible, recorded specimen location not located in survey |
| *Eremophila praecox* | Yes | Potential | Potential | <15 | 52 | Possible |
| *Lepidosperma* sp. Kambalda (A.A. Mitchell 5156) | No | Yes | Potential | <10 | 2 | Unlikely |
| *Phebalium clavatum* | Yes | Potential | Potential | <15 | 16 | Possible |
| *Tecticornia flabelliformis* | No | No | Yes | <20 | 9 | Unlikely |
| *Xanthoparmelia xanthomelanoides* | No | Yes | Yes | <20 | 7 | Unlikely |
| **Priority 3** | | | | | | |
| *Acacia crenulata* | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | 25 | **Recorded**, and additional record in application area since CPS 9198/1 by NVS (2022) |
| *Allocasuarina eriochlamys subsp. grossa* | Yes | Yes | Potential | <10 | 28 | Possible |
| *Cratystylis centralis* | Yes | Yes | Potential | <10 | 13 | Possible |
| *Cryptandra crispula* | Yes | Yes | Yes | <5 | 15 | Possible |
| *Eremophila microphylla* (Chinnock) R.Fowler | Yes | Yes | Potential | <5 | 18 | Possible |
| *Eremophila succinea* | Potential | Yes | Potential | <10 | 10 | Possible |
| *Eucalyptus urna* subsp. *xesta* | Potential | Yes | Potential | <5 | 25 | Possible |
| *Phlegmatospermum eremaeum* | Potential | No | Potential | <10 | 19 | Unlikely |
| *Stackhousia muricata* subsp. Perennial (W.R. Barker 3641) | Potential | Yes | Yes | <5 | 50 | Unlikely |
| *Stylidium choreanthum* | Yes | Yes | Yes | <5 | 30 | Unlikely |
| *Styphelia rectiloba* | Yes | Yes | Yes | 0 | 7 | **Recorded** |
| **Priority 4** | | | | | | |
| *Eremophila caerulea* subsp. *merrallii* | Yes | Yes | Yes | <20 | 23 | Possible |

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 or in biological surveys (NVS, 2022; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020; 2021; GIS Database). The likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019; BirdLife Australia, 2017; n.d.; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DBCA, 2020; DCCEEW, 2023; 2024; DEC, 2009; 2012; Eastwood et al., 2023; Fox et al., 2016; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; Menkhorst et al., 2019; NVS, 2022; SAALB, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020; 2021; WABSI, 2022; GIS Database).

| Species name | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Yes, Potential, No] | Suitable vegetation type? [Yes, Potential, No] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Likelihood of occurrence in application area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mammal** | | | | | |
| Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*) | P3 | Yes | Yes | <45 | Unlikely |
| Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) | VU | Yes | Yes | <20 | Unlikely |
| **Bird** | | | | | |
| Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) | VU | Yes | Yes | <5 | Likely |
| Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) | OS | Potential | Potential | <35 | Unlikely, transient visitor |
| Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) | MI | No | No | <15 | Very unlikely |
| Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) | VU | Yes | Yes | <450 | Possible |
| Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) | P4 | Potential | Yes | <55 | Possible |
| **Invertebrate** | | | | | |
| Arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) | CR | Yes | Yes | <40 | Unlikely |
| Inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*) | P2 | Potential | Yes | <40 | Possible |

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** | | |
| Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."*<br>Assessment:<br>The area proposed to be cleared contains locally significant flora, fauna and habitats. | May be at variance<br>(changed from CPS 9198/1) | Yes<br>*Refer to Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, 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."*<br>Assessment:<br>The area proposed to be cleared contains potential breeding habitat for malleefowl and may contain critical habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly. | May be at variance<br>(changed from CPS 9198/1) | Yes<br>*Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.* |
| Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."*<br>Assessment:<br>The area proposed to be cleared has the potential to contain flora species *Tetratheca spenceri*, listed under the BC Act (NVS, 2020; GIS Database). | May be at variance<br>(changed from CPS 9198/1) | Yes<br>*Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.* |
| 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."*<br>Assessment: | Not likely to be at variance | No |

