



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Permit number:        | 9203/2                          |
| Permit type:          | Purpose permit                  |
| Applicant name:       | Northern Star Resources Limited |
| Application received: | 13 January 2026                 |
| Application area:     | 150 hectares                    |
| Purpose of clearing:  | Haul Road                       |
| Method of clearing:   | Mechanical removal              |
| Tenure:               | Miscellaneous Licence 53/221    |
| Location (LGA area):  | Shire of Wiluna                 |
| Colloquial name:      | Jundee/Julius Haul Road Project |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Northern Star Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 504.37 hectares, for the purpose of a haul road. The project is located approximately 57 kilometres east of Wiluna, within the Shire of Wiluna.

Clearing permit CPS 9203/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 22 October 2021 and was valid from 16 November 2021 to 31 July 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 504.366 hectares, for the purpose of a haul road.

On 13 January 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9203/2 to extend the duration of the permit by 5 years.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 and the 30 June 2025, received 29 July 2025), and aerial imagery, no clearing has occurred under CPS 9203/1.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Decision:      | Grant                             |
| Decision date: | 30 July 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 (0), relevant datasets (Appendix D), biological survey information, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), 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:

- 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 suitable habitat for conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable for brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasymercus blythi*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable for night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging and nesting habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*); and
- potential land degradation in the form of 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 weed;
- undertake slow clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a flora management condition requiring that prior to any clearing, a botanist shall be engaged to conduct a targeted flora survey for priority flora (*Tecticornia enodis*, *Tecticornia* sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961), *Tecticornia cymbiformis* and *Triodia infesta*). These plants will be flagged and a ten metre buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals;
- a fauna management (brush-tailed mulgara) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify brush-tailed mulgara, and relocate individuals ahead of clearing;
- a fauna management condition (greater bilby) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify greater bilby; and
- a fauna management condition (night parrot) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify suitable habitat and presence/ absence of night parrot; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- vegetation management to avoid riparian vegetation and maintain existing water flow.

The assessment has changed since the assessment for CPS 9203/1, in particular principles (a), (b),(g) and (i). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of permit duration 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
- the polluter pays principle

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, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

### 3. Detailed assessment of application

#### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No additional evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application. Impacts to environmental values can continued to be managed under permit conditions.

#### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 9203/2, except for principles (a), (b), (g) and (i) which require further consideration. Updated information on flora and fauna species known within 50 kilometres of the application area has been incorporated into this assessment.

##### 3.2.1. Biological values (flora and ecological communities) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

###### Assessment

A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was undertaken by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd (Botanica) between 4 to 6 March 2020 (Botanica, 2020). In 2021, a Julius haul road-priority flora assessment memorandum was provided by Botanica as a supplementary document to further define the habitats present within the survey area and assess the potential for Priority Flora to occur within the survey area (Botanica, 2021).

The presence of weeds was not noted within the reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey, however the proposed clearing may contribute to the spread of invasive weed species within the application area and negatively impact biodiversity within and adjacent to the application area.

###### **Calcrete ecological communities**

Within the local surrounds there are five calcrete priority ecological communities. These ecological communities are known to support unique assemblages of invertebrates within groundwater calcretes (DBCA, 2025; GIS Database):

- Jundee Homestead calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carnegie palaeodrainage on Jundee Station;
- Jundee South Hill calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carnegie palaeodrainage on Jundee Station;
- Barwidgee calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Barwidgee Station;
- Lake Way South calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Lake Way Station; and
- Uramurdah Lake calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Millbillillie Station (GIS Database).

Three of these occur within the Carey palaeovalley and two within the Carnegie palaeovalley. Approximately 327 hectares of the application area is intersected by the Carnegie palaeovalley (GIS Database). The application area is less than 35 kilometres south of the Jundee Homestead and Jundee South Calcrete ecological communities (GIS Database). Threats to these ecological communities are hydrological changes associated with mining (DBCA, 2025).

In addition to being intersected by the application area being intersected by the Carnegie palaeovalley, hydrogeological mapping indicates calcrete may be present within the application area (GIS Database). As such, the application area may provide suitable habitat for a calcrete ecological community. However, given the distance from known priority ecological communities, it is unlikely that these communities extend into the application area. Notably, the two Jundee communities are located less than five kilometres apart and considered separate ecological communities.

