GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 11025/1

File Number: DWERVT18454

Duration of Permit: 29 November 2025 to 29 November 2027

PERMIT HOLDER

Durmo Quality Produce Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 116 on Deposited Plan 202367, Carnarvon

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than 8.6 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Staged clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless actively commencing horticultural activities within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

4. 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	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds in accordance with condition 2; and (g) actions taken in accordance with condition 3.

5. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 4 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 *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
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 *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the

Term	Definition
	administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
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 *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; 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.

END OF CONDITIONS

Meenu Vitarana
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

6 November 2025

Schedule 1

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

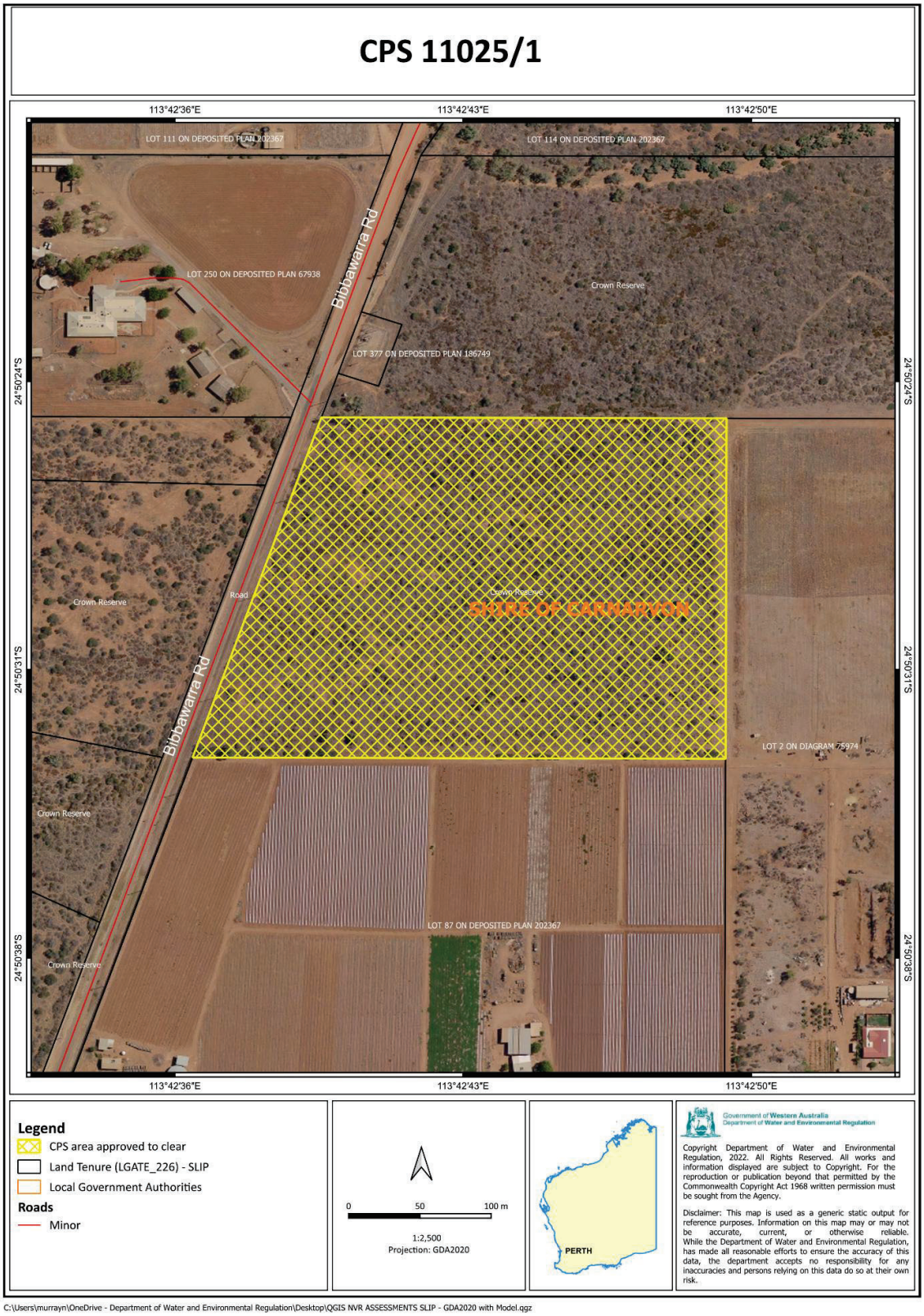


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 11025/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Durmo Quality Produce Pty Ltd
Application received:	7 April 2025
Application area:	8.6 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Horticulture
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 116 on Deposited Plan 202367
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Carnarvon
Localities (suburb/s):	North Plantations

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area of native vegetation (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The proposed clearing is to facilitate horticultural development associated with the Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is managing the Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative (GFBI) in Carnarvon. Under the GFBI project in conjunction with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, Development lots have been issued under lease agreements, with the lessee responsible for improvement of the lots. The GFBI was established to significantly expand the Carnarvon horticultural district, by providing access to new prime agricultural land and water resources (Gascoyne development commission, 2021). Land will be managed as per industry standards for irrigated horticulture. Crop rotations will be scheduled to allow land to "rest" between crops and this will be scheduled with other properties managed by the same entity. The type of crops will be determined by market demand as well as seasonal conditions, with the Initial crop is likely to be melons (Durmo Quality Produce, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	6 November 2025
Decision area:	8.6 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 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the findings of a targeted flora, fauna and vegetation survey (see Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the necessity of clearing and the final land use is for the purpose of horticultural development associated with the Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative (GFBI).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will 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 and
- the potential increased risk of land degradation in the form of floods.