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|---|---|---|
| There are no known TECs located within or in close proximity to the application area (NVS, 2020; GIS Database). | (as per CPS 9198/1) | |
| **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."*<br>Assessment:<br>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Government of Western Australia; 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database). | Not at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | 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."*<br>Assessment:<br>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (approximately five kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database). | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | No |
| **Environmental value: land and water resources** | | |
| Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."*<br>Assessment:<br>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on or off-site hydrology and water quality (GIS Database). | Not at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | No |
| Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."*<br>Assessment:<br>The Johnston, Coolgardie and Bannar land systems mapped within the application area are susceptible to soil erosion when native vegetation cover is removed or the soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. The impacts of erosion may be reduced by a staged clearing condition to utilise cleared areas within three months of conducting clearing, to prevent cleared areas from being unstable and prone to erosion for extended periods of times. | May be at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | 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."*<br>Assessment:<br>Given no permanent watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in surface or ground water quality. | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | 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."*<br>Assessment:<br>The average annual rainfall at the nearest weather station is 286.7 millimetres (BoM, 2026a), and the average annual evaporation is between 2,400 and 2,800 millimetres, greatly exceeding rainfall (BoM, 2006). No permanent watercourses or waterbodies are recorded within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database). | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 9198/1) | No |

## Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

## Appendix E. Vegetation and fauna habitat mapping

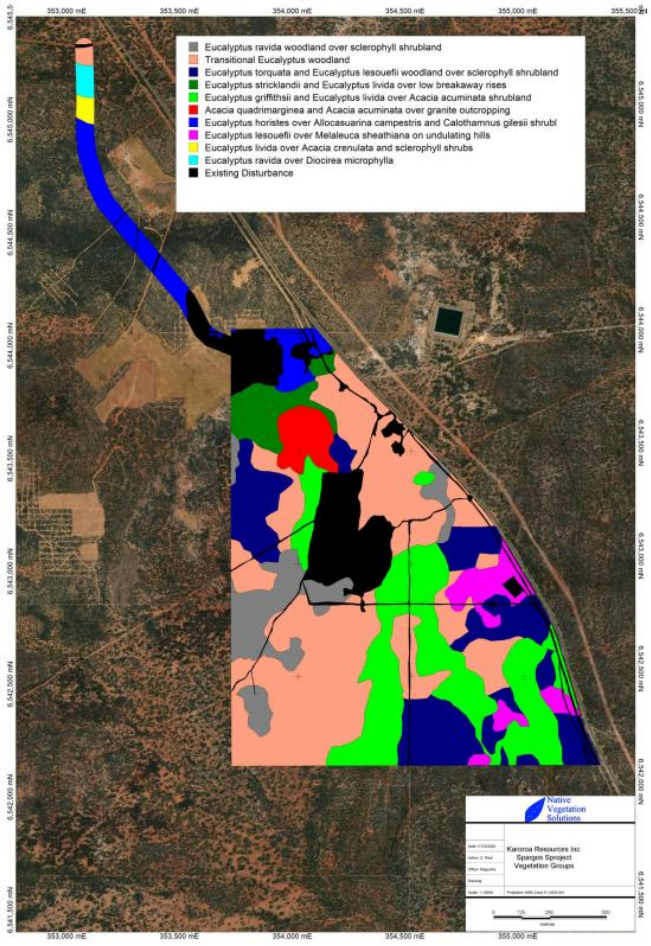


**Figure 1. Vegetation types mapped within surveyed area (NVS, 2020). Note that two types, '*Eucalyptus livida* over *Acacia crenulata* and sclerophyll shrubs' and '*Eucalyptus ravida* over *Diocirea microphylla*,' do not occur in application area.**