Vegetation is not pertinent to underground invertebrate assemblages (Botanica, 2021), and vegetation associated with calcretes generally lacks endemic species or rare taxa (Meissner, 2011). However, impacts to potential calcrete ecological communities can and should be minimised avoiding riparian vegetation where practicable and maintaining surface water flow to minimise hydrological changes. Provided the proposed clearing does not result in significant changes to the water table the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact a potential community.

###### **Priority flora within local surrounds**

*Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera* (P3) inhabits hardpan plains, slopes, and drainage areas within the Central Ranges, Gascoyne, Murchison, and Pilbara bioregions. Within the Pilbara, the species is known from conservation estate (WA Herbarium, 1998-). *Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera* has been recorded within adjacent CPS 11192/1, these individuals have been excised from the clearing boundary by 50 metres (DMPE, 2026). If present it is unlikely the proposed clearing will significantly impact this species given it is known from conservation estate at a regional level and nearby local population is protected.

*Jacksonia lanicarpa* (P1) is a perennial shrub, to 2 metres high, known from loamy mulga woodland plains and broad drainage areas, however, has been recorded in halophytic shrublands and rocky areas (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The application area provides suitable habitat for this species; however, no *Jacksonia* species were recorded during the reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey (Botanica, 2020). Given the growth form of this species, it should have been detectable at the time of the survey.

*Stackhousia clementii* (P3) is a small perennial herb known to inhabit skeletal soils on sandstone hills, as well as drainage areas, plains and saline areas (WA Herbarium, 1998-). This species is known from six bioregions and from conservation estate within the Pilbara bioregion (GIS Database). The application area contains suitable habitat for this species; however, given this species is known from six bioregions and conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact this species at a regional level.

*Triodia infesta* (P2) inhabits sandy banks above saline flats and salt lakes (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The application area is likely to provide suitable habitat for this species within sand dune and sand plain habitats. *Triodia infesta* is known from limited records, likely due to specific habitat requirements; however, it has been recorded within conservation estate within Murchison and Little Sandy Desert bioregions (GIS Database). If present within the application area, any impacts from the proposed clearing would likely be limited at a local level. Given the presence of suitable habitat, a pre-clearance survey condition should be implemented on the permit.

#### **Eremophila spp.**

Within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) there are four *Eremophila* species of conservation significance; *Eremophila arguta*, *Eremophila jamesiorum*, *Eremophila* sp. long pedicels (G. Cockerton 1975), and *Eremophila pungens* (no suitable habitat) (Botanica, 2021; GIS Database). All *Eremophila* species recorded during the flora survey were able to be identified to a species level (Botanica, 2020; 2021).

*Eremophila arguta* (P1) inhabits loamy soils on floodplains and creeks, often in association with Eucalyptus (Chinnock, 2007; WA Herbarium, 1998-). OD-AFW1 would likely provide suitable habitat for this species; however, this species was not recorded during the reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey, and all *Eremophila* spp. recorded were able to be fully identified to a species level (Botanica, 2021).

*Eremophila* sp. long pedicels (G. Cockerton 1975) (P2) inhabits dark red hardpan mulga shrublands and broad mulga drainage lines over palaeochannels (WA Herbarium, 1998-). *Eremophila* sp. long pedicels (G. Cockerton 1975) has limited records, all of which have been recorded over the Carey palaeochannel, which does not intersect the application area (GIS Database). This species has a record within conservation estate, however, is known from a small range, the application area is currently outside this species known range (GIS Database). OD-AFW1 may represent suitable habitat for this taxon, however this taxon was not recorded during the field survey and all *Eremophila* species recorded were able to be identified to a species level (Botanica, 2021).

There is one historic record of *Eremophila jamesiorum* (P2) within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). This species is known to inhabit stony plains and is known from conservation estates within the Gibson Desert bioregion (WA Herbarium, 1998-). If present within the application area, potential impacts from the proposed clearing would likely be at a local scale (GIS Database). However, as previously discussed, all *Eremophila* species were identified to a species level (Botanica, 2021).

#### **Tecticornia spp.**

Within the local surrounds, there are three conservation significant *Tecticornia* species (GIS Database). Botanica (2020) recorded one *Tecticornia* species within the reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey, which was unable to be identified beyond a genus level as the specimen was sterile. This record occurred within CD-CSSSF1 vegetation type. Conservation significant *Tecticornia* taxa were not considered in previous likelihood assessments (Botanica, 2020). The CD-CSSSF1 and CD-CSSSF2 vegetation types are considered to provide potentially suitable habitat for *Tecticornia enodis* (PX), *Tecticornia* sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961) and *Tecticornia cymbiformis*. *Tecticornia cymbiformis* and *Tecticornia enodis* are known from conservation estate outside of the Murchison bioregion, whereas *Tecticornia* sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961) is not known from conservation estate (GIS Database). Given saline habitats can be restricted, a pre-clearance survey should be implemented on the permit to determine presence / absences of these species within the application area.