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 unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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
- The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless actively commencing horticultural activities within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

1.5. Site map

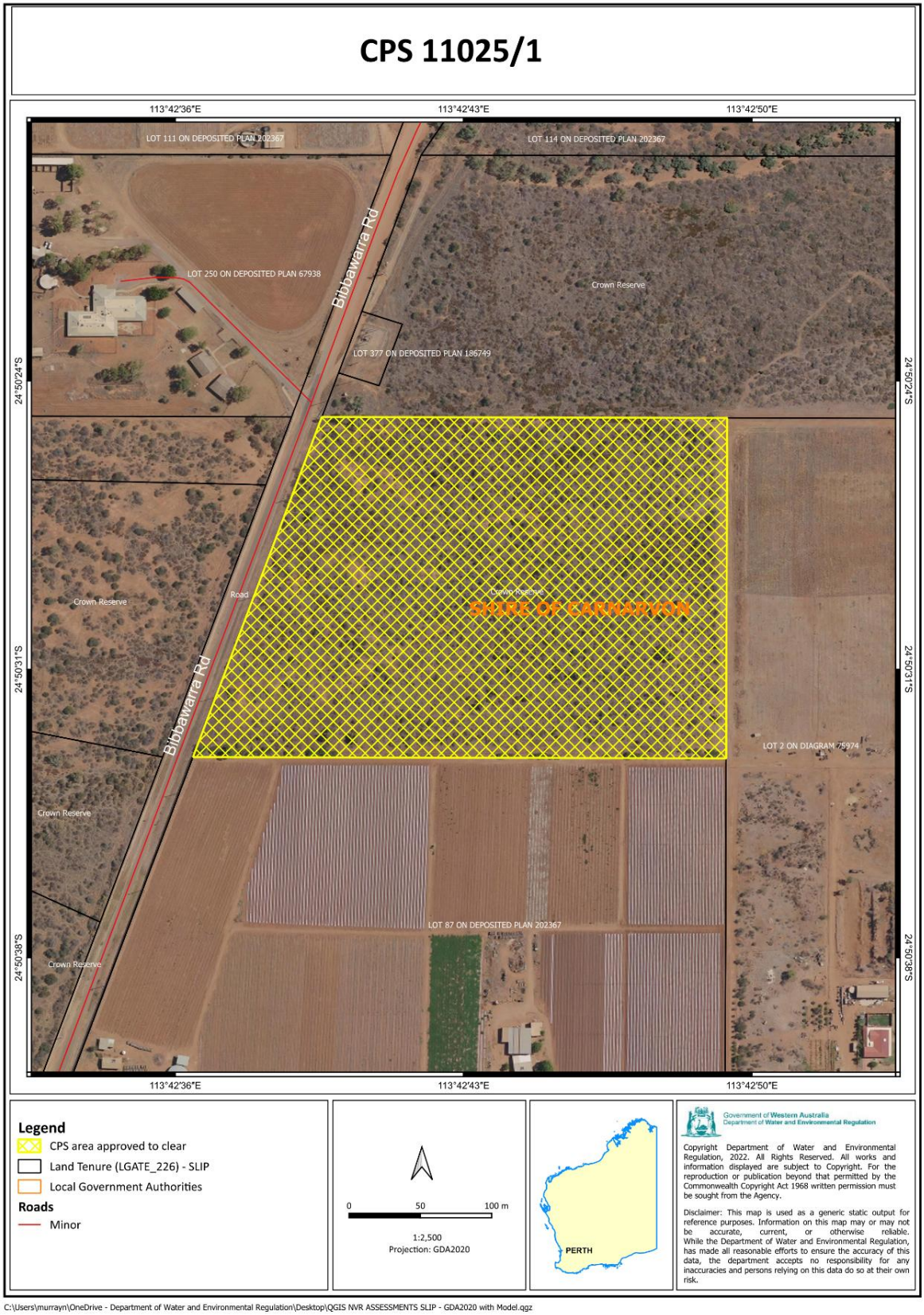


Figure 1 Map of the application area. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

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)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (WA) (RIWI 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)
- 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 applicant advised that a cleared, level site is required for planting and maintenance of horticultural crops (Durmo Quality Produce Pty Ltd, 2025). To achieve the intended yield on a seasonal basis, opportunities to reduce the extent of clearing are minimal (Durmo Quality Produce Pty Ltd, 2025).

