Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9951/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Golden Spur Resources Pty Ltd
Application received:	3 November 2022
Application area:	279.1 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated infrastructures
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 36/24
	Mining Lease 36/25
	Mining Lease 36/299
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Leonora
Colloquial name:	Bellevue Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Golden Spur Resources Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 279.1 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 850 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 40 kilometres north of Leinster, within the Shire of Leonora.

The application is to clear native vegetation for the purposes of expanding existing mines and the excavation of new open pits, associated mine dewatering onsite processing and waste disposal to support recommencement of mining operations at Bellevue Gold Project.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	19 January 2023
Decision area:	279.1 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 3 November 2022. DMIRS advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information from a flora and vegetation and a fauna survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), 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 conservation significant fauna;
- the potential impact to vegetation growing in association with watercourses; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see 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;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- avoid the clearing of vegetation growing in association with watercourses where possible and maintain water flows; and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Bellevue Gold Water Management Plan (RPS, 2021) states that the proponent is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures to ensure proper surface water management:

- minimise disturbance in general, use existing tracks, and keep vehicle movements to a minimum;
- engineering surface water controls to capture sediment loaded surface runoff from disturbed areas, by directing dirty water to a low-lying area and enclosing the perimeter;
- where required design sedimentation basins in high-risk areas, such as near a stockyard or waste dumps;
- construction on or near natural flow paths planned for the dry season;
- limit clearing/retain adequate buffer zones between disturbed areas, and natural flow paths;
- prevent to the extent possible, clean water from mixing with internal dirty runoff;
- shape waste dumps to drain internally with bunding to retain runoff on top. This reduces erosion on loose batter faces;
- construct access roads with a bend, side drains and regular “turnouts”, to discharge runoff into the road surrounds; and
- locate storage areas (chemicals, hydrocarbons, etc) away from, or bunded off from flow paths.

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 identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, flora and vegetation), and land and water resources. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora, vegetation and fauna) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

The application area contains two priority flora species; *Goodenia lyrata* (P3) and *Grevillea inconspicua* (P4) (RPS, 2020). The impact to *G. lyrata* is not likely to be significant for the species as there was only one record found within the application area (refer to Figure 2 in Appendix D) (RPM Global, 2022). A total of 751 individuals of *G. inconspicua* were recorded within the survey area (RPS, 2020). However, approximately half of the *G. inconspicua* records in the survey area are located outside of the application area (refer to Figure 2 in Appendix D). The DBCA Threatened and Priority Flora database records a total number of 8,263 plants known regionally (RPS, 2020). A few of these records are located within nature reserves (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on these species populations at a regional level.

One Priority Ecological Community (PEC), categorised as Priority 1 - Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone) Banded Iron Formation (BIF) occurs within the application area (RPM Global, 2022; GIS Database). The maximum impact by the proposed clearing to the PEC is not likely to be significant given that the proposed clearing is of 279.1 hectares while the PEC has a total extent of 14,646.631 hectares (GIS Database). The boundary of the Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone) BIF PEC has not been accurately mapped, consequently the total extent of the PEC is likely to be significantly overestimated (DBCA, 2023). A significant portion of the PEC within the survey area is considered to be in the worst condition of any area of the PEC due to historical impacts caused by past mining activities at the Bellevue site (RPS, 2020). All known occurrences of the Violet Range BIF PEC are within mining leases, therefore the cumulative impacts need to be considered (DBCA, 2023). Given that all known occurrences of the PEC are within mining leases, the mining tenement conditions will require rehabilitation to be undertaken after mining activities are finished. Whilst rehabilitation is unlikely to be able to recreate the cleared communities associated with the PEC, successful rehabilitation may assist in mitigating ongoing secondary impacts such as fragmentation (DBCA, 2023).

The buffer of the Lake Miranda East Calcrete PEC intersects a south-eastern portion of the application area, however, the community itself does not occur within the application area (RPM Global, 2020; GIS Database). Part of the buffer for the Yakabindie Calcrete PEC intersects a western portion of the application area however, the community itself also does not occur within the application area (GIS Database).

