

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9302/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Bardoc Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	23 July 2026
Application area:	43.5 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Recommissioning a borefield
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 24/148 Miscellaneous Licence 24/202 Miscellaneous Licence 24/203
Location (LGA area):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Scotia Borefield Recommissioning Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Bardoc Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 43.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 44.6 hectares, for the purpose of recommissioning the Scotia Borefield. The project is located approximately 45 kilometres north-northwest of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Clearing permit CPS 9302/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 23 September 2021 and was valid from 16 October 2021 to 15 October 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 43.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 44.6 hectares, for the purpose of recommissioning a borefield.

On 23 July 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9302/1 to extend the permit duration by five years, to 15 October 2031, and update the permit holder name from Bardoc Gold Limited to Bardoc Gold Pty Ltd (Bardoc Gold Pty Ltd, 2026). The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundary will remain unchanged.

The application is to allow for the refurbishment of the existing Scotia Borefield, with new pumping infrastructure, pipeline, power corridor (for sections where not already in place), and a transfer tank (Bardoc Gold Limited, 2021a). Some vegetation has reestablished since the construction of the Scotia Borefield and requires clearing to conduct works to refurbish the borefield (Bardoc Gold Limited, 2021a).

Based on the annual clearing reports for CPS 9302/1, no clearing has been undertaken to date (as of reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, received 26 July 2026) (Genesis Minerals Limited, 2023; 2024; 2025; 2026; St Barbara Limited, 2022).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	15 October 2026
Decision area:	43.5 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 and fauna surveys, 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 malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
- loss of habitat that has not been surveyed for arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*)
- loss of habitat that has not been surveyed for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*)

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

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- Fauna management – malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
 - where clearing occurs between 1 September and 31 January, the permit holder must engage an environmental specialist to conduct an inspection to identify active (in use) malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds, within two weeks of any clearing
 - where an active (in use) malleefowl mound is identified, a 200 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
 - where an inactive malleefowl mound is identified, a 50 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas to be cleared to be surveyed to identify ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies
- a fauna management condition (inland hairstreak butterfly) requiring areas to be cleared to be surveyed to identify inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9302/1, except in the case of:

- Principle (a) has changed from not likely to be at variance to may be at variance
- Principle (b) has changed from may be at variance to at variance
- Principle (f) has changed from not likely to be at variance to at variance

Arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*), inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*), and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) are further considered under principles (a) and (b). Clearing vegetation in association with watercourses is further considered under principle (f).

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to extend the permit duration by five years is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values if appropriate conditions are implemented.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Bardoc Gold Pty Ltd provided the following avoidance and mitigation measures (Bardoc Gold Limited, 2021a; 2021b):

- the majority of the clearing will be to remove regrowth vegetation
- activities have been planned (where possible) to utilise historical disturbances, access tracks and pipeline corridors to minimise the clearing of additional native vegetation
- areas to be cleared will be surveyed and delineated with flagging tape to avoid any over clearing
- cleared vegetation will be stockpiled at points along the route as growth medium for future rehabilitation
- the top 150mm of topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled for rehabilitation
- clearing will be undertaken progressively, and areas will be cleared incrementally as they are required

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 and Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has changed for principles (a), (b), and (f) from clearing permit decision report CPS 9302/1.

- Principle (a) has changed from *not likely to be at variance* to *may be at variance*
- Principle (b) has changed from *may be at variance* to *at variance*
- Principle (f) has changed from *not likely to be at variance* to *at variance*

The assessment for CPS 9302/1 did not consider arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*) and inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*) or malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) in detail.

Compared to the previous version of the permit, updated scientific information and contextual environmental information was considered during this assessment, in the form literature publications, guidance documents, and spatially verified records (Botanica, 2021b; DBCA, 2020a; 2020b; n.d.; Eastwood et al., 2023; WABSI, 2022; GIS Database). This newer information required further discussion and has altered the variance for principles (a) and (b).

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to extend the permit duration by five years is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values if appropriate conditions are implemented.

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

Assessment

Ogyris petrina – arid bronze azure butterfly CR (BC Act and EPBC Act)

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) have a severely fragmented and restricted geographic distribution across two extant and one locally extinct subpopulation in Western Australia (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b; WABSI, 2022). They are known to have a complex dependency on the co-occurring sugar ant (*Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*) to complete their lifecycle, with ABAB larvae living entirely in the sugar ant nests/colonies during their development (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b; WABSI, 2022).

