



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9235/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Vault Minerals Limited
Application received:	26 April 2026
Application area:	73 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 37/155
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Leonora
Colloquial name:	St George Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Vault Minerals Limited proposes to clear up to 73 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 81.2 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure (Vault Minerals Limited, 2026). The project is located approximately 110 kilometres north of Leonora, within the Shire of Leonora (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the development of a small pit mine approximately 82.1 hectares in area, the creation of a new waste rock landform (WRL), a run of mine pad (ROM), topsoil storage areas and other infrastructure (Vault Minerals Limited, 2026).

Clearing permit CPS 9235/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 6 May 2021 and was valid from 29 May 2021 to 28 May 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 73 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 81.2 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure.

On 26 April 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9235/1 to extend the permit duration by five years and to update the company name from Red 5 Limited to Vault Minerals Limited.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 30 July 2025), a total of 4.2 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under the permit.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	15 May 2026
Decision area:	73 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant, including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Mattike, 2020), 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; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9235/1, except in the case of principle (f) which has changed from 'at variance' to 'not likely at variance'. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendments being sought (extension of duration and company name update) is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 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)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating avoidance and mitigation measures (e.g. minimising the introduction and spread of weeds, implementing dust control measures). The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

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 9235/2.

The clearing permit application area is located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Murchison Bioregion (GIS Database). The Eastern Murchison subregion is characterised by its internal drainage and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by mulga woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Tecticornia* shrublands (CALM, 2002).

A detailed flora survey was conducted over the application area and surrounds by Mattiske (2020) between 12 to 16 June 2020. The vegetation of the application area is dominated by *Acacia* woodlands and shrublands (Mattiske, 2020). No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified as potentially occurring within the application area, and none of the vegetation types mapped and described are listed as Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Mattiske, 2020; Red 5, 2021; GIS Database).

A total of 63 flora species from 34 genera and 20 families were recorded within the application area and surrounds (Mattiske, 2020). A previous survey conducted by Mattiske (2020) in 1995 identified 164 flora species from 83 genera and 35 families, including four introduced species within the application area and surrounds. Priority flora species *Grevillea inconspicua* (P4) was recorded within the application area in 1995, however these locations were revisited during the 2020 survey, and this species was not recorded (Mattiske, 2020). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the application area or surrounds (Mattiske, 2020).

No recent fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area. Previous fauna surveys conducted in 1988 and 1995 did not record any conservation significant fauna species (Red 5, 2021). The application area is highly degraded, likely from heavy grazing from animals (Mattiske, 2020). It is unlikely that the application area supports higher fauna biodiversity in comparison to the surrounding area (GIS Database; Red 5, 2021).

The vegetation association, fauna habitat and landform types present within the application area are well represented in surrounding areas (Mattiske, 2020; Red 5, 2021; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

There is one native title claim (WAD142/2018) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenures has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The application area is highly degraded, likely from heavy grazing from animals (Mattiske, 2020; (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounds by Mattiske Consulting (Mattiske) between 12 to 16 June 2020. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Mattiske, 2020): • 1a Open low woodland of <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>, <i>Acacia ayersiana</i>, <i>Acacia effusifolia</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> and <i>Hakea preissii</i> over <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i>, <i>Eremophila youngii</i> subsp. <i>youngii</i>, <i>Frankenia fecunda</i>, <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>, <i>Lawrencia squamata</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and mixed chenopods on skeletal clay with ironstone pebbles in micro channels. • 1b Low woodland of <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>, <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over a sparse understorey mixture of <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i>, <i>Eremophila metallicorum</i>, <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and <i>Sclerolaena</i> sp. on a mixture of cracking and skeletal clay with ironstone, dolerite and quartz pebbles on flats and low rises. • 2b Shrubland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> – <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> over shrubs including <i>Grevillea inconspicua</i> on rocky hill slopes. • 2d Shrubland of <i>Acacia aneura</i> on low erosional hills with mixed low shrubs, including <i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in: • Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate; to • Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994; Mattiske, 2020). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
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 236.7 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).
Soil description and Land degradation	The application area lies within the Leonora and Violet land systems (GIS Database). • The Leonora land system is described as low greenstone hills and stony plains, supporting mixed stony chenopod shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). This land system is susceptible to erosion where perennial shrub cover has been reduced or soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994). • The Violet land system consists of undulating stony and gravelly plains and low rises, supporting mulga shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). This land system is can be moderately susceptible to erosion where soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994).
Waterbodies	There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). One drainage line passes through the application area (GIS Database). Drainage lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Red 5, 2021).
Hydrogeography	There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area (GIS Database).
Flora	A total of 63 flora species from 34 genera and 20 families were recorded within the application area and surrounds (Mattiske, 2020). A previous survey conducted by Mattiske in 1995 identified 164 flora species from 83 genera and 35 families, including four introduced species within the application area and surrounds (Mattiske, 2020). <i>Grevillea inconspicua</i> (P4) was recorded within the application area in 1995, however these locations were revisited during the 2020 survey and this species was not recorded (Mattiske, 2020). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the application area or surrounds (Mattiske, 2020).