#### Conclusion

No priority or threatened flora is known to occur within the application area. Suitable habitat is present for several priority flora species known from the local surrounds; however, impacts from the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant should those species occur within the application area with the exception of *Tecticornia enodis*, *Tecticornia* sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961), *Tecticornia cymbiformis* and *Triodia infesta*. A targeted pre-clearance survey for these species should be conducted to determine its presence or absence within the application area. Additional potential impacts to priority flora can be minimised under the conditions described below.

#### Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- vegetation management – avoid riparian vegetation and where a watercourse is to be impacted by clearing, the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained or reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines; and
- flora management condition requiring that prior to any clearing, a botanist shall be engaged to conduct a targeted flora survey for priority flora. These plants will be flagged and a ten metre buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals.

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

#### Assessment

A fauna assessment (reconnaissance terrestrial fauna survey) was undertaken by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd (Botanica) between 4 to 6 March 2020.

#### **Brush-tailed mulgara**

The brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi*, P4) inhabits mature hummock (spinifex) grasslands, and vegetation types next to hummock grasslands, paleodrainage systems or drainage systems within sandplain or sand dune habitats (NESP, 2021). This

species is mostly active at night, and rests in burrows at the base of grass clumps or bushes during the day (NESP, 2021). The application area is within this species known distribution and likely provides suitable habitat for this species within sandplain, sand dune and closed depression habitats (GIS Database). The proposed clearing would likely impact and fragment potentially suitable foraging, breeding and dispersal habitat for the brush-tailed mulgara. Appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to minimise potential impact to this species.

#### Fork-tailed swift

The fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*, MI) is a non-breeding migratory species to Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is an almost exclusively aerial species, however, when on ground it occupies a wide range of habitats and is largely independent of terrestrial habitats and landforms (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008).

#### Greater bilby

The greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*, VU) inhabits a wide range of substrates and vegetation types across northern Western Australia, including residual (laterite rises), fluvial and sand plain landforms with low shrub cover of *Acacia* spp. with hummock (*Triodia* spp.) and tussock grasses (DBCA, 2017; Northover et al., 2023). Bilby distribution is limited by soil suitability for burrowing, with sandy substrates generally preferred for burrow excavation, this species is also known to utilise loams, sandy loams, light clays and red earths (DCCEEW, 2023b). Bilbies occur across a range of fire age stages including recently burnt and long-unburnt vegetation (Northover et al., 2023).

The greater bilby has been successfully reintroduced into Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park (Matuwa) approximately 44 kilometres northeast of the application area. Camera monitoring indicates the bilby population has established within Matuwa and now extends beyond the national park (Lohr et al., 2021). In 2015 and 2017, two records of the bilby were captured by camera trapping 50 kilometres west of Matuwa NP, near Wiluna (Lohr et al., 2021).

Given the recent records, the application area may now fall within the contemporary range of the bilby. Substrate supporting sand-loam plain acacia woodlands is considered well suited for small burrowing mammals and reptiles (DMPE, 2026). Given the application area contains suitable habitat and that recent records indicate the species may occur in the broader locality, management measures should be put in place to minimise the risk to this species.

#### Grey falcon

The grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*, VU) occurs in low densities across arid and semi-arid inland Australia (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2020). This species frequents timbered lowland plains particularly acacia shrublands, that are crossed by tree-lined watercourses; however, has also been observed in open woodlands, treeless areas and tussock grasslands (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2020). Grey falcons nest in the tallest trees along watercourses particularly in River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Coolibah (*Eucalyptus coolabah*), or in old nests of other large birds (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2020). The application area lacks preferred nesting tree species, however, contains *Eucalyptus youngiana*, shrub mallee less than 10 meters high, within sandplain habitat approximately 2 kilometres from ephemeral waterbodies (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database). Given the growth form of these trees and distance to the nearest watercourse breeding habitat is likely to be limited within the application area. The application area likely contains suitable foraging habitat for this species; however, such habitat is widespread and not restricted to the application area.