The applicant advised that the following measures will be used to mitigate risks for the duration of clearing activities:

- Approved clearing areas will be clearly delineated and no impacts to native vegetation outside of this area will occur,
- To minimise the risk of introduction and spread of weeds:
    - any earth moving machinery used will be clean of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared,
    - no soil, mulch or fill will be brought into the area to be cleared,
    - machinery and vehicles will be restricted to the limited of the area to be cleared.
- Levelling and grading of the site will be undertaken to reduce risks of land degradation from waterlogging, salinity and inundation (Durmo Quality Produce Pty Ltd, 2025).

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 B) 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 C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora and fauna) and land degradation risk. 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, fauna) - Clearing Principles (a), (b) and (c)

Fauna assessment

Most species known from the local area are avian and would be transient in the application are or occur only in suitable habitat conditions (i.e., waterbirds only when minor flooding occurs). The desktop assessment found records

of fauna species Branchinella denticulata (P3), Branchinella wellardi (P3), Egernia stokesii badia (VU), and Idiosoma incomptum (P4) which may occur within the application area (QGIS database, 2024). DBCA advice was sought, confirming that impacts to the fairy shrimp and trapdoor spider would be significant if these species present (DBCA, 2025). As result, a targeted flora and habitat assessment was undertaken in 2025, as the past 2016 survey results may have changed.

a fairy shrimp (Carnarvon to Kalgoorlie) - *Branchinella denticulata* (P2)
a fairy shrimp (Carnarvon and Murchison) - *Branchinella wellardi* (P3)
Branchinella denticulata and *Branchinella wellardi* are poorly known invertebrates which inhabit small (<2 ha), shallow temporary pools (often saline and turbid) that persist from two to ten months, including roadside ditches, claypans, natural depressions on volcanic or clay soils, temporary farm dams, temporary lagoons beside streams, and pools in the channels of intermittent streams (DBCA, 2025).

The likelihood of the presence of *Branchinella denticulata* and *Branchinella wellardi* within the application area is dependent on the presence of clay pans (DBCA 2025). The application area was identified as an IDE and may be subject to seasonal inundation/flooding. A habitat assessment was undertaken as part of targeted flora survey in 2025 did not identify any claypan or temporary pools, with high weed load in the understorey, therefore the application area is unlikely to be suitable habitat for these species (GHD, 2025).

western spiny-tailed skink - *Egernia stokesii badia* (VU)
Egernia stokesii badia was recorded twice within the local area, with the closest record 4 kilometres from the application area. Optimal habitat for Western spiny-tailed skink is open Eucalypt woodland and Acacia-dominated shrublands, where they tend to shelter in logs, in cavities in the trunks and branches of shrubs, as well as in houses and ruins. The species' recovery plan states that all populations of the western spiny-tailed skink are considered important due to its restricted distribution and significant threats to populations through ongoing degradation and loss of habitat (DBCA,2025).
Whilst the application area contains suitable habitat, this species is not considered highly likely to occur, as the nearest known record is 4 km from the site. The habitat present within the application is not considered optimal, due the absence of large trees, hollow logs and rock piles. This skink is relatively easily detected by someone suitably experienced from its scat piles, so it is likely to have been detected during previous surveys if present (GHD, 2025).

Carnarvon shield-backed trapdoor spider - *Idiosoma incomptum*
Idiosoma incomptum is a poorly known invertebrate species (SRE), with an extent of occurrence of approximately 6500km2 along the Carnarvon Basin coastline. The shield-back spider typically inhabits clay soils of eucalypt woodlands and acacia vegetation, and relies heavily on leaf-litter and twigs to build its burrow (DBCA,2025). The species occurs in Western Australia, with a near-coastal distribution in the Carnarvon, Geraldton Sandplains and Yalgoo bioregions (ALA, 2025). During the 2025 targeted flora and fauna survey, extensive searches were carried out to find evidence of presence and the understorey grass layer within the application area was recorded as too dense to provide suitable habitat for *Idiosoma incomptum* (GHD, 2025), therefore the application area is unlikely to provide suitable habitat.

<u>Flora assessment</u>

The application area may provide suitable habitat for conservation Significant flora species *Chthonocephalus spathulatus* (P3), *Corchorus congener* (P3), and *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. Arenicola (P1). These flora species were all recorded within the local area. DBCA advice concluded that the clearing of these species would be a significant impact to the species survival. As result, a 2025 targeted flora survey was conducted to determine their presence.

***Chthonocephalus spathulatus* (P3)**
Chthonocephalus spathulatus (P3) is an annual species requires direct sunlight for its growth and prefers reddish brown sandy clay (GHD, 2025). There have been two recordings of this species within the local area, with the closest record located 43.9 kilometres away from the application area. The distance of the recordings reduces its likelihood from being present in the application area (QGIS database, 2025).

All three study plots feature clay loam or sandy clay loam soil. Therefore, it is possible to find this species in the study area. However, Buffel grass density is too high in the area, and therefore does not provide a suitable habitat for the species to become established across these plots. The species was not recorded during the survey (GHD, 2025).