The preferred habitat at the two extant sites is described as mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b). At the two extant sites, other smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* species also support basal ant colonies (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b). The habitat at the locally extinct Lake Douglas site is also dominated by mature smooth-barked eucalypt woodland, however the predominate species was *Eucalyptus concinna* (DBCA, 2020a; 2020b).

The application area is situated just outside the published extant and extinct subpopulations, however since 2020, ABAB has been recorded both north and south of the application area between 2021 and 2023 (GIS Database). Botanica (2021a; 2021c) also recorded ABAB approximately three kilometres north of the application area in 2020, within sand-loam plain habitat with a similar vegetation structure to the extinct Lake Douglas subpopulation (i.e. *Eucalyptus concinna* mallee woodland). Based on quadrat data, the site 3 kilometres north includes both *Eucalyptus oleosa* and *Eucalyptus concinna* (Botanica, 2021a).

Botanica (2021c) undertook a targeted survey to detect colonies of *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* between 15 to 19 July 2021 in Bardoc's Aphrodite Project area, which included surveying ten *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* or *Eucalyptus salubris* trees within the application area. No host ant colonies were recorded within the application area; however, two colonies were recorded approximately five kilometres east (Botanica, 2021a). Further fieldwork was conducted on 10 September 2021, 23 September 2021, and 8 October 2021 at the Aphrodite Project area focusing mainly on the two host ant colonies to detect the presence of ABAB (Botanica, 2021b). No ABAB were seen during the three day site visits (Botanica, 2021b).

While part of the application area was surveyed for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* during the 2021 targeted host ant survey, only ten *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* or *Eucalyptus salubris* trees were sampled (Botanica, 2021a). The host ant isn't restricted to

these *Eucalyptus* species when forming colonies, given ant colonies have been observed at the base of various other smooth-bark and ribbon-bark *Eucalyptus* species, and occasionally rough-bark *Eucalyptus* species (DBCA, n.d.; WABSI, 2022).

Habitat very similar to the site of the northern ABAB records is present within the application area and wasn't surveyed (Botanica, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c). In addition, other smooth-bark and ribbon-bark *Eucalyptus* species and their woodland vegetation types weren't surveyed either (Botanica, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c). Given the host ant and ABAB aren't limited to *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* or *Eucalyptus salubris*, it is possible that *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* ants and ABAB could occur elsewhere within the application area.

It is also known that ABAB sometimes disperses from their natal colony across unsuitable habitat in search of new host ant colonies (DBCA, 2020b). As the partial survey was conducted in 2021, there is a potential for the host ant to have formed colonies within the application area, and for ABAB to have dispersed to these colonies (Botanica, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c). This is further supported by ABAB having been recorded at the nearby northern site across multiple years since first recorded in 2020 (Botanica, 2021a; 2021b; 2021c; GIS Database).

A fauna management condition requiring a clearance survey prior to undertaking any clearing will be implemented.

***Jalmenus aridus* – inland hairstreak butterfly P2**

The preferred habitat for inland hairstreak butterfly is open woodland with a mixture of young and mature *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubs, a variety of flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana*), some scattered taller vegetation and open areas of exposed, well-drained ground adjoining *Senna* host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). The inland hairstreak also has an obligate association with the ant *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023).

The application area contains open woodlands with tall vegetation, open shrublands, and low sparse shrubs with *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla*, and a variety of *Eremophila*, *Scaevola*, and *Maireana* species present which could potentially provide suitable habitat to host inland hairstreak butterfly populations (Botanica, 2021a; Eastwood et al., 2023). The original inland hairstreak butterfly record was discovered on an *Acacia tetragonophylla* tree, which are also present within the application area (Botanica, 2021a; Eastwood et al., 2023).

There is a record of inland hairstreak butterfly from 2022 located approximately 15 metres from the application area, and multiple records from 2021 record located approximately three kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). Given there is suitable habitat and nearby recent records of inland hairstreak butterfly, there is potential for this species to occur within the application area.

A fauna management condition requiring a clearance survey prior to undertaking any clearing will be implemented.

***Leipoa ocellata* – malleefowl VU (BC Act and EPBC Act)**

Malleefowl have regularly been sighted around the greater Scotia area since the mid-2000s (GIS Database). There have also been a number of observations from secondary signs, remote cameras, or dead individuals (GIS Database). Two records of dead malleefowl were recorded within 100 metres of the application area, one from 2018 and another recently from 2026 (GIS Database). Multiple mounds have also been recorded within two kilometres of the application area in 2023, with several containing eggshells indicating recent breeding activity (GIS Database).

