



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 9709/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Gold Corporation T/A The Perth Mint
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 24 July 2022 to 24 July 2027

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

**1. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of power line installation.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Battery Road Reserve (PIN: 11706970), Coolgardie  
Coolgardie-Esperance Road Reserve (PIN: 11873367), Coolgardie

**3. Clearing authorised**

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.27 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

**4. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 5. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

### 6. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Records that must be kept**

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</li><li>(b) the date that the area was cleared;</li><li>(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and</li><li>(d) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; and</li><li>(e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 5.</li></ol>

### 7. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 6 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

**Table 2: Definitions**

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> ; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

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## END OF CONDITIONS

  
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Jessica Burton  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

29 June 2022

# Schedule 1

## Plan 9709/1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

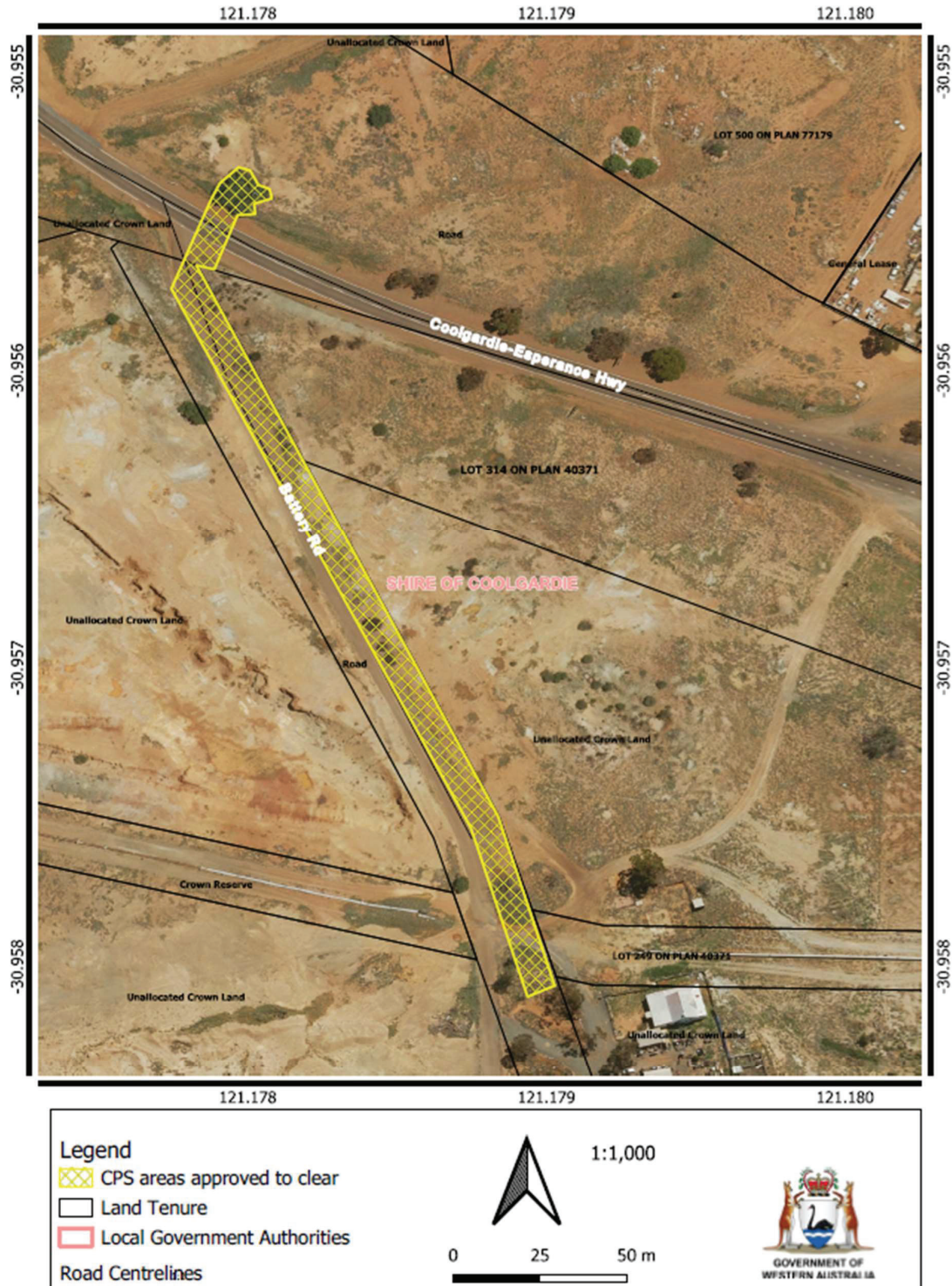


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1 Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	CPS 9709/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Gold Corporation T/A The Perth Mint
<b>Application received:</b>	15 April 2022
<b>Application area:</b>	0.27 hectares of native vegetation
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Power installation
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical
<b>Property:</b>	Battery Road Reserve (PIN: 11706970) Esperance Road Reserve (PIN: 11873367)
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of Coolgardie
<b>Localities (suburb/s):</b>	Coolgardie

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single linear track area (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The application is to clear vegetation on the eastern side of an unsealed road. The 0.27 hectares area proposed to be cleared is on an approximately 290-metre strip to facilitate installation of power poles.