#### Migratory shorebirds

There are 13 migratory shorebird species known within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). Migratory shorebirds typically arrive at their staging areas in northern Australia around September and disperse across Australia, returning to staging areas in March to fly north (DCCEEW, 2025). These species may utilise ephemeral waterbodies, areas subjected to inundation, and drainage lines within the application area, as well as adjacent salt lakes when inundated with water. The application area contains suitable habitat for these species; however, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact these species given suitable habitat is within the adjacent surrounds.

#### Night parrot

The night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*, CR) is a nocturnal, highly cryptic species endemic to arid and semi-arid Australia (Northover et al., 2023). Night parrots are known to inhabit long unburnt spinifex hummocks for roosting, however, historically have also been reported roosting at sites dominated by chenopods, such as samphire and *Sclerolaena* (DBCA, 2024). Night parrots will travel large distances to floodplains, drainage lines and run-off areas to forage on key seed-producing flora (e.g., grasses, herbs and forbs) (Northover et al., 2023). *Triodia*, chenopods, *Sclerolaena*, are known to be consumed possibly as sources of food or moisture, in addition to annual and perennial grasses and herbs (DBCA, 2024). Paleodrainages, including salt lake edges and nearby interdunal claypans often support suitable foraging habitat (DBCA, 2024). Margins of these drainages can be topographically complex and support isolated patches of *Triodia*, in these systems, chenopod-dominated areas are also considered potential roosting or foraging habitat (DBCA, 2024). Additionally, foraging habitat is likely to be more important if it is adjacent to or within about 10 kilometres of patches of suitable roosting habitat (DBCA, 2024).

The application area is situated within the Carnegie palaeovalley, which contains several night parrot records (GIS Database). Within the palaeovalley the application area intersects an area subject to inundation which flows into an ephemeral lake, directly adjacent to the application area (GIS Database). These areas are a part of a larger salt lake / ephemeral lake chain along the Carnegie palaeovalley (GIS Database). Vegetation within and adjacent to ephemeral waterbodies is mapped as the following;

- **CD-CSSSF1:** Closed Depression, Low samphire shrubland of *Tecticornia indica* subsp. *bidens* / *Tecticornia* sp. Dennys Crossing (K.A. Shepherd & J. English KS522) in playa;
- **CD-CSSSF2:** Closed Depression, Mid heathland of *Cratystylis subspinescens* over low open chenopod shrubland of *Atriplex vesicaria* and open forbland of *Frankenia* spp. on playa edge;
- **SD-AFW1:** Sand Dune, Low woodland of *Acacia caesaneura* / *A. incurvaneura* over tall open shrubland of *Melaleuca interioris* and low open hummock grassland of *Triodia desertorum* / low open tussock grassland of *Eragrostis eriopoda* on sand dune;

- **SD-MFW1:** Sand Dune, Tall shrubland of *Melaleuca interioris* over low open hummock grassland of *Triodia desertorum* / low open tussock grassland of *Eragrostis eriopoda* on sand dune; and
- **Bare Playa** (Directly adjacent to application area).

Within these vegetation types, chenopod species, including *Sclerolaena* species, were recorded; therefore, these areas could potentially be suitable for night parrot foraging and dispersal. Aerial imagery indicates patches of *Triodia* hummocks are present within the immediate surrounds (GIS Database). Given the proximity to *Triodia* hummocks, which could be considered suitable roosting habitat, the application area potentially contains suitable foraging habitat. Additionally, chenopod shrublands could be considered as suitable roosting habitat.

Fire history indicates the application area and immediate surrounds are long unburnt, fire history within the broader surrounds is approximately 20 years old (GIS Database). The closest contemporary record of the night parrot is approximately 34 kilometres north of the application area, however records from 2017 and 2019 are known within Matuwa National Park (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Eastern Murchison bioregion which is considered a high priority survey bioregion for the night parrot, in these bioregions occurrence of night parrot must be considered (DBCA, 2024).

Given this species highly cryptic nature, presence of potentially suitable habitat and contemporary records within the surrounds further investigations to determine habitat suitability and potential presence of night parrot should be conducted.

#### **Peregrine falcon**

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, OS) is widespread throughout much of Australia, with its preferred habitat being coastal and inland cliffs, or open woodlands near waterbodies and watercourses (Australian Museum, 2019). The peregrine falcon nests on ledges of cliffs, rocky outcrops, quarries and tall trees (Australian Museum, 2019). The application area contains suitable foraging habitat for this species; however, lacks suitable breeding habitat. Foraging habitat for the peregrine falcon is widespread and not restricted to the application area.