***Corchorus congener* (P3)**

Corchorus congener (P3) is a Spreading shrub, to 0.6 m high; yellow flowers April to June or August to November. The species is a woody perennial shrub Associated with shrubland over hummock grasslands, mostly on sandy plains and sand dunes but also on loamy soils derived from limestone (GHD, 2025).

The species was recorded within the 2019 flora and vegetation survey approximately 1 kilometre from the application area. DBCA advice indicates impacts would be significant if these species present. The 2025 targeted flora and vegetation survey was undertaken during the species flowering time (28-29 August) and did not find the species within the application area, therefore the clearing is not likely be a significant impact to the species (GHD,2025).

***Schoenia filifolia* subsp. Arenicola (P1)**
Schoenia filifolia subsp. Arenicola (P1) is an erect, single-stemmed annual, herb, to 0.5 m high with yellow flowers, which bloom August to September. The species is poorly recorded known only from records on sub-coastal sand ridges with no listed associated species. There have been three historical recordings of the species within the local area, with the closest record located 3.2km from the application area. The application area contains suitable soil type, therefore it is considered the area may be suitable habitat (DBCA, 2025).

DBCA concurred that this species has the potential to occur, although the disturbed condition of the site would decrease the likelihood as native annual daisies often don't complete well with invasive species such as Buffel grass. Several recent attempts were made to recollect this species but failed, and it is presumed extinct now. The 2025 survey confidently concluded that this species does not occur in the three study plots as sand hills do not occur across the three plots (GHD,2025).

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in clearing of native vegetation which is not suitable habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna.

The targeted flora survey undertaken in 2025 found no significant flora individuals, therefore the clearing is unlikely to impact conservation significant flora. The survey found no significant fauna species, and the application area provides no significant habitat or evidence of notable fauna use.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing does not constitute a significant residual impact on significant biodiversity, flora or fauna and is not at variance to principle (a),(b) or (c).

Conditions
No flora, fauna or biodiversity management conditions required.

3.2.2. Land and water resources (land degradation) - Clearing Principle (g)

Assessment
The proposed clearing is contiguous to other horticultural enterprises and is suitable for horticultural development. Areas have been surveyed and assessed for the Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative and therefore soils have been assessed and deemed suitable for high priority agricultural use. Minor flooding on part of the Carnarvon irrigation area is a common event and is generally accepted by the growers as it ensures recharge of the surficial groundwater aquifer, which the horticulture industry depends on for its existence (CSLC, 2025). The clearing of Areas containing Eucalyptus victrix have the potential for erosion due to their association with riparian areas and flow zones, where the flood risk is likely to occur within adjacent developed land, provided that flow lines and flood channels are not cleared for horticultural development (CSLC, 2025). Flood and soil erosion risks may be minimised by beginning horticultural activities within three months of the clearing, to reduce the time of exposed bare soils within the area.

Areas containing Eucalyptus victrix have the potential for erosion due to their association with riparian areas and flow zones. Discretionary clearing around these areas is recommended, to ensure that flood events don't exacerbate erosion. These areas are on the outer margins of the proposed clearing area and therefore are only a recommendation.

To reduce flood risk, it is advised by Mid West Gascoyne Region of the department advised that clearing works are not undertaken during the high-risk periods for flooding of November through to May. If clearing works are completed prior to the high-risk period, it is advisable to undertake precautions to minimise soil erosion to the area (RIWI, 2025).

The applicant has proposed leveling and grading the site will reduce the risk of waterlogging, salinity and inundation when site is cleared will minimise risks to land degradation. Not clearing native vegetation unless actively commencing horticultural activities within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken will further prevent land degradation risks.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in risk of land degradation in the form of flooding and soil erosion. Based on the findings of this assessment, expert advise, the proposed clearing may cause risks of land degradation in the form of flooding.

Conditions
To minimise land degradation risks, not clearing native vegetation unless actively commencing horticultural activities within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken will further mitigate land degradation risks.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on DWER's website on 21 May 2025, inviting submissions from the public within a 21-day period. No submissions were received during the advertisement period.

The Shire of Carnarvon (the Shire) advised DWER that the application area is located within the horticultural district of Carnarvon and within the Gascoyne Food Bowl Structure Plan Area (Shire of Carnarvon, 2025). Local government approvals have been issued for pump sheds and minor infrastructure relating to the proposed horticultural development on the land parcel, subject to obtaining the necessary clearing permit (Shire of Carnarvon, 2025). The Shire advised that the proposed clearing is consistent with the Shire's Local Planning Scheme in which the land is zoned Priority Agriculture.

Advice received from Mid West Gascoyne Region RIWI has determined there is no need for a bed and banks permit (RIWI, 2025).

No Aboriginal sites of significance have 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. Additional information provided by applicant

Since the application was accepted for assessment on 20 May 2025, the following additional information was provided by the applicant:

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The applicant provided a targeted flora survey (GHD, 2025) on 10 September 2025, in response to a formal Request for Further Information issued by DWER.	The additional information was considered in *Assessment of impacts on environmental values* (see Section 3.2.1).