Targeted surveys for malleefowl nesting mounds in mulga woodland and slender-billed thornbill in samphire flats were undertaken during the field investigation (Bamford, 2020). Results of these surveys found no evidence for either species (Bamford, 2020). No active, inactive or extinct malleefowl mounds were found, suggesting the species has not recently (within half a century or more) been a breeding resident in the local area (Bamford, 2020). Audio recording devices were used on the margins of Lake Miranda in October 2018 to search for the night parrot, but no calls were detected (Bamford, 2020). Up to 10 species of migratory waterbirds are likely to occur on an occasional basis on Lake Miranda (adjacent to the application area), potentially in large numbers (Bamford, 2020). Some of the conservation significant species expected to be present are widespread and occur in very extensive regional landscapes, and although possibly present in the broader region they appear to be absent from the project area or appear as vagrants or irregular visitors (Bamford, 2020). There were two migratory bird species and two locally significant bird species (non-migratory) recorded within the application area (Bamford, 2020).

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on Priority flora are not likely to be significant. The impacts of the proposed clearing on vegetation, fauna, and fauna habitat can be managed by conducting slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation. Although adjacent, Lake Miranda is outside of the proposed clearing area. A staged clearing condition will be placed on the clearing permit to minimise run off from the application area and prevent the impacts to surface water quality of Lake Miranda.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to migratory birds and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Water, Agriculture and the Environment (DAWE) 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:

- slow directional clearing to allow locally significant fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individuals; and
- carrying out the purpose for which the clearing is authorised within three months of clearing being undertaken will prevent erosion and minimise run off from the proposed clearing.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 22 November 2022 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2011/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2022). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, 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 10 registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2022). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by mining developments and native vegetation and it is adjacent to Lake Miranda (GIS Database). The dominant land uses in the vicinity of the application area are mining, exploration, and pastoralism (RPM Global, 2022)
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not form part of any known ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not fall within any mapped conservation areas. The closest mapped conservation area is located approximately 13.1 kilometres northeast from the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 39: Shrublands; mulgascrub; and 676: Succulent steppe; samphire (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by RPS Australia West Pty Ltd (RPS) between August 2018 and October 2019. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (RPS, 2020): **Gypsum dunes** **G01:** *Cratystylis subspinescens* Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Maireana pyramidata* and *Tecticornia* sp. Low Sparse Chenopod Shrubland over mixed Sparse Tussock Grassland / Forbland on low stony rises adjacent to Samphire shrublands. **Stony Plain and lower hill slopes** **H01:** *Mulga* spp. Isolated Trees to Low Open Woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Eremophila galeata* and *Hakea preissii* Tall Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and mixed Chenopod Low Sparse Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* and *Enneapogon caerulescens* Sparse Tussock Grassland on stony plains and lower hill slopes. **H02:** *Mulga* spp. and *Acacia doreta* (long phyllode form) Low Open Woodland to Low Isolated Trees over *Senna* sp. Meekatharra Mid Sparse to Open Shrubland on stony plains and lower hill slopes. **Stony hill slopes, sours and crests** **H03:** *Ptilotus obovatus* var*. obovatus* Low Sparse Shrubland over *Enneapogon caerulescens, Enneapogon polyphyllus* and *Aristida contorta* Sparse Tussock Grassland. **H04:** *Eremophila galeata, E. forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *E. exilifolia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* Low Sparse Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Open Tussock Grassland on stony hill slopes, spurs and crests. **H05:** *Acacia fuscaneura* Low Open Woodland over *A. xanthocarpa* Tall Sparse Shrubland over *Eremophila exilifolia* and *E. forrestii* subsp*. forrestii* Mid Sparse Shrubland over Aristida contorta Sparse Tussock Grassland on stony hill slopes, spurs and crests. **H06:** *Mulga* spp. and *Acacia doreta* (long phyllode form) Low Open Woodland with Isolated *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* over *A. xanthocarpa* Tall Isolated Shrubs over *Eremophila exilifolia*, *E. forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Senna artemisioides* Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and *Maireana* spp. Low Sparse Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Sparse Tussock Grassland on stony hill slopes, spurs and crests. **H07:** *Acacia doreta* (long phyllode form) Low Open Woodland over *A. xanthocarpa* Tall Sparse to Open Shrubland over *Senna* sp. *Meekatharra* and *S. artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var*. obovatus* Low Shrubland on stony hillslopes, spurs and crests. **Drainage lines on stony hills** **H08:** *Mulga* spp. Low Open Woodland over *Senna* spp. Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* Low Sparse Shrubland over *Enneapogon caerulescens* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus* Sparse Tussock Grassland. **H09:** *Mulga* spp. Low Open to Closed Forest over *Acacia xanthocarpa* Tall Sparse to Open Shrubland over *Eremophila exilifolia* and *Senna* spp. Mid to Low Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Sparse to Open Tussock Grassland in drainage lines on stony hill slopes. **Drainage Lines** **P01:** *Mulga* spp. Low Woodland to Low Open Forest over *Eremophila galeata*, *E. serrulata* and *Senna* spp. Mid Sparse to open Shrubland over *Cymbopogon obtectus* and *Aristida contorta* Sparse to Open Tussock Grassland in drainage lines on stony hardpan plains.