#### **Southern whiteface**

The southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*, VU) occurs across much of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (DCCEEW, 2023a). These areas are usually in habitats which are dominated by acacias or eucalypts on ranges, foothills and lowlands, and plains (DCCEEW, 2023a). This species forages on the ground amongst leaf litter and nests within tree hollows or crevices and in low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023a). The application area likely contains suitable foraging and breeding habitat for this species. Given the extent of the proposed clearing, the proposed clearing could result in impacts to breeding habitat if active nests are present within the application area. To reduce impacts, a fauna management (southern whiteface breeding season) condition will be implemented on the permit.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of potentially suitable habitat for the greater bilby, brush-tailed mulgara, night parrot and southern whiteface. The application area contains suitable habitat for the grey falcon, peregrine falcon, migratory bird species, and fork-tailed swift, however suitable habitat for these species extends beyond the application area and is unlikely to significantly impact breeding habitat. Impacts to conservation significant fauna can be reduced through the implementation of a slow directional clearing condition, allowing fauna to move into adjacent vegetation. Impacts to brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, night parrot and southern whiteface can be reduced by fauna management conditions listed below.

#### Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (brush-tailed mulgara) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify brush-tailed mulgara, and relocate individuals ahead of clearing;
- a fauna management condition (greater bilby) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify greater bilby; and
- a fauna management condition (night parrot) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify suitable habitat and presence/ absence of night parrot; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 10 metre buffer around identified active nests.

### **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing amendment application was advertised on 5 June 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 over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal and 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.

The application area intersects Contaminated Site ID No. 18217, under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, this site has been classified as "contaminated - remediation required" (DWER, 2019; GIS Database). The identified spill areas are not located within the proposed clearing area; however, the land has been subject to potentially contaminating activities (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026). It is recommended that the proposed clearing and works be carried out in accordance with an internal management plan, including an unexpected finds protocol should any contaminated materials be encountered (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026).

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*), night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), and migratory birds, which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