Three malleefowl mounds were recorded between 200 to 300 metres from the application area in 2020 by Botanica (2021a). Two of the mounds were identified as active in 2020, with motion camera footage showing malleefowl working one of the mounds and a dead chick observed at the mound (Botanica, 2021a). The remainder of the three mounds was determined to be inactive (Botanica, 2021a).

The above information suggests that there is a breeding population within the vicinity of the application area (Botanica, 2021a). The multiple malleefowl observations adjacent to the application area were made within fauna habitats mapped within the application area, therefore there is suitable habitat present (Botanica, 2021a; GIS Database).

No clearing has been conducted under the permit, and no survey has been conducted since 2020. Based on this, there is a potential that malleefowl have utilised the application area within that time.

Given the application area contains suitable habitat for malleefowl and there have been a number of primary and secondary observations adjacent to the application area over the past decade, the likelihood that malleefowl may utilise the application area is high. The proposed clearing is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on malleefowl provided a fauna management condition for malleefowl is implemented.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing may result in direct impacts to arid bronze azure butterfly, inland hairstreak butterfly, and malleefowl, or their habitats. No clearing has been conducted under the permit to date, and the species have the potential to have utilised the application area in the time since surveys were last conducted.

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

Conditions

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

- Fauna management – malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

- where clearing occurs between 1 September and 31 January, the permit holder must engage an environmental specialist to conduct an inspection to identify active (in use) malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds, within two weeks of any clearing
- where an active (in use) malleefowl mound is identified, a 200 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
- where an inactive malleefowl mound is identified, a 50 metre buffer must be maintained around the mound, during the months of September through to January
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas to be cleared to be surveyed to identify ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies
- a fauna management condition (inland hairstreak butterfly) requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 18 August 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 (WC2017/007 - Marlinyu Ghoorlie) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on arid bronze azure butterfly and malleefowl, which are a protected matter 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 located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion and closely borders the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database). It is surrounded by large areas of uncleared land, mining operations (primarily gold), salt lake systems, and is partially located within the Mt Vettors pastoral station (GIS Database).																														
Ecological linkage	The application area is not considered a significant ecological linkage. The vegetation immediately surrounding the application area and the majority of the region remains uncleared (GIS Database).																														
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any legislated conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is the Goongarrie National Park, located approximately 22.5 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).																														
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database): 10: Medium woodland; red mallee group (8.9 ha) 521: Medium woodland; salmon gum & red mallee (5.8 ha) 2903: Medium woodland; Salmon gum, goldfield balckbutt, gimlet & <i>Allocasuarina cristata</i> (29.9 ha) A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd (Botanica) during 1-9 September 2020. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2021a): <table><tr><th>Code</th><th>Description</th><th>Area (ha)</th></tr><tr><td>CLP-CFW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain</td><td>7.2</td></tr><tr><td>CLP-EW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> / <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain</td><td>3.4</td></tr><tr><td>CLP-EW2</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus moderata</i> / <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Eremophila</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain</td><td>9.5</td></tr><tr><td>CLP-EW3</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Eremophila</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain</td><td>1.6</td></tr><tr><td>OD-CFW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland in open depression</td><td>9.0</td></tr><tr><td>RS-AFW1</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> / <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on rocky hillslope</td><td>5.7</td></tr><tr><td>RS-CFW1</td><td>Low open woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. and low open shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on rocky hillslope</td><td>1.0</td></tr><tr><td>RS-EW1</td><td>Low open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> / <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> over tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on rocky hillslope</td><td>1.9</td></tr><tr><td>SLP-MWS1</td><td>Mallee woodland of <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> / <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> over mid to low shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. on sand-loam plain</td><td>5.2</td></tr></table>	Code	Description	Area (ha)	CLP-CFW1	Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain	7.2	CLP-EW1	Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> / <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain	3.4	CLP-EW2	Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus moderata</i> / <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Eremophila</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain	9.5	CLP-EW3	Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Eremophila</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain	1.6	OD-CFW1	Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low chenopod shrubland in open depression	9.0	RS-AFW1	Low woodland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> / <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Melaleuca</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on rocky hillslope	5.7	RS-CFW1	Low open woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. and low open shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on rocky hillslope	1.0	RS-EW1	Low open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> / <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> over tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> spp. and low mixed shrubland on rocky hillslope	1.9	SLP-MWS1	Mallee woodland of <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> / <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> over mid to low shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Senna</i> spp. on sand-loam plain	5.2
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Vegetation condition	The application area is considered to be in good to very good condition (Botanica, 2021a; Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Three introduced flora species were recorded within the broader surveyed area, in close proximity to the application area (Botanica, 2021a): • <i>Carrichtera annua</i> • <i>Oligocarpus calendulaceus</i> • <i>Salvia verbenaca</i> None of the above introduced species are listed as Declared Pests under the BAM Act or as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) (Cth) (DPIRD, 2026b; Weeds Australia, 2026).																														
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording a mean rainfall of approximately 265.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).																														