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified as potentially occurring within the application area, and none of the vegetation types mapped and described are listed as Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Mattiske, 2020; Red 5, 2021; GIS Database).
Fauna and Fauna habitat	No recent fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area (Red 5, 2021). Previous fauna surveys conducted in 1988 and 1995 did not record any conservation significant fauna species (Red 5, 2021). The application area is highly degraded, likely from heavy grazing from animals (Mattiske, 2020).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA managed lands
IBRA Bioregion – Murchison	28,120,586	28,044,823	~99	Least Concern	7.78
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	Least Concern	6.62
Beard vegetation associations – Murchison Bioregion					
19	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99	Least Concern	4.96

* Government of Western Australia (2019)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

A.1. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have been recorded within 30 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to Application Area (km)	Number of known records (total)
<i>Acacia</i> sp. Marshall Pool (G. Cockerton 3024)	P3	Y	<25	11
<i>Calytrix praecipua</i>	P3	N	<30	28
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	Y	0	63
<i>Hemigenia exilis</i>	P4	Y	<3	45
<i>Philotheca tubiflora</i>	P1	N	<30	14

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

A.3. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Common Name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to Application Area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
<i>Dasycercus blythi</i>	brush-tailed mulgara	P4	<50	N
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS	<50	N
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	malleefowl	VU	<40	N
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	MI	<15	N
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	common greenshank	MI	<30	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority; OS: other specially protected

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The vegetation association, fauna habitat and landform types present within the application area are well represented in surrounding areas (Mattiske, 2020; Red 5, 2021; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No recent fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area (Red 5, 2021). The majority of the application area is considered 'degraded' or 'completely degraded', with very limited vegetation considered 'good' (Keighery, 1994; Mattiske, 2020). The degraded nature of the application area suggests that the vegetation present is unlikely to provide significant habitat for any fauna species (Red 5, 2021; GIS Database). A database search identified five conservation significant fauna species with records within the surrounding areas (GIS Database). None of these species were considered likely to inhabit the application area due to no suitable habitat being present. The vegetation within the application area is common within the region (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Mattiske, 2020).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any TECs (Mattiske, 2020).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association¹⁸: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	Not at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> 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.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). One drainage line passes through the application area (GIS Database). Drainage lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly following significant rainfall (Red 5, 2021). The vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any riparian vegetation (Mattiske, 2020), and impacts from the proposed clearing to vegetation growing in association with watercourses is likely to be minimal.	Not likely to be at variance (Changed from CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to erosion (Pringle et al., 1994). Noting the location of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Potential impacts from soil erosion will be managed through the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> <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."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear and the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> <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> <u>Assessment:</u> The climate of the region is arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 236.7 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Red 5, 2021). The proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9235/1)	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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.

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

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station Leonora (Number 012046). Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 6 May 2026).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dph.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 6 May 2026).

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026a) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.
<https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 6 May 2026).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026b) Western Australian Organism List. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.
<https://www.dpiird.wa.gov.au/online-tools/western-australian-organism-list/> (Accessed 6 May 2026).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup.
<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.
http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys.
https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske (2020) Assessment of Flora and Vegetation Values. St George, Great Western and Cables Mission Project Areas. Prepared for Red 5 Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, July 2020.
- Pringle, H.J., Gilligan, S.A. and van Vreeswyk, A.M. (1994) An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 87. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Perth.
- Red 5 (2021) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – St George Project. Prepared by Red 5 Limited, March 2021.
- Vault Minerals Limited (2026) Clearing permit amendment application form, CPS 9235/2, received 26 April 2026.

Glossary

Acronyms:

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

PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.