**End**

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

## A.1. Site characteristics

| Characteristic         | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local context          | The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by native vegetation, mining activity and ephemeral salt lakes and associated waterbodies (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the Eastern Murchison subregion is native pastures, UCL and Crown Reserves, conservation and mining activities (CALM, 2002).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ecological linkage     | According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Conservation areas     | The nearest conservation area is Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park located approximately 43 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Vegetation description | <p>The vegetation of the application area occurs within the Murchison IBRA bioregion in the Eastern Murchison (MUR01) subregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wiluna 18:</b> Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>);</li> <li>• <b>Wiluna 125:</b> Bare areas; salt lakes; and</li> <li>• <b>Wiluna 506:</b> Mosaic: Shrublands; bowgada scrub / Succulent steppe; samphire (Government of Australia, 2019; GIS Database).</li> </ul> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd during March 2020. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area, in addition to cleared areas (Botanica, 2020):</p> <p><b>Closed Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CD-CSSSF1:</b> Low samphire shrubland of <i>Tecticornia indica</i> subsp. <i>bidens</i> / <i>Tecticornia</i> sp. Dennys Crossing (K.A. Shepherd &amp; J. English KS522) in playa;</li> <li>• <b>CD-CSSSF2:</b> Mid heathland of <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> over low open chenopod shrubland of <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> and open forbland of <i>Frankenia</i> spp. on playa edge;</li> </ul> <p><b>Clay-Loam Plain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CLP-AFW1:</b> Low woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over low shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> / <i>E. margarethae</i> and low tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on clay-loam plain;</li> </ul> <p><b>Open Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>OD-AFW1:</b> Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> and low tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis kennedyae</i> in open depression;</li> </ul> <p><b>Quartz Rocky Plain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QRP-AOW1:</b> Low open woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> / <i>Hakea lorea</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> and low shrubland of <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> on quartz-rocky plain;</li> <li>• <b>QRP-AFW1:</b> Low woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Psyrax suaveolens</i> and low open tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on quartz-rocky plain;</li> </ul> <p><b>Sand Dune</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SD-AFW1:</b> Low woodland of <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> / <i>A. incurvaneura</i> over tall open shrubland of <i>Melaleuca interioris</i> and low open hummock grassland of <i>Triodia desertorum</i> / low open tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on sand dune;</li> <li>• <b>SD-MFW1:</b> Tall shrubland of <i>Melaleuca interioris</i> over low open hummock grassland of <i>Triodia desertorum</i> / low open tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on sand dune;</li> </ul> <p><b>Sand-Loam Plain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SLP-AFW1:</b> Low woodland of <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> / <i>A. incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> and low hummock grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on sand-loam plain; and</li> <li>• <b>SLP-AFW/MWS1:</b> Mid open mallee shrubland of <i>Eucalyptus youngiana</i> / Low woodland of <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> / <i>A. incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> and low hummock grassland of <i>Triodia basedowii</i> on sand-loam plain.</li> </ul> |
| Vegetation condition   | Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in good to very good condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate and landform                       | The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 260.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 540-510 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Soil description and land degradation risk | <p>The soil within the application area is mapped as a part of the following land systems (Curry et al., 1994; DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carnegie system (279Ca):</b> Salt lakes with fringing saline alluvial plains, kopi dunes and sandy banks, supporting halophytic shrublands and acacia tall shrublands (approximately 100 hectares), Erosion susceptibility is generally low;</li> <li>• <b>Cunyu system (279Cu):</b> Calcrete platforms, intervening drainage floors and channels and minor alluvial plains, supporting acacia shrublands, occasional casuarina woodlands and minor halophytic shrublands (approximately 56 hectares), alluvial plains and drainage floors are mildly susceptible to accelerated erosion;</li> <li>• <b>Jundee system (279Ju):</b> Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy banks supporting weakly groved mulga shrublands (approximately 25 hectares), drainage zones are mildly susceptible to erosion when degraded, hardpan plains otherwise not normally susceptible to erosion unless severely degraded;</li> <li>• <b>Violet system (279Vi):</b> Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands (approximately 92 hectares), drainage tracts and sandy surfaced gravelly plains are moderately susceptible to erosion if vegetation is degraded or soil surface disturbed; and</li> <li>• <b>Yanganoo system (279Yg):</b> Almost flat hardpan wash plains, with or without small wanderie banks and weak groving; supporting mulga shrublands and wanderie grasses on banks (approximately 231 hectares), major unit locally susceptible to accelerated erosion when severely degraded, but much more susceptible to degradation and water starvation arising from inappropriately maintained roads and tracks.</li> </ul> |
| Waterbodies                                | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the application area is intersected by multiple non-perennial watercourses. The application area intersects land subject to inundation, adjacent to a non-perennial lake (GIS Database). The land subjected to inundation is within the Carnegie palaeovalley, approximately 327 hectares of the application area is intersected by the Carnegie palaeovalley (GIS Database). The nearest Wetland of National Importance is Lake Carnegie located approximately 133 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Hydrogeography                             | The application area is located within the East Murchison Ground Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is Wiluna Water Reserve located approximately 49 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Flora                                      | There are no known threatened flora species within the application area or local surrounds (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). No priority flora is known to occur within the application area, there are records of 15 priority flora within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Ecological communities                     | There are no Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). Within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) there are 4 Priority Ecological Communities (Appendix A.5; GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Fauna                                      | No conservation significant fauna has been recorded within the application area, 21 records of conservation significant fauna that have been recorded within the local surrounds (50 kilometres) as detailed in Appendix A.4 (GIS Database).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Fauna habitat                              | <p>A basic vertebrate fauna assessment was conducted over the application area by Botanica during March 2020. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area, in addition to cleared vegetation (Botanica, 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clay loam plain – Acacia woodlands;</li> <li>• Closed depression – chenopod shrublands, samphire shrublands and forblands;</li> <li>• Open depression – Acacia woodland;</li> <li>• Quartz rocky plain – Acacia open woodland / woodland;</li> <li>• Sand dune – Acacia woodland / melaleuca woodland;</li> <li>• Sand loam plain – Acacia woodland / mallee shrubland; and</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## A.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 - Murchison                | 28,120,587 | 28,044,823 | ~99 | 2,185,987.96 | 7.77                                    |
| Beard vegetation associations - State     |            |            |     |              |                                         |
| Veg Assoc 18.                             | 19,892,306 | 19,843,148 | ~99 | 1,317,179    | 6.62                                    |
| Veg Assoc 125.                            | 3,485,786  | 3,146,487  | ~90 | 265,740      | 7.62                                    |
| Veg Assoc 560.                            | 98,187     | 98,050.28  | ~99 | 12,572       | 12.80                                   |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion |            |            |     |              |                                         |
| Veg Assoc 18.                             | 12,403,172 | 12,363,253 | ~99 | 614,964.13   | 4.96                                    |
| Veg Assoc 125.                            | 711,484    | 710,255    | ~99 | 51,223.48    | 7.20                                    |
| Veg Assoc 560.                            | 84,725     | 84,725     | ~99 | -            | -                                       |