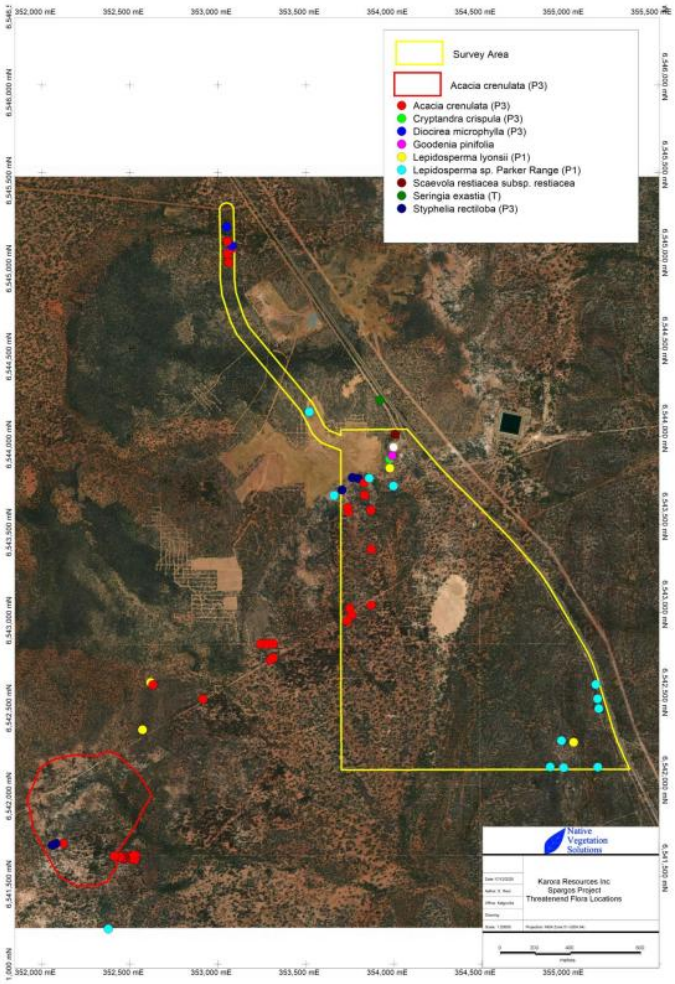


**Figure 2. Significant flora mapped within surveyed area (NVS, 2020).**

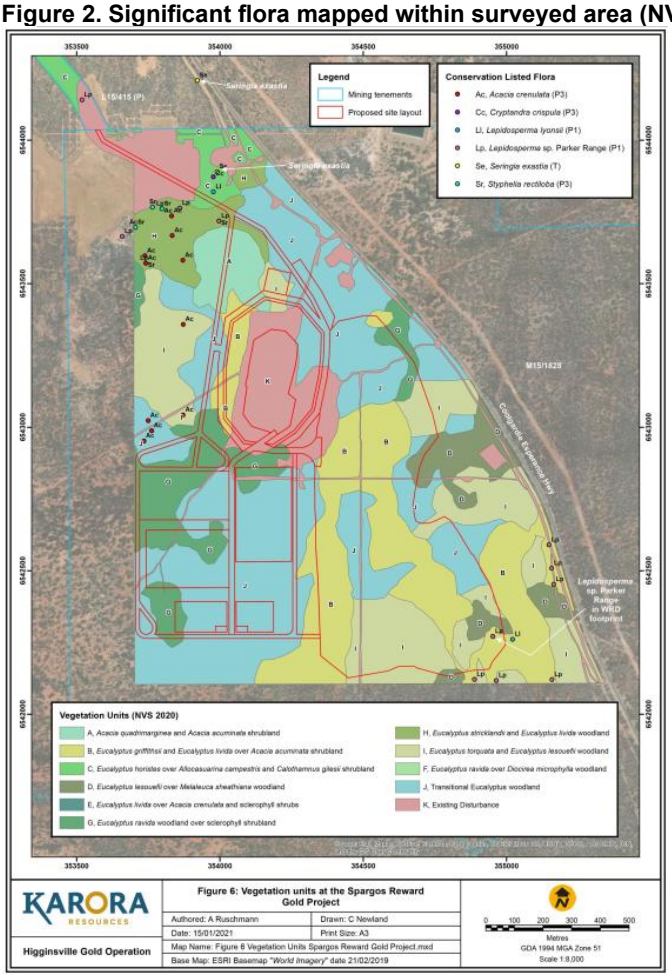


**Figure 3. Significant flora mapped within NVS (2020) surveyed area within vegetation types, and proposed mine site layout (Karora Resources, 2021).**