### 1.3. Decision on application

<b>Decision:</b>	Granted
<b>Decision date:</b>	29 June 2022
<b>Decision area:</b>	0.27 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 14 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix C.1), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3) including that the purpose of the clearing is to install power lines and that the proposed clearing is only for inadvertent clearing of native vegetation.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation or 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
- weed management

## 1.5. Site map

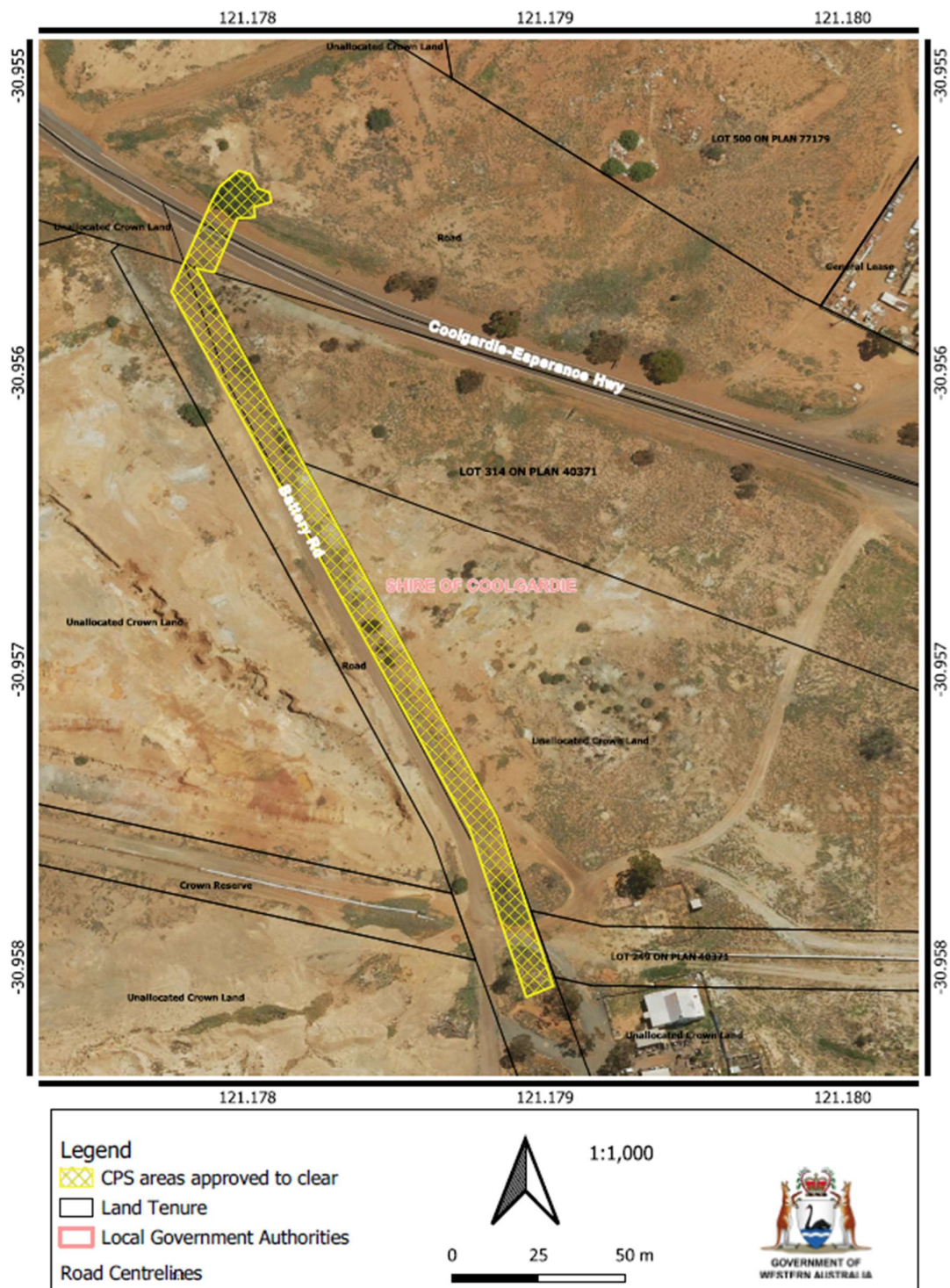


Figure 1 Map of the application area

The area cross-hatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

## 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 (see 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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)

## 3 Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The area proposed follows the main access road and avoids most vegetation. The applicant has noted the proposed clearing is only for inadvertent clearing of native vegetation and it is likely that much less than 0.27 hectares will be cleared. 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

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise management conditions.

