

Attachment A: 10 Clearing Principles Assessment – KML Communication Tower

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	<p>A targeted flora survey was completed by Jenny Borger Botanical Consulting (JBBC, 2021). The survey report is provided as Attachment B to the application.</p> <p>The proposed clearing area is located within the Yalgoo Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region and within the Tallering sub-IBRA region.</p> <p>Six priority taxa were recorded in the survey area: <i>Acacia karina</i> P1, <i>Allocasuarina tessellata</i> P3, <i>Chamelaucium</i> sp. Warriedar P1, <i>Grevillea scabrida</i> P3, <i>G. subtiliflora</i> P3 and <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. Blue Hills P1.</p> <p>The above species are all locally well represented in the area surrounding survey area based on FCT mapping, vegetation patterns and geology.</p> <p>No threatened flora were recorded within the survey area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing area has been designed to minimise any impacts on priority species that are well represented in surrounding areas and unlikely to impact the biological diversity.</p>	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	<p>A threatened fauna survey was completed by Karara staff in 2021. The fauna survey report is attached to the clearing permit application as Attachment C.</p> <p>The region is known for high biodiversity, and includes species listed as threatened under both the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. Species identified that may be at risk from this project are the Malleefowl (<i>Leopia ocellata</i>) and Western Spiny-tailed Skink (<i>Egernia stokesii</i>).</p> <p>No threatened fauna were identified in the clearing permit footprint.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary	The proposed clearing area has been designed to minimise any impacts on priority species that are well represented in surrounding areas.	Not at variance of this Principle

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for the continued existence of, rare flora.	No Threatened flora listed under the EPBC Act and/or BC Act were recorded in the proposed clearing area.	
(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.	<p>The proposed clearing area contains no priority species identified in the survey area.</p> <p>There are no vegetation communities that are representative of a TEC within the proposed clearing area.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	<p>The survey area is located within the Yalgoo Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region and within the Talling sub-IBRA region (Thackway & Creswell 2017), which is the interchange zone from the semi-arid to arid Eremaean Province and cooler, wetter South-west Province.</p> <p>Regional vegetation surveys were undertaken by Beard (1976) from which the pre-European vegetation (PEV) associations were described and extent mapped. The survey area is mapped as Yalgoo 358 - Shrublands; <i>bowgada</i> & <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> on stony ridges, which covers an area of 55,447 ha (99.85 % of mapped extent).</p> <p>The clearing will constitute 0.4ha of disturbance – being 0.007% of the total area of Yalgoo 358.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	<p>The clearing shall occur on a small outcrop. From site inspections and contour data, no watercourses or wetlands occur within the project area.</p> <p>Vegetation present is not be considered as growing in association with wetlands or watercourses as identified in the 2021 targeted flora survey.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the	Clearing is unlikely to cause substantial land degradation. Controls will be in place during clearing through standard environmental management measures to reduce	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle

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vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	the risk of wind and water erosion. The area will not be left cleared for a long period of time prior to works.	
(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.	<p>The underlying land tenure is Unallocated Crown Land, managed for the purpose of conservation by the DBCA. The area is classified as the 'Karara Rangeland Park' being the area of management by DBCA, constituting five pastoral stations purchased by the state. No formal (gazetted) conservation reserves are located within 1km of the Project area.</p> <p>Consultation occurred with DBCA on the proposed tower in June 10, 2021. No issues were raised.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	<p>The survey area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). Vegetation clearing for installation of the communications tower and associated access track is considered unlikely to impact upon groundwater quality.</p> <p>There are no watercourses or wetlands in the vicinity of the clearing area.</p>	Not at variance of this Principle
(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	It is considered unlikely that clearing of vegetation associated with installation of the communications tower would cause, or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. Potential surface runoff will be appropriately captured on site and not discharging into the surrounding landscape.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle