

JBS&G 68336 | 164,365 (Rev B)

L01 - Malcolm Site Clearing referral supporting document

17 December 2024

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Native Vegetation Clearing Branch Via email: info@dwer.wa.gov.au

Lot 503 Kookynie-Malcolm Road Laverton Native Vegetation Clearing Referral

To whom it may concern,

Aurizon Bulk WA (Aurizon) are proposing to clear an area of undeveloped land (~0.26ha) at the Malcolm site (Lot 503 on DP 58895) to be used initially as a stockpile location and then as an asphalt hardstand. Lot 503 contains rail infrastructure on the eastern side and scattered mulga and scattered groundcover typical of the northern Goldfields in the east. The vegetation in the area has potentially been disturbed in the past and there is evidence of grazing from feral goats in the area.

It is understood that clearing referrals under Section 51DA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) were introduced into effect by the *Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2020* which allow prospective referrers to refer proposed native vegetation clearing that has a very low environmental impact to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER; the Department) to determine whether they need a clearing permit. Upon JBS&G's preliminary assessment of the proposed clearing, it is considered that the environmental impact is low and all criteria under section 51DA (4) of the EP Act is likely to be satisfied and therefore clearing may proceed without the need for a permit upon formal notification from the Department.

Provided with this referral is supporting documentation outlining the assessment of the proposed clearing against the criteria under section 51DA (4) of the EP Act.

Should you require clarification, please contact the undersigned on 0487769828 or by email csunley@jbsg.com.au.

Yours sincerely: Reviewed/Approved by:

Project Scientist
JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd

Principal
JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd





Table 1: Assessment of proposed clearing against the criteria under section 51DA (4) of the EP Act.

Criterion

JBS&G response

Criterion 1: The area proposed to be cleared is small relative to the total remaining vegetation The area proposed to be cleared is ~0.26 ha (Figure 1). Using the following datasets as specified in the Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals Guideline:

- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA)
- Pre-European vegetation dataset (DPIRD-006)
- Current native vegetation extent dataset (DPIRD-005)
- EP Act clearing applications and approved clearing (DWER-075, DWER-076 and DWER-078) datasets that show the areas with active applications, clearing permits, 'permit not required' determinations, or areas reserved for environmental offsets, and
- Other Data WA datasets, and satellite and/or aerial imagery.
- *Note South-west vegetation extent dataset (DBCA-046 and DBCA-047) is not applicable in this area.

The proposed clearing area was deemed to be small relative to the total remaining vegetation.

IBRA

More than 99% of the vegetation association remains within the Murchison IBRA region.

DPIRD-006

Lot 503 is located in an area of Pre-European Vegetation that consists of low woodland, low open woodland or sparse woodland of *Acacia aneura* and related species.

DPIRD-005

Within a 10km buffer of the site, there remains 31,687ha of uncleared native vegetation which represents >99% of the area. The clearing proposed consists of 0.26ha and represents <0.01% of the remaining vegetation.

DWER-075, DWER-076 and DWER-078

There are no active offset sites within 10km of the proposed clearing. There are three clearing proposals within 10km of the site with two of these approved to clear.

Criterion 2: There are no known or likely significant environmental values within the area

Table 2: Significant environmental values

Table 2. Significant environmental values			
Environmental value	Presence		
Vegetation condition	A site visit was conducted by an Aurizon environmental advisor in which it was deemed that the vegetation within the site was 'highly disturbed' (Attachment A). Evidence of grazing by feral goats was present and the remaining vegetation on the site is located between a rail corridor and a road leaving it at risk of edge effects.		
Significant fauna	According to a PMST search (Attachment B), there are 7 fauna species which are potentially represented in the site, these are: • Aphelocephala leucopsis (Southern Whiteface), • Calidris acuminata (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper),		
	 Falco hypoleucos (Grey Falcon), 		