Characteristic	Details
	P02: *Mulga* spp. Low Open Woodland to Isolated Trees over *Eremophila pantonii* and *E. galeata* Tall Open to Sparse Shrubland over *Senna* sp. Meekatharra Mid Open Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and mixed Chenopods Low Open to Sparse Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Sparse Tussock Grassland in drainage lines on stony hardpan plains. **P03:** *Eremophila* spp. Tall Open Shrubland over *Senna* spp. Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* Low Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Sparse Tussock Grassland. **Sand flats and low sandy rises** **S02:** *Mulga* spp. Low Open Woodland to Low Woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* Mid Sparse Shrubland over a mixed Open Tussock Grassland on sand plains and low undulating sand hills and sandy rises. **Flat sandplains over hardpan:** **S03:** *Mulga* spp. Low Open Woodland to Low Woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* Mid Sparse Shrubland over *Eragrostis eriopoda*, *Monachather paradoxus* and *Eriachne helmsii* Tussock Grassland on sand over hardpan plains. **Cleared/highly modified:** **C/M:** Highly modified and cleared areas devoid of native vegetation – include roads, tracks, buildings, mining infrastructure, historical pits, processing areas and camps. A total of four Vegetation and Substrate Associations (VSAs) were identified across the application area to describe the types of habitats available to local fauna species. The VSAs recorded within the application area are described as (Bamford, 2020): • Long-leaf Mulga over shrubs and tussock grass on rocks and loam of undulating hills; • Broad-leaf Mulga over shrubs and tussocks grass on sandy-loam plains; • Samphire marsh in loam clay on margins and across parts of Lake Miranda; and • Degraded areas. A map of the VSAs is available in Appendix D.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (RPS, 2020) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Completely Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone where the average annual rainfall is 251.6 millimetres (BoM, 2022).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as soil units Fa7, My50, and SV5 (GIS Database). These soil units are described by Northcote et al. (1960-68) as: **Fa7:** Greenstone hills and low ranges with some slate and basalt: dominant soils are shallow stony earthy loams on the steep slopes while overlying red-brown hardpan occur on the stony pediments. **My50:** Broad plains with a scatter of surface gravels: chief soils are shallow neutral red earths and shallow earthy loams in intimate micro association. They are underlain by a red-brown hardpan at depths of 6-30 inches **SV5:** Saline soils associated with salt lakes; sand and kopi gypsum dunes, and intervening plains: soils are mixed but chief soils are probably shallow with saline soils that sometimes overlie red-brown hardpan.
Land systems and land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Ararak, Bullimore, Carnegie, Laverton, Leonora, Nubev, and Violet land systems (GIS Database). These land systems are described by Pringle et al. (1994) as: **Ararak:** Broad plains with mantles of ironstone gravel supporting mulga shrublands with wanderrie grasses. As a result of low slopes, protective soil mantles and very diffuse sheet flow, this land system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion. **Bullimore:** Extensive sandplains supporting spinifex hummock grasslands. Wind erosion may occur after fire; however, stabilisation is usually rapid following rain and consequent regeneration of vegetation. **Carnegie:** Salt lakes with fringing saline flats and dunes. Lack of slope renders most of this system generally not susceptible to soil erosion. **Laverton:** Greenstone hills and ridges with acacia shrublands. Stone mantles protect most of this land system against soil erosion, the exception being narrow drainage tracts, which are mildly susceptible to water erosion. **Leonora:** Low greenstone hills and stony plains, supporting mixed stony chenopod shrublands. Drainage tracts are highly susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial