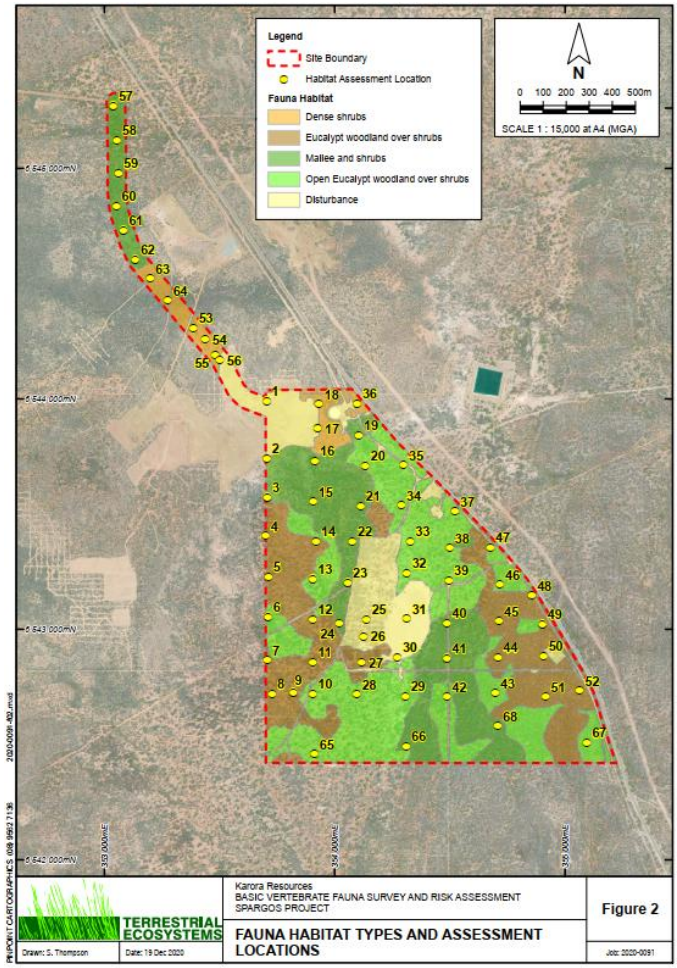


**Figure 4. Fauna habitat mapping within surveyed area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).**

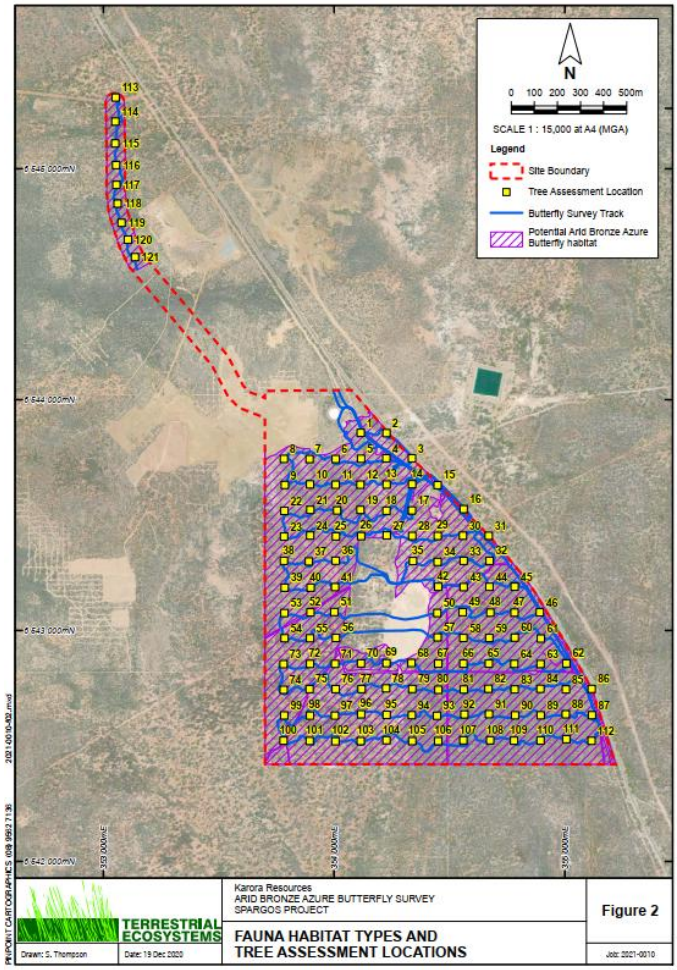


**Figure 5. ABAB targeted survey tree assessment locations and butterfly survey track within surveyed area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2021).**

## Appendix F. Representative photos of fauna habitats

**Photo 1:** Open eucalypt woodland over shrubs (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).

**Photo 2:** Dense shrubs (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).

**Photo 3:** Mallee and shrubs (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).

**Photo 4:** Eucalypt woodland over shrubs (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020).

## Appendix G. Sources of information

### G.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- 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)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)

- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- 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** | *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.