	 Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl), Pezoporus occidentalis (Night Parrot), Polytelis alexandrae (Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot), and Tringa nebularia (Common Greenshank, Greenshank. Due to the size and degraded nature of the site, as well as information from the SPRAT profiles of these species, it is highly unlikely that any significant fauna are present within the proposed clearing area. The site is also located immediately adjacent to a heavy industrial area where rail freight operations are conducted on a daily basis.
Fauna habitat	SPRAT profiles for the above species indicate that the vegetation in the proposed clearing area is unlikely to represent habitat for significant fauna.
Significant ecological linkage	None present.
Mapped ecological community	The site is not located within a mapped ecological community.
Significant flora	A search of DBCA datasets revealed that within a 10km radius of the site there was one record of a Priority 3 species and several records within a 50km radius. Despite this, due to the highly degraded nature of the site, there is no suitable habitat within the proposed clearing area.
Mapped wetland	The site is not located within a mapped wetland.
Mapped watercourse	The site is not located within a mapped watercourse.
Water resources	Based on the DPIRD-009 dataset, this area is not at risk of salinity. No other impacts to water resources are relevant.
Conservation reserve	The site is not located within a conservation reserve. The closest conservation reserve is Goongarrie National Park ~100km to the south.
Land and soil quality	Using the available DPIRD datasets, it has been deemed that the proposed clearing poses insignificant risk to land and soil quality in the area.
Heritage-related values and native title matters	After a search of DPLH datasets and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS), no heritage-related values or native title matters have been identified.

Criterion 3: The state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the region is adequate

It is considered that scientific knowledge for this region is adequate to allow the proposed clearing to take place without significant impact.



Criterion 4: Conditions will not be	Due to the size of the proposed clearing site, as well as its level of
required to manage environmental	degradation, the environmental impacts caused by the proposed clearing
impacts	will not require conditions.

Figure 1: Site boundary and clearing footprint



Attachments:

Attachment A Site photos

Attachment B Certificate of Title

Attachment C PMST Search
Attachment D Limitations



Attachment A Site photos

Table-3: Site photos

Location	Orientation	Photo
Western boundary of Lot 503	East	
NE cnr of Lot 503	West	
SE cnr Lot 503	North	



Location	Orientation	Photo
Sth of SE cnr Lot 503	North	
SE cnr Lot 503	West	
~ 10 m north of 9711 on Lot 503 eastern boundary	West	



Location	Orientation	Photo
~ 10 m north of 9712 on Lot 503 eastern boundary	West	
~ 10 m north of 9713 on Lot 503 eastern boundary	West	
~ 10 m north of 9714 on Lot 503 eastern boundary	West	



Orientation Location Photo $^{\sim}$ 10 m north of 9714 on West Lot 503 eastern boundary ~ 10 m north of 9715 on West Lot 503 eastern boundary ~ 10 m north of 9716 on West Lot 503 eastern boundary



Orientation Location Photo Tree Tree Lot 503 northern South over boundary Lot 503



Orientation Photo Location Western boundary of Lot East 503 Western boundary of Lot East 503 Tree



Orientation Photo Location Tree Tree Tree



Tree

East

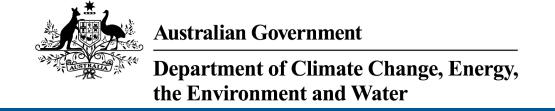
Fast



Attachment B Certificate of Title



Attachment C PMST Search



EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 11-Dec-2024

Summary

Details

Matters of NES
Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act
Extra Information

Caveat

Acknowledgements

Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the <u>Administrative Guidelines on Significance</u>.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	None
Listed Threatened Species:	7
Listed Migratory Species:	8

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage

A <u>permit</u> may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Lands:	12
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	11
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None
Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

State and Territory Reserves:	1
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	4
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	None
Geological and Bioregional Assessments:	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed Threatened Species		[Res	source Information]	
Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act. Number is the current name ID.				
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status	
BIRD				
Aphelocephala leucopsis Southern Whiteface [529]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area	
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area	
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area	
Leipoa ocellata Malleefowl [934]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area	
Pezoporus occidentalis Night Parrot [59350]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area	
Polytelis alexandrae Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot [758]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area	
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In buffer area only	
Listed Migratory Species [Resource Information]				
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status	
Migratory Marine Birds	3 - 7			

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Terrestrial Species			
Motacilla cinerea			
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Motacilla flava			
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Wetlands Species			
Actitis hypoleucos			
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos			
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Charadrius veredus</u>			
Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Tringa nebularia			
Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In buffer area only