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to DWER at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix C.

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is part of a contiguous area of native vegetation within the extensive land use zone of Western Australia, approximately six kilometres north-east of the Carnarvon town centre. It is bordered by Bibbawarra Road to the west and adjacent to the existing horticultural land to the south and east, and existing remnant vegetation in freehold land to the north. Aerial imagery indicates that the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains greater than 95 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area is not mapped within any formal ecological linkages. Given the application area is part of a contiguous area of connected native vegetation, it is not likely to be acting as a significant ecological linkage in the landscape.
Conservation areas	The closest conservation area is Chinamans Pool Nature Reserve, located approximately 3.6 kilometres west of the application area, separated by existing cleared agricultural land.
Vegetation description	A vegetation survey conducted by Strategen (2019) indicates that the vegetation within the application area consists of an Acacia shrubland, described as: • ASL (1): Tall Sparse to Open Shrubland of *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* and / or *Acacia synchronicia* with a Sparse to Open Shrubland of *Rhagodia eremaea* and *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *oleifolius* and an Open Tussock Grassland of **Cenchrus ciliaris* (buffel grass) and / or *Chloris pumilio*. A follow up targeted flora survey undertaken in August 2025 confirmed that the dominant species are consistent the ASL1 description (GHD, 2025). The full survey descriptions and maps are available in Appendix E. This is broadly consistent with the mapped Beard vegetation associated 308, which is described as Mosaic: Shrublands; *Acacia sclerosperma* sparse scrub / Succulent steppe; saltbush & bluebush (Shepherd et al., 2001). Spatial data indicates that the mapped vegetation association retains approximately 99.2 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys (GHD, 2025; Strategen, 2019) indicate the vegetation within the application area is in Poor (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as still retaining basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.

Characteristic	Details
	The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. The full survey descriptions and maps are available in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The application area is located on relatively flat topography. The region has a mean annual maximum temperature of 27.4°C and a mean annual minimum temperature of 17.2°C (BoM, 2025). The mean annual rainfall recorded at the nearest Bureau of Meteorology weather station (Carnarvon Airport) is 221.1 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description and land degradation risk	The soil is mapped within two soil and landform types within the River System, as follows (DPIRD, 2025): • **Gascoyne association -' over buried soils' Phase (235Ri_1Gl+):** Flat terrace plains and levee surfaces. Reddish brown earthy sands and less commonly reddish brown siliceous sands (4.64 hectares, ~ 54.0 per cent). • **Gascoyne association over buried profile Phase (235Ri_2Gm+):** Flat terrace plains or levee surfaces. Reddish brown earthy loams and less commonly gradational red earths (3.96 hectares, ~ 46.0 per cent). Soils within the River System are not normally susceptible to accelerated erosion but may experience flooding and seasonal inundation on floodplains and around watercourses (Payne, et al., 1987).
Waterbodies and hydrogeography	The desktop assessment did not identify any mapped watercourses or wetlands intersecting the application area. The closest natural source of surface water is a non-perennial tributary of the Gascoyne River, approximately 150 metres north. The application area is mapped within the Carnarvon Irrigation District surface water area and the Carnarvon Groundwater Area, proclaimed under the RIWI Act. Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at 500-1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified that a total of 18 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area, comprising three Priority 1 (P1) flora, six Priority 2 (P2) flora, and nine Priority 3 (P3) flora species. None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *arenicola* (P1) approximately 3.5 kilometres from the application area. Based on the site characteristics set out above and the habitat preferences and ecology of the species known from the local area, the application area may provide significant habitat for three priority flora species.
Ecological communities	Based on available databases, no threatened ecological communities listed under state or federal legislation occur within a 50-kilometre radius of the application area. The nearest conservation significant ecological community is an occurrence of the Lyell Land System (listed as Priority 3 by DBCA), approximately 19.7 kilometres north of the application area.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified that a total of 70 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area, including 17 threatened fauna, eight priority fauna, 43 migratory fauna species listed under international agreement, one conservation dependent fauna species, and one other specially protected fauna species. None of these records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of *Rostratula australis* (Australian painted snipe) (T), recorded approximately 0.6 kilometres from the application area.

Characteristic	Details
	With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, the application area may provide suitable habitat for 29 conservation significant fauna species.

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Carnarvon	8,382,890.35	8,360,801.46	99.74	1,020,434.08	12.17
Beard vegetation association*					
308	446,976.92	443,483.90	99.22	3874.35	0.87
Beard vegetation association (within bioregion)					
308 (Carnarvon)	446,976.92	443,483.90	99.22	3874.35	0.87

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the habitat preferences and conservation statuses of flora species known from the local area, the distribution and extent of existing records, and flora and vegetation assessments of the application area (GHD, 2025; Strategen, 2019), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status (WA)	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records in local area (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Chthonocephalus spathulatus	P3	Y	Y	Y	43.9	2	Y
Corchorus congener	P3	Y	Y	N	240.0	0	Y
Schoenia filifolia subsp. *arenicola*	P1	Y	Y	N	3.2	3	Y