Characteristic	Details
	shrub cover has been substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Stony lower footslopes rely on mantles for soil protection against erosion. **Nubev:** Gently undulating stony plains, minor limonitic low rises and drainage floors, supporting mulga and halophytic shrublands. Drainage zones are moderately susceptible to soil erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Disturbance of the protective stone mantle on saline stony plains is also likely to initiate water erosion. **Violet:** Undulating stony and gravelly plains and low rises, supporting mulga shrublands. Abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion over most of this land system, except where the soil surface has been disturbed, for example by the construction of tracks and gridlines. In such circumstances, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion. Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area which is legislated by the *RIWI Act 1914* (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity of the majority of the application area is more than 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brine (GIS Database). The northern side of the application area has a mapped groundwater salinity of 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There were two Priority flora species (one P3 and one P4) recorded within the application area (RPS, 2020). There are no records of Threatened flora species within the application area (RPS, 2020; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	One Priority Ecological Community (PEC) is located within the application area. The Priority 1 PEC present is the Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone) Banded Iron Formation (GIS Database).
Fauna	There were two migratory bird species and three locally significant species were recorded within the application area (Bamford, 2020).

A.2. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Goodenia lyrata	P3	Y	Y	Y	0 km	Y
Grevillea incospicua	P4	Y	Y	Y	0 km	Y

A.3. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix H.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species	Common Name	Conservation significance	Recorded	Predicted status
Reptiles				
Liopholis kintorei	Great Desert Skink	CS1 (V,S3[v])		Vagrant
Aprasia picturata	Black-headed Worm-Lizard	CS3		Vagrant
Aprasia repens	Sandplain Worm-Lizard	CS3	X	Resident
Birds				
Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl	CS1 (V,S3[v])		Irregular, non-breeding Visitor
Lophoictinia isura	Square-tailed Kite	CS3		Irregular visitor
Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon	CS1 (S3[v])		Vagrant
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	CS1 (S7)		Irregular Visitor
Ardeotis australis	Australian Bustard	CS3	X	Regular visitor
Up to 10 waterbird species	See Appendix 5.	CS1 (M)	X*	Regular/Irregular Visitors, Vagrants
Burhinus grallarius	Bush Stone-curlew	CS3		Regular Visitor
Cacatua leadbeateri	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	CS3		Vagrant
Neophema splendida	Scarlet-chested Parrot	CS3		Irregular Visitor
Polytelis anthopeplus	Regent Parrot	CS3		Irregular Visitor
Polytelis alexandrae	Princess Parrot	CS1 (V,P4)		Irregular Visitor
Pezoporus occidentalis	Night Parrot	CS1 E,S1 [ce]		Vagrant
Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift	CS1 (M)		Regular Visitor
Amytornis striatus striatus	Striated Grasswren	CS2 (P4)		Vagrant
Acanthiza iredalei iredalei	Slender-billed Thornbill (Western)	CS3		Regular Visitor
Stipiturus ruficeps	Rufous-crowned Emu wren	CS3		Vagrant
Conopophila whitei	Grey Honeyeater	CS3		Irregular Visitor
Mammals				
Dasycercus blythi	Brush-tailed Mulgara	CS2 (P4)		Irregular Visitor
Antechinomys laniger	Kultarr	CS3		Resident
Sminthopsis longicaudata	Long-tailed Dunnart	CS2 (P4)		Resident
Petrogale lateralis	Black-flanked Rock-Wallaby	CS1 (E,S2[e])		Vagrant
Nyctophilus major tor	Central Long-eared Bat	CS2 (P3)		Resident
Pseudomys desertor	Desert Mouse	CS3		Irregular visitor
Invertebrates				
Kwonkan moriartii	Moriarty's Trapdoor Spider	CS3 (P2)		Resident

*Common Greenshank (August 2018) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (October 2019).

Conservation Significance codes:

- CS1, CS2, CS3 = (summary) levels of conservation significance.
- EPBC Act listings (CS1 species): E = Endangered, V = Vulnerable, M = Migratory, Mar = Marine.