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Lands [Resource Information]

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Unknown		
Commonwealth Land - [52213]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51796]	WA	In buffer area only

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Commonwealth Land - [51756]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51754]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51755]	WA	In buffer area only
O a marga a marga a little 1 a marga a [54750]	14/4	la la effer anna andre
Commonwealth Land - [51752]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51753]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [52232]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51751]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51058]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [52197]	WA	In buffer area only
Commonwealth Land - [51984]	WA	In buffer area only

Listed Marine Species [Resource Information				
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status	
Bird				
Actitis hypoleucos				
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area	
Apus pacificus				
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area	
Calidris acuminata				
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area	
Calidris melanotos				
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area	
Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osc	ulans			
Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area	

Cojentific Name	Threatened Category	Drocopos Toyt	Duffer Ctatus
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Charadrius veredus Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In buffer area only
Merops ornatus			
Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Motacilla cinerea			
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Motacilla flava			
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Thinornis cucullatus as Thinornis rubrico	llie		
Hooded Plover, Hooded Dotterel [87735]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Tringa nebularia			
Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In buffer area only

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves			[Resource Information]
Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Unnamed WA46847	Nature Reserve	WA	In buffer area only

EPBC Act Referrals			[Resou	rce Information
Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Redcliffe Gold Project	2023/09452		Completed	In buffer area only
Not controlled action				
Eastern Goldfields Gas Pipeline Construction, WA	2014/7284	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Not controlled action				
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
Murrin Murrin East Nickel and Cobalt Mine Expansion	2008/4140	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only

Caveat

1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- -Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales
- -Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria
- -Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
- -Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia
- -Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory
- -Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland
- -Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
- -Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT
- -Birdlife Australia
- -Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme
- -Australian National Wildlife Collection
- -Natural history museums of Australia
- -Museum Victoria
- -Australian Museum
- -South Australian Museum
- -Queensland Museum
- -Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums
- -Queensland Herbarium
- -National Herbarium of NSW
- -Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria
- -Tasmanian Herbarium
- -State Herbarium of South Australia
- -Northern Territory Herbarium
- -Western Australian Herbarium
- -Australian National Herbarium, Canberra
- -University of New England
- -Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- -Australian Government, Department of Defence
- Forestry Corporation, NSW
- -Geoscience Australia
- -CSIRO
- -Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns
- -eBird Australia
- -Australian Government Australian Antarctic Data Centre
- -Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- -Australian Government National Environmental Science Program
- -Australian Institute of Marine Science
- -Reef Life Survey Australia
- -American Museum of Natural History
- -Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania
- -Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania
- -Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the **Contact us** page.

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Attachment D Limitations

Scope of services

This report ("the report") has been prepared by JBS&G in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract, or as otherwise agreed, between the Client and JBS&G. In some circumstances, a range of factors such as time, budget, access and/or site disturbance constraints may have limited the scope of services. This report is strictly limited to the matters stated in it and is not to be read as extending, by implication, to any other matter in connection with the matters addressed in it.

Reliance on data

In preparing the report, JBS&G has relied upon data and other information provided by the Client and other individuals and organisations, most of which are referred to in the report ("the data"). Except as otherwise expressly stated in the report, JBS&G has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data. To the extent that the statements, opinions, facts, information, conclusions and/or recommendations in the report ("conclusions") are based in whole or part on the data, those conclusions are contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the data. JBS&G has also not attempted to determine whether any material matter has been omitted from the data. JBS&G will not be liable in relation to incorrect conclusions should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented or otherwise not fully disclosed to JBS&G. The making of any assumption does not imply that JBS&G has made any enquiry to verify the correctness of that assumption.

The report is based on conditions encountered and information received at the time of preparation of this report or the time that site investigations were carried out. JBS&G disclaims responsibility for any changes that may have occurred after this time. This report and any legal issues arising from it are governed by and construed in accordance with the law as at the date of this report.

Environmental conclusions

Within the limitations imposed by the scope of services, the preparation of this report has been undertaken and performed in a professional manner, in accordance with generally accepted environmental consulting practices. No other warranty, whether express or implied, is made, including to any third parties, and no liability will be accepted for use or interpretation of this report by any third party.

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