Characteristic	Details
	The application area is mapped at elevations of 380-440 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Landforms within the application area are broadly described as loamy, calcareous, or alluvial undulating plains, and sometimes stony plains, low rises and gently inclined footslopes and uplands, all subject to sheet flow, with unincised drainage tracts (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).
Soil description	The soils within the application area are broadly mapped as (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database): • calcareous loamy earth • red shallow loam • red loamy earth • red shallow sandy duplex • red deep sand • red deep sandy duplex
Land degradation risk	The application area is mapped within the Doney (13.5 ha), Moriarty (6.7 ha), Illaara (6.4 ha), Bunyip (6.1 ha), Gundockerta (5.3 ha), Deadman (4.7 ha), Gumland (1.4 ha), and Coolgardie (0.5 ha) land systems (GIS Database). Some land units of the Doney, Moriarty, Bunyip, Gundockerta, Gumland, and Coolgardie land systems are susceptible to erosion if vegetation cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database).
Waterbodies	Several minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area, the majority flowing northwest into the Lake Owen salt lake system (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is not located within any mapped Public Drinking Water Source Areas or legislated surface water areas (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Menzies Water Reserve, located approximately 48 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000-35,000 total dissolved solids milligrams per litre, which is described as saline water quality (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 28 conservation significant flora species within a 30 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). These consist of eight priority 1, four priority 2, 14 priority 3, and two priority 4 flora species (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There is one priority ecological community (PEC) with records within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database): Emu Land System (P3). This PEC has multiple mapped locations to the east and west of the application area, with the nearest mapped extent approximately one kilometre west (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of 22 conservation significant fauna species within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). There are 15 bird, four invertebrate, and three mammal species. Eight of these species are listed as migratory, seven priority, six threatened, and one other specially protected species (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Three broad fauna habitats were mapped within the application area (Botanica, 2021): • clay-loam plain: <i>Casuarina</i> woodland / Eucalypt woodland (21.8 ha) • open depression: <i>Casuarina</i> woodland (9.0 ha) • rocky hillslope: <i>Acacia</i> woodland / <i>Casuarina</i> woodland / Eucalypt woodland (8.6 ha) • sand-loam plain: mallee woodland (5.2 ha)

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
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					(proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,586	28,044,823	~99	2,185,987	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
10	145,676	144,162	~98	4,438	3.05
521	122,059	122,059	~99	7,120	5.83
2903	28,308	27,330	~96	N/A	N/A
Beard vegetation associations - Murchison bioregion					
10	65,387	64,757	~99	3,052	4.67
521	11,711	11,711	~99	6,282	53.64
2903	28,295	27,317	~96	N/A	N/A

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within a 30 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information, literature, and online herbariums (AVH, 2026; Botanica, 2021a; Cowan & Maslin, 1995; Hislop & Wege, 2020; Lally, 2009; Obbens, 2018; Rye, 2018; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Scientific name	Conservation status	Closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence	Surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Acacia epedunculata</i>	P1	10	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. <i>variabilis</i>	P3	24	Unlikely, some suitable habitat, but all records within 30 km are from 1975 or earlier, most from 1916	Y
<i>Alyxia tetanifolia</i>	P3	11	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Angianthus prostratus</i>	P3	17	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Apatelantha insignis</i>	P2	25	Unlikely, limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Austrostipa vickeryana</i>	P3	6	Possible, some suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Calandrinia quartzitica</i>	P1	8	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> subsp. <i>norsemanense</i>	P3	25	Unlikely, only one record from 1953. Soils and vegetation not suitable	Y
<i>Elatine macrocalyx</i>	P3	26	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eleocharis papillosa</i>	P3	3	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eremophila praecox</i>	P2	5	Possible, some suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Eucalyptus educta</i>	P2	22	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eucalyptus jutsonii</i> subsp. <i>jutsonii</i>	P4	23	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Eutaxia rubricarina</i>	P3	29	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>	P3	23	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> subsp. <i>cometes</i>	P3	24	Possible, suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Notisia intonsa</i>	P3	18	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Persoonia leucopogon</i>	P1	27	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Phebalium brachycalyx</i>	P3	20	Unlikely, very limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Philotheca coateana</i>	P3	22	Possible, limited suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Pigea</i> sp. <i>Chloroxantha</i> (E. Bennett & D. Bright EUC 1810)	P3	17	Possible, limited suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Ptilotus rigidus</i>	P1	7	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y