#### 3.2.1. Biological Values (Flora/Fauna)

##### Assessment

According to available databases, 3 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local Area. It is noted that some of these species have been recorded within similar habitat types as the application area, however, consideration is given to the presence and use of roads around the application area which limit its suitability to provide habitat for fauna species. For these reasons and noting the extent and condition of the nearby vegetation, the vegetation within the application area is not considered to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species.

According to available databases, there are 32 conservation significant flora species recorded within the local area. It is noted that many of these species have habitat preferences which do not present within the application area. Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area (degraded) and the limited amount of proposed clearing, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to impact on vegetation that contains habitat for conservation significant flora.

##### Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing to be minimal and can be managed through standard avoid and minimise clearing condition.

### 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

As the application area falls within the Goldfield Groundwater Area, as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act), advice was requested from DWER's Swan Avon Region on whether licences or permits

under the RIWI Act will be required. DWER's Swan Avon Region advised that the proposal will not require a licence or permit under the RIWI Act (DWER, 2022).

The Shire of Coolgardie advised that local government approvals are not required, and that the proposed clearing is consistent with the Shire's Local Planning Scheme. The Shire did not have any objections to the proposed clearing.

An Aboriginal site of significance has been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

**End**

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>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 adjacent to Coolgardie-Esperance Highway on one side and has multiple disturbances around the area.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (20-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 98 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	No formal ecological linkages occur within the application area.
Conservation areas	No conservation areas of significance mapped within the application area. The closest conservation area is the Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve, approximately 3.5 kilometres from the application area.
Vegetation description	<p>Spatial data indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 9, which is described as Medium woodland; coral gum (<i>E. toquata</i>) &amp; goldfields blackbutt (<i>E. le soufii</i>) (also some redwood (<i>E. ranscontinentalis</i>) &amp; merrit (<i>E. floctoniae</i>)) (Shepherd et al, 2001)</p> <p>The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 98 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in degraded condition (Keighery, 1994), described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management</li> </ul> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>
Climate and landform	The mean annual rainfall recorded in the area is 269.6 millimetre. The application area has flat landscape, approximately 410 metres above sea level.
Soil description	The soil is mapped as rocky ranges and hills of greenstones-basic igneous rocks.
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil type has low risks of all forms of land degradation.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area. The closest water body to the application area is a nonperennial minor



Characteristic	Details
	watercourse, Brown Lake, which is located approximately 387 metres from the application area. The application area is not considered to contain riparian vegetation.
Hydrogeography	The application area is within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
Flora	According to available databases, there are 32 species of conservation significant flora recorded within the local area. The most frequently occurring is the Priority 1 species <i>Acacia websteri</i> . It is not considered for suitable habitat for this species to occur within the application area.
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities within the local area.
Fauna	There are three conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area with the most frequently occurring being the Malleefowl. It is not considered for suitable habitat for this species to occur within the application area.

## Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared not likely to support locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The sparse vegetation within the application area indicates that the area proposed to be cleared does not contain critical habitat for conservation significant fauna.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act given the limited amount of clearing proposed and the degraded condition of the vegetation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The extent of the mapped vegetation type in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><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></p> <p><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.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> A mapped non-perennial water course occurs approximately 387 metres south of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils are not susceptible to wind erosion, nutrient export, salinity or phosphorus export loss. Noting the location and size of the application area the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application and the distance to the closest waterbody is 387 meters away from the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.  Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within 387 metres of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	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.
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 C. Sources of information

### C.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)

- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

## C.2. References

Gold Corporation T/A The Perth Mint (2022) *Clearing permit application CPS 9709/1*, received 15 April 2022 (DWER Ref: DWERDT592160).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013). *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: [https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2\\_assessment\\_native\\_veg.pdf](https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019). *NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development*. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 16 June 2022).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019). *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: [https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure\\_Native\\_vegetation\\_clearing\\_permits\\_v1.PDF](https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (Regulatory Services – Water) (2022) *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 advice for clearing permit application CPS 9709/1*, received 15 June 2022 (DWER Ref: DWERDT618040).

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.

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Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) *Atlas of Australian Soils*, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) *Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status*. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.