Government of Western Australia (2019)

### A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (Botanica, 2020; Botanica, 2021; Chinnock, 2007; WA Herbarium, 1998- ; GIS Database).

| Species name                                            | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Priority 1</b>                                       |                                  |                                                     |                                 |
| <i>Eremophila arguta</i>                                | Y                                | <50                                                 | 7                               |
| <i>Jacksonia lanicarpa</i>                              | Y                                | <50                                                 | 12                              |
| <i>Tecticornia enodis</i>                               | Y                                | <45                                                 | 19                              |
| <i>Tecticornia</i> sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961)   | Y                                | <45                                                 | 8                               |
| <b>Priority 2</b>                                       |                                  |                                                     |                                 |
| <i>Eremophila jamesiorum</i>                            | Y                                | <25                                                 | 15                              |
| <i>Eremophila</i> sp. long pedicels (G. Cockerton 1975) | Y – palaeodrainage system        | <40                                                 | 4                               |
| <i>Triodia infesta</i>                                  | Y                                | <25                                                 | 8                               |
| <b>Priority 3</b>                                       |                                  |                                                     |                                 |
| <i>Aristida jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i> | Y                                | <40                                                 | 49                              |
| <i>Cratystylis centralis</i>                            | N                                | <45                                                 | 13                              |
| <i>Stackhousia clementii</i>                            | Y                                | <30                                                 | 23                              |
| <i>Tecticornia cymbiformis</i>                          | Y                                | <40                                                 | 16                              |
| <i>Tribulus adelacanthus</i>                            | N                                | <35                                                 | 19                              |
| <i>Xanthoparmelia nashii</i>                            | N                                | <20                                                 | 18                              |
| <b>Priority 4</b>                                       |                                  |                                                     |                                 |
| <i>Eremophila pungens</i>                               | N                                | <10                                                 | 46                              |
| <i>Hemigenia exilis</i>                                 | N                                | <40                                                 | 45                              |

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

#### A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (Botanica, 2020; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database).

| Species name                                              | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> )             | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Common sandpiper ( <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> )            | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Fork-tailed swift ( <i>Apus pacificus</i> )               | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Glossy ibis ( <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> )               | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Grey falcon ( <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> )                   | VU                  | Y                                | <40                                                 |
| Gull-billed tern ( <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> )         | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Long-toed stint ( <i>Calidris subminuta</i> )             | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Night parrot ( <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> )            | CR                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Oriental plover ( <i>Charadrius veredus</i> )             | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Oriental pratincole ( <i>Glareola maldivarum</i> )        | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Pacific golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> )          | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Pectoral sandpiper ( <i>Calidris melanotos</i> )          | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )              | OS                  | Y                                | <50                                                 |
| Red-necked stint ( <i>Calidris ruficollis</i> )           | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )                       | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Sharp-tailed sandpiper ( <i>Calidris acuminata</i> )      | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Southern whiteface ( <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> )     | VU                  | Y                                | <55                                                 |
| Western grasswren ( <i>Amytornis textilis textilis</i> )* | P4                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| Wood sandpiper ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> )                 | MI                  | Y                                | <35                                                 |
| <b>Mammals</b>                                            |                     |                                  |                                                     |
| Brushed-tailed mulgara ( <i>Dasycercus blythi</i> )       | P4                  | Y                                | <5                                                  |
| Greater bilby ( <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> )                 | VU                  | Y                                | <50                                                 |

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

\* denotes species likely absent from the area given age of record and known distribution (Shark Bay)

#### A.5. Ecological community analysis table

Ecological communities recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (DBCA, 2025; GIS Database).

| Community name                                                                                      | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N] | Suitable soil type? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A] |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Jundee Homestead calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carnegie palaeodrainage on Jundee Station  | P1                  | Y - Carnegie palaeodrainage      | N/A                             | Y                         | <35                                                 | 1                               | N/A                                           |
| Jundee South Hill calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carnegie palaeodrainage on Jundee Station | P1                  | Y - Carnegie palaeodrainage      | N/A                             | Y                         | <35                                                 | 1                               | N/A                                           |
| Barwidgee calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey                                             | P1                  | Y – palaeodrainage system        | N/A                             | Y                         | <40                                                 | 1                               | N/A                                           |

| Community name                                                                                       | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N] | Suitable soil type? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A] |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| palaeodrainage on Barwidgee Station                                                                  |                     |                                  |                                 |                           |                                                     |                                 |                                               |
| Lake Way South calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Lake Way Station      | P1                  | Y - palaeodrainage system        | N/A                             | Y                         | <40                                                 | 1                               | N/A                                           |
| Uramurdah Lake calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Millbillillie Station | P1                  | Y - palaeodrainage system        | N/A                             | Y                         | <50                                                 | 1                               | N/A                                           |