- Wildlife Conservation Act listings (CS1 species): for all CS1 species S1 to 7 = Schedules 1 to 7 respectively, with IUCN listing in square parentheses: [e] = endangered, [v] = vulnerable, [ce] = critically endangered.
- DBCA Priority species (CS2 species): P1 to P5 = Priority 1 to 5.
- Species considered to be of local significance (CS3).

(Bamford, 2020)

A.4. Ecological community analysis table

Community name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Violet Range (Perseverance Greenstone Belt) vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)	P1	Y	Y	Y	0 km	Y
Yakabindie calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Yakabindie Station	P1	N	N	N	1.9 km	Y
Lake Miranda east calcrete groundwater assemblage types on Carey palaeodrainage on Yakabindie Station	P1	N	N	N	1.8 km	Y

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

(GIS Database)

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains locally significant fauna species and priority flora (Bamford, 2020; RPS, 2020). Two migratory birds were also recorded within the application area (Bamford, 2020). One Priority Ecological Community (PEC) occurs within the application area (GIS Database; RPS, 2020). There were nine naturalised weed species recorded within the application area (RPS, 2020). None of the weeds recorded were determined to be Declared Pests or Weeds of National Significance (RPS, 2020). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of the weed management condition on the permit.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging habitat for conservation significant fauna (Bamford, 2020). However, the fauna habitats found within the application area are common and widespread in the local area and extend well beyond the clearing boundary (RPM Global, 2022). Additionally, most of the fauna species that could occur within the application area are considered to be irregular visitors or vagrants only (refer to section A.3). Therefore, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on habitat for fauna of the region.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain threatened flora or habitats that support threatened flora. There are no records of threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database) and the field survey conducted by RPS (2020) did not record any threatened flora species in the application area.		
Principle (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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not for part of any mapped threatened ecological communities (RPS, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
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."* Assessment: The application area falls within the Murchison bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 percent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 39 and 676 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99 per cent of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at the bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). At the state level vegetation association 39 still retains over 99 per cent of its pre-European vegetation, while vegetation association 676 still retains over 95 per cent of its pre-European vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	Not at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
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."* Assessment: There are several minor ephemeral drainage lines that intersect the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing has the potential to impact vegetation growing in association with these drainage lines. These impacts can be managed through a vegetation management condition on the clearing permit to avoid clearing of riparian vegetation where possible and maintain water flows.	At variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped land systems where the application area is located have variable degrees of susceptibility to water and wind erosion (refer to section A.1). Noting the location of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. These impacts can be managed through a staged clearing condition on the clearing permit to prevent cleared areas from being exposed for long periods of time.	May be at variance	No
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."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas recorded within the application area. There is a salt lake (Lake Miranda) within	Not likely to be at variance	No .

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
75 metres of the application area. There is a possibility that run-off from the proposed clearing area may reach Lake Miranda. However, due to the large size and the high salinity level of Lake Miranda, the proposed clearing it is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality. Nevertheless, a staged clearing condition will be placed on the clearing permit to prevent erosion and minimise run off.		
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). The areas proposed for clearing have relatively flat topographic contours (RPM Global, 2022). Sporadic and low rainfall, which is characteristic of the local area, and the generally high soil permeability characteristics, indicated that it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will exacerbate or cause a significant incidence of flooding (RPM Global, 2022).	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 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. Biological survey information excerpts