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, the distribution and extent of existing records, and fauna assessments of the application area (GHD, 2025; Strategen, 2019), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records in local area (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Amytornis textilis textilis (western grasswren)	P4	Y	Y	32.2	1	Y
Ardenna carneipes (flesh-footed shearwater)	T (VU)	Y	Y	43.4	1	Y
Botaurus poiciloptilus (Australasian bittern)	T (EN)	Y	Y	43.4	1	Y
Branchinella denticulata (a fairy shrimp – Carnarvon to Kalgoorlie)	P3	N	Y	44.8	2	Y
Branchinella wellardi (a fairy shrimp – Carnarvon to Murchison)	P3	N	Y	46.2	3	Y
Calidris ferruginea (curlew sandpiper)	T (CR)	Y	Y	2.6	206	Y
Egernia stokesii badia (western spiny-tailed skink)	T (VU)	Y	Y	39.6	2	Y
Falco hypoleucos (grey falcon)	T (VU)	Y	Y	2.4	5	Y
Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	Y	2.5	16	Y
Idiosoma incomptum (Carnarvon shield-backed trapdoor spider)	P3	Y	Y	4.0	8	Y
Migratory waterbirds (17 species)	MI	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y
Rostratula australis (Australian painted snipe)	T (EN)	Y	Y	0.6	29	Y

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

Appendix C. 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 2025 flora and vegetation survey identified no significant habitat to comprise a high level of biodiversity.	May be 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 application area has records of nearby conservation significant fauna, including the Carnarvon shield-backed trapdoor spider and two Branchinella species (fairy shrimp). However, no significant fauna were recorded during the survey, and the habitat assessment determined the application area is not suitable habitat for the species (GHD, 2025).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The targeted flora survey found no significant flora species within the application area (GHD, 2025), therefore, no clearing of significant flora will occur.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
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 contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community	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 extent of the mapped vegetation type is 99.74%. this 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.	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 and separation from the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any local conservation areas.	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."*	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.		
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are susceptible to water erosion and salinity. Noting the location of the application area and the adjacent agricultural land use, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
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: Given no water courses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*

Appendix D. 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.

Condition	Description
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 E. Biological survey information excerpts