<i>Ptilotus</i> sp. Kalgoorlie (J. Jackson & B. Moyle 260)	P1	10	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Rhodanthe uniflora</i>	P1	3	Possible, some suitable habitat, but survey was within flowering/fruiting period	Y
<i>Ricnocarpus digynus</i>	P1	17	Unlikely, very limited suitable habitat	Y
<i>Sowerbaea multicaulis</i>	P4	25	Unlikely, only one record from 1900. Soils and vegetation not suitable	Y
<i>Tecticornia enodis</i>	P1	14	Unlikely, no suitable habitat	Y
<i>Thryptomene eremaea</i>	P2	25	Unlikely, only one record from 1916, however some suitable habitat	Y

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

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> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.” <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant flora, habitats that may support conservation significant flora, or assemblages of plants. Parts of the application area may provide some suitable habitat for conservation significant flora species; however, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact these species at a local, regional, or species level due to the common and widespread habitats available (Botanica, 2021a). The application area contains significant habitat for three conservation significant fauna species.	May be at variance <i>changed from CPS 9302/1</i>	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above</i>
<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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for the following conservation significant fauna species: • <i>Ogyris petrina</i> – arid bronze azure butterfly (CR, BC Act and EPBC Act) • <i>Jalmenus aridus</i> – inland hairstreak butterfly (P2) • <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> – malleefowl (VU, BC Act and EPBC Act)	At variance <i>changed from CPS 9302/1</i>	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above</i>
<u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known records of threatened flora within the application area or within a 50 kilometre radius (GIS Database). The flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounds did not identify any species of threatened flora or habitats that may support threatened flora (Botanica, 2021a; WAH, 1998-). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of threatened flora.	Not likely to be at variance <i>as per CPS 9302/1</i>	No
<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.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known BC Act or EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is the EPBC Act listed ‘<i>Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt</i>’ threatened ecological community (CR), located approximately	Not likely to be at variance <i>as per CPS 9302/1</i>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
220 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database). This ecological community is also classified as priority 3 at a state level (GIS Database). Flora and vegetation, and fauna surveys of the application area and surrounds did not record any assemblages of flora, fauna, or microorganisms that would be representative of a TEC (Botanica, 2021a; GIS Database).		
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 associations 10, 521, and 2903 (Appendix A.1; GIS Database). Approximately 96-99 per cent of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	Not at variance as per CPS 9302/1	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 (22.5 kilometres) (Appendix A.1; GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance as per CPS 9302/1	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). Multiple non-perennial drainage lines traverse the application area as broad unincised drainage tracts typical of the region (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). Vegetation type OD-CFW1 grows within these open and unincised depressions/drainage tracts (Botanica, 2021a; GIS Database). Satellite imagery indicates the mapped vegetation type is subject to concentrated sheet flow given the vigour of the vegetation (GIS Database). Given that the Scotia borefield is already in existence, and the narrow, linear and low impact nature of the proposed clearing, impacts to vegetation growing in association with watercourses are expected to be minimal.	At variance changed from CPS 9302/1	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> Some land units of the Doney, Moriarty, Bunyip, Gundockerta, Gumland, and Coolgardie land systems are susceptible to erosion if vegetation cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (Appendix A.1; DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). Noting the proposed clearing is narrow and linear, large areas of vegetation will not be cleared or remain bare for extensive periods of time. It is not likely that the proposed clearing is to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance as per CPS 9302/1	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (i):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.” <u>Assessment:</u> Given there are Public Drinking Water Sources Areas within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact groundwater quality (GIS Database). None of the watercourses that intersect the application area are permanent (GIS Database). Clearing within watercourses will be limited to access track crossings, which is unlikely to impact surface water quality.	Not likely to be at variance as per CPS 9302/1	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.” <u>Assessment:</u> The application area does not contain any permanent watercourses or wetlands (GIS Database). The non-perennial drainage lines within the application area are generally described as broad, shallow floodplains and sheet flow is considered typical during rainfall events (DPIRD, 2026a; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; GIS Database). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing is likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance as per CPS 9302/1	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 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):

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)

- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- 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, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- 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
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

D.2. References

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4. 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.