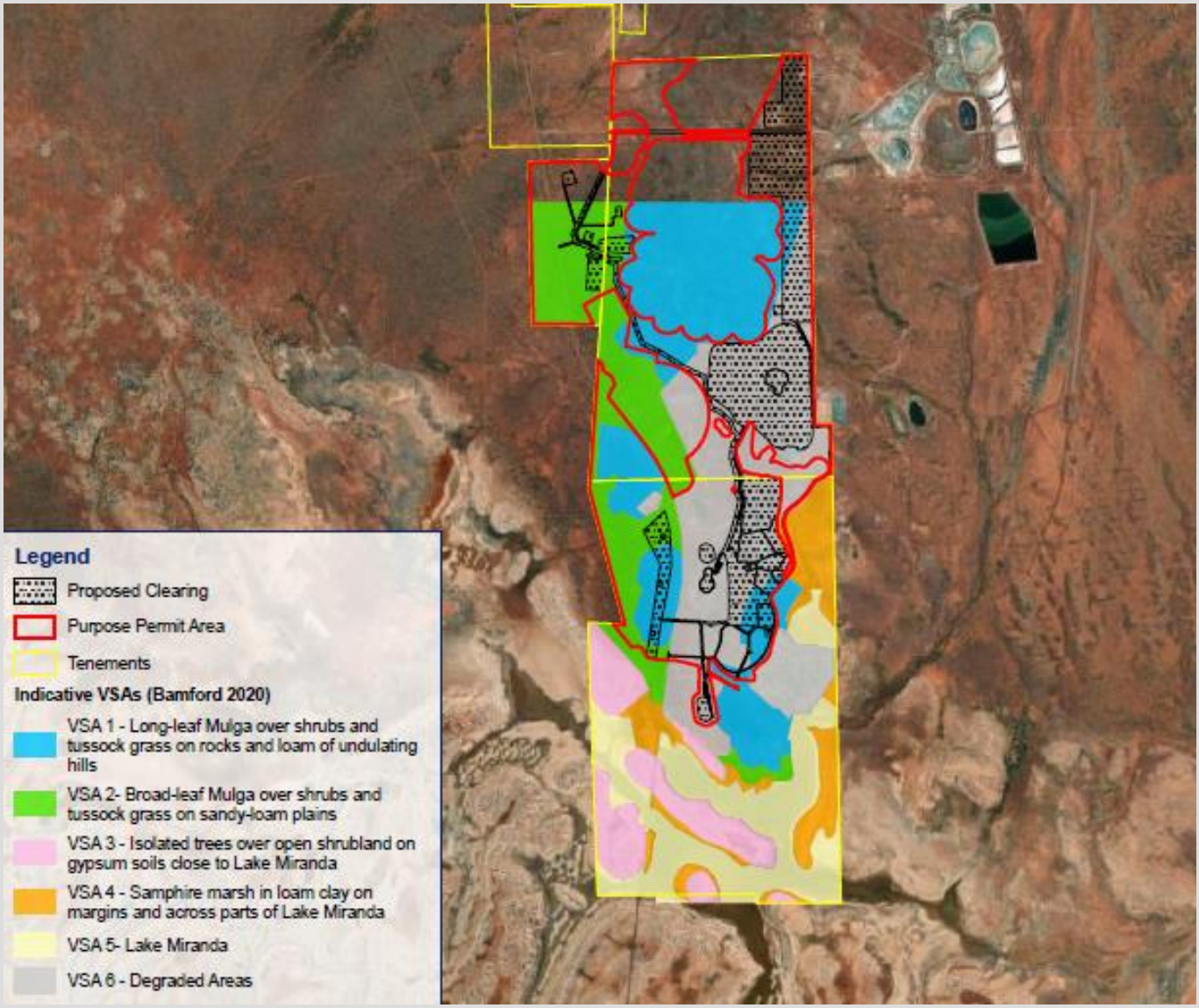

Figure 1. Map of Vegetation and Substrate Associations in the survey area.