Strategen (2019) Gascoyne Food Bowl Initiative, Flora and Vegetation Survey

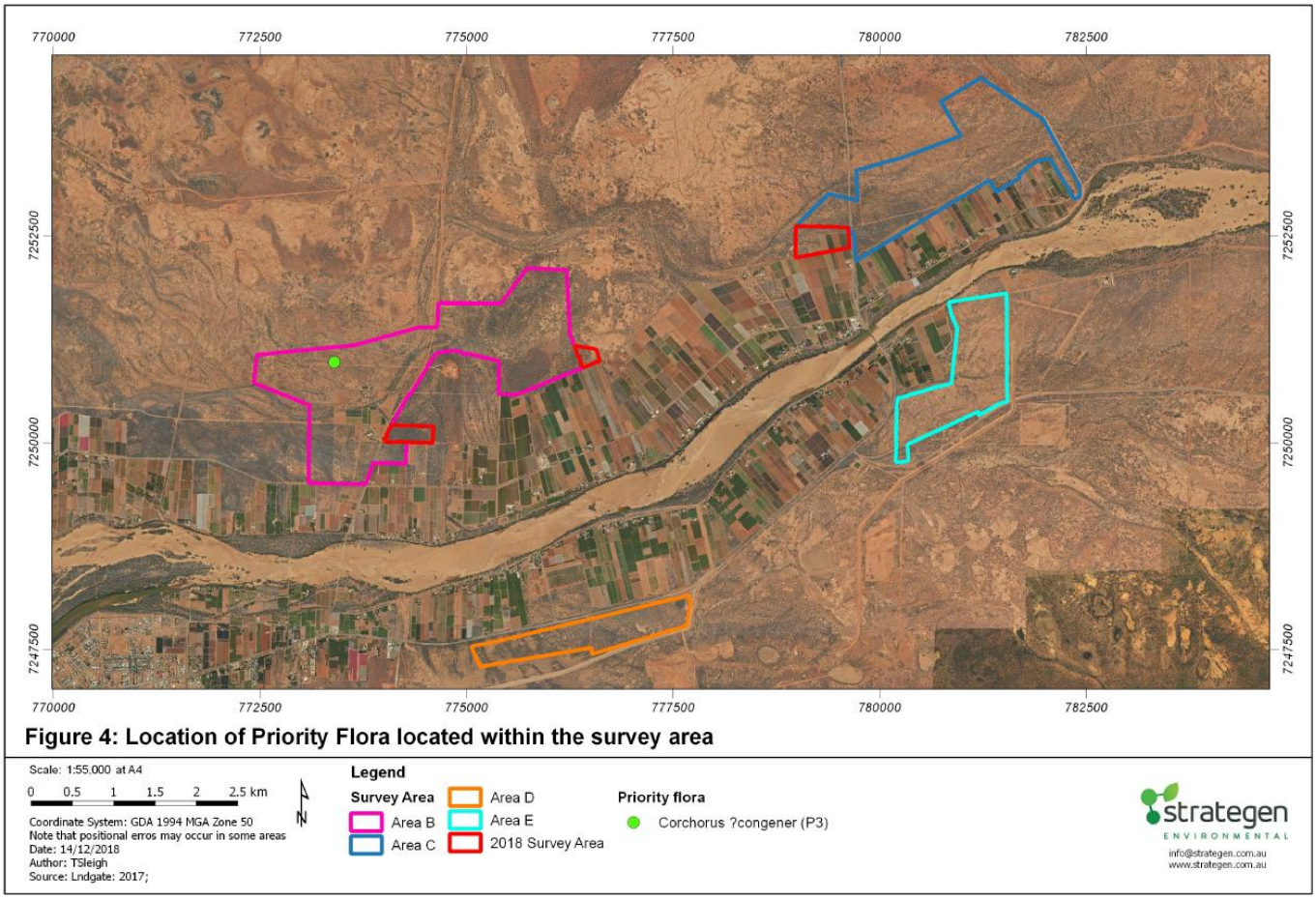


Figure 4: Location of Priority Flora located within the survey area

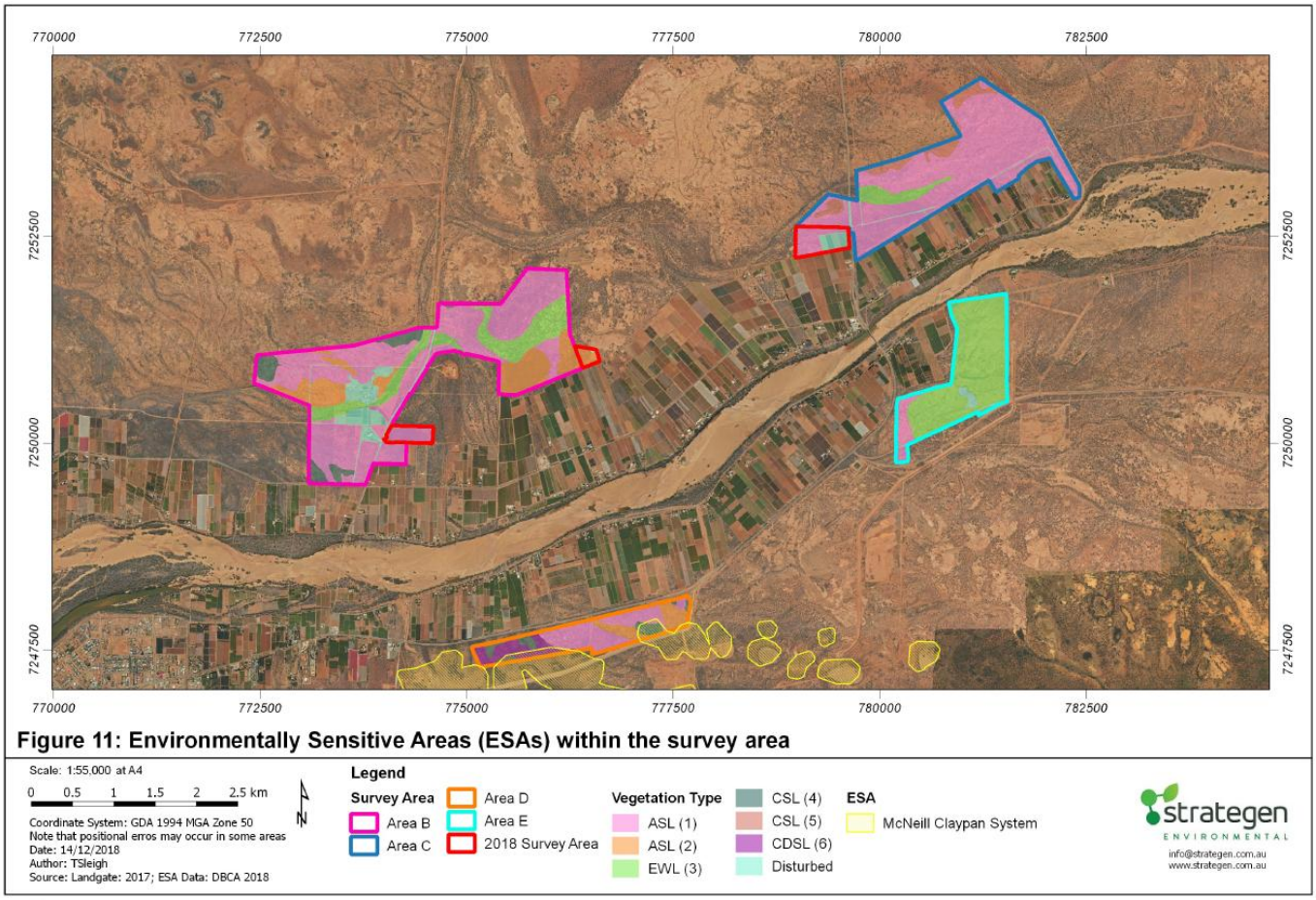
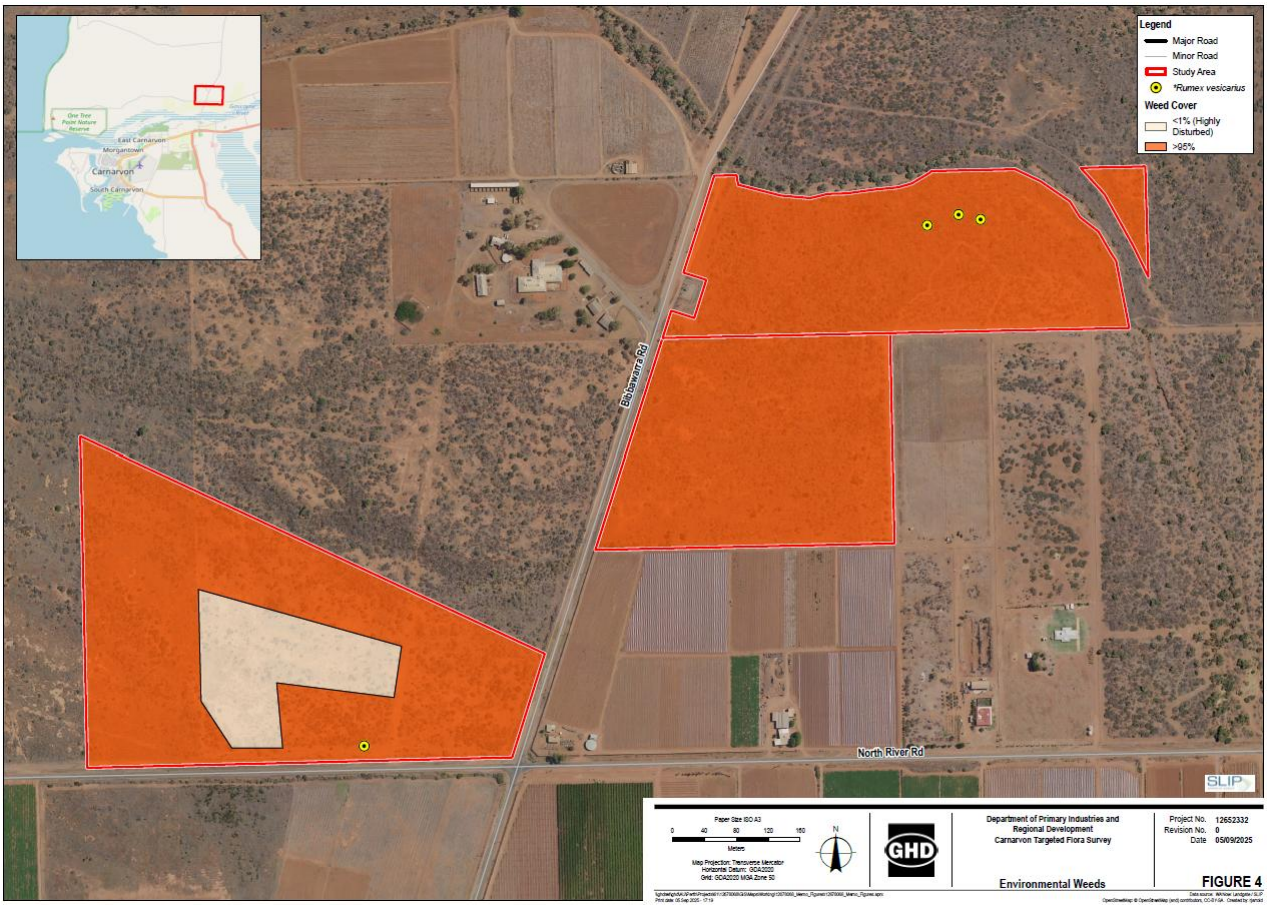


Figure 11: Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) within the survey area

Quadrat:	Q19	Described by:	Scott Hitchcock & Daniel Panickar	Date:	18/10/2016	Photograph
Location (GDA94):		MGA49	777459 mE	7247990	m N	
Habitat:		Claypan				
Soil:		Red-orange clay surface crust (90%), loose soil (10%)				
Rocks:		No rocks				
Mapped as:		*ASL* (2)				
Vegetation Type:		Open Tussock Grassland of Poaceae sp. indet, ***Cenchrus ciliaris**** with a Sparse Mid Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia* and *Scaevola spinescens*				
Vegetation Condition:		3 (Vegetation structure altered)				
Disturbances:		Weeds, grazing, road				
Fire Age:		None evident				
Species:		*Acacia synchronicia, Acacia tetragonophylla, Atriplex amnicola, Atriplex holocarpa, Atriplex semilunaris, Calandrinia polyandra,* ***Cenchrus ciliaris****, Chloris pumilio, Convolvulaceae sp. , Convolvulus clementii, Pluchea dunlopii,* Poaceae sp., *Rhagodia eremaea, Scaevola spinescens,* ***Sonchus oleraceus****, Tetragonia diptera*				

GHD