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

## Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

| Assessment against the clearing principles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Variance level                                          | Is further consideration required?           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Environmental value: biological values</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                         |                                              |
| <p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for conservation significant flora, fauna and ecological communities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | May be at variance<br>(changed from CPS 9203/1)         | Yes<br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains potentially suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | May be at variance<br>(changed from CPS 9203/1)         | Yes<br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 9203/1) | No                                           |
| <p><u>Principle (d):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or the local surrounds (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>                                                                         | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 9203/1) | No                                           |
| <b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |                                              |
| <p><u>Principle (e):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2.). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p> | Not at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 9203/1)              | No                                           |

| Assessment against the clearing principles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Variance level                                                 | Is further consideration required? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Principle (h):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9203/1)</p> | No                                 |
| <b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |                                    |
| <p><u>Principle (f):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given there are a number of ephemeral watercourses and waterbodies within the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact on vegetation growing within watercourses. The application area is not a part of any mapped groundwater dependent ecosystems (BoM, 2017; GIS Database). The vegetation types associated with ephemeral drainage lines are SLP-AFW1, OD-AFW1, QRP-AOW1, SD-MFW1, CD-CSSSF2, and the vegetation types associated with ephemeral waterbodies are CD-CSSSF1, CD-CSSSF2, and SD-MFW1 (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database). There is an unnamed salt lake directly adjacent to the application area (GIS Database). Lands subject to inundation (ephemeral waterbodies) and some ephemeral watercourses within the application area are associated with this salt lake. The salt lake is associated with vegetation type CD-CSSSF1, other shrubland vegetation and bare playas (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database). Impacts to vegetation growing in association with watercourses can be minimised by the continued implementation of a watercourse management condition.</p>                                                    | <p>At variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9203/1)</p>                  | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (g):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are generally not susceptible to erosion; however, drainage and degraded areas can be moderately susceptible to erosion (Curry et al., 1994; DPIRD, 2026). Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing can be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetation cover for extended periods.</p> <p>Additionally, the application area is intersected by a contaminated site. The identified spill area is not located within the application area; however, the land has been subject to potentially contaminating activities (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026). It is recommended that the works are carried out in accordance with an internal management plan including an unexpected finds protocol should any contaminated materials be encountered (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>May be at variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 9203/1)</p>     | No                                 |
| <p><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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given multiple ephemeral watercourses and waterbodies intercept the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact surface water flows, which could impact surface water quality (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is not a part of any mapped groundwater dependent ecosystems however clearing of riparian vegetation could potentially impact water quality (BoM, 2017; GIS Database).</p> <p>Impacts of the proposed clearing can be minimised through the continued implementation of a watercourse management condition to avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and maintain surface flow where practicable. Particularly the removal of deep rooted vegetation and species associated with groundwater should be avoided where practicable.</p> <p>Additionally, the application area is intersected by a contaminated site, the identified spill area is not located within the application area, however the land has been subject to potentially contaminating activities (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026). It is recommended that the works are carried out in</p> | <p>May be at variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 9203/1)</p>     | No                                 |

| Assessment against the clearing principles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Variance level                                                 | Is further consideration required? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| accordance with an internal management plan including an unexpected finds protocol should any contaminated materials be encountered (DWER – Contaminated sites, personal communication, 4 February 2026).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                |                                    |
| <p>Principle (j): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Approximately 5.9 hectares of the application area is considered an area subject to inundation, during periods of high rainfall this area is inundated with water. It is unlikely the proposed clearing will increase the intensity of flooding in these areas. The application area also intersected multiple ephemeral watercourses; however, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> | <p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 9203/1)</p> | No                                 |

## Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

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

| Condition           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Excellent           | Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Very good           | Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.                                 |
| Good                | More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.                                                                      |
| Poor                | Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.                                                                      |
| Very poor           | Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species. |
| Completely degraded | Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.                                       |

## Appendix D. Sources of information

### D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- 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)
- Hydrogeology, Statewide (DWER)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics

- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- 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

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

### Acronyms:

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