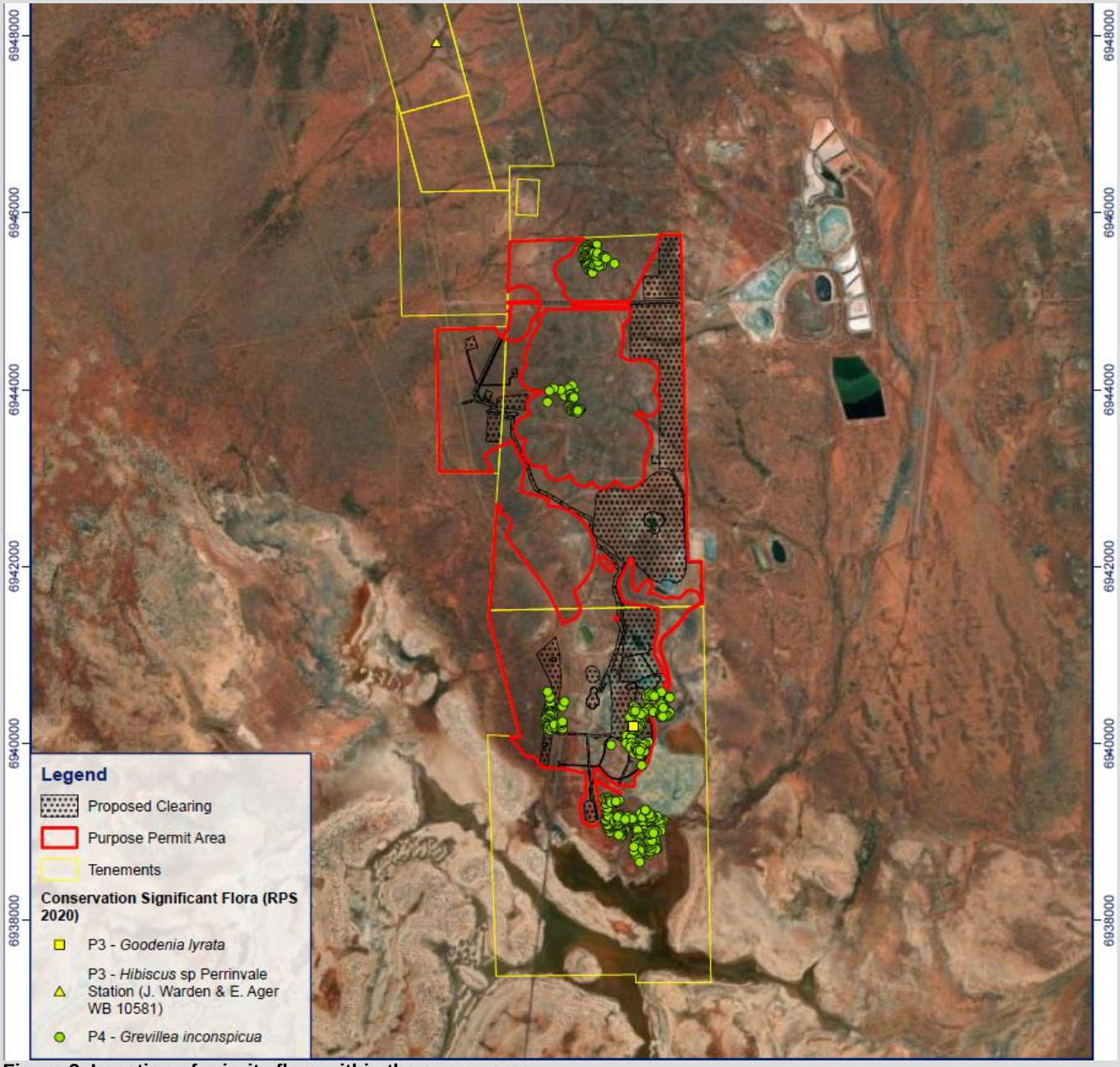

Figure 2. Location of priority flora within the survey area

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

E.2. References

Bamford, M., Gamblin, T. and Everard, C. (2020) Bellevue Gold Limited Level 2 Fauna Assessment 2018/2019 Bellevue Gold Project. Unpublished Report for Bellevue Gold Limited.

BoM (2022) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 23 November 2022).

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2023) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 9951/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, January 2023.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *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

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2022) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 30 November 2022).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits.pdf#:~:text=This%20Procedure%3A%20Native%20vegetation%20clearing%20permit%20outlines%20how,%28EP%20Act%29%20and%20to%20manage%20granted%20clearing%20permits.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available from: http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. Available from: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

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.

Pringle, H J, Gilligan, S A, and van Vreeswyk, A M. (1994) *An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 87.

RPM Global (2022) Purpose Permit Supporting Document. Report prepared For Golden Spur Resources Pty Ltd. 3 November 2022.

RPS (2020) Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment – Bellevue Gold Project. Unpublished report for Bellevue Gold Limited, by RPS Group.

RPS (2021) Bellevue Gold Water Management Plan. Unpublished report prepared for Bellevue Gold Pty Ltd, by RPS Group.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 28 November 2022).

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal 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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**

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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

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).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and 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.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Fauna 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).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P **Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

Assessment of Priority codes 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**

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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
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. Such species are in need of 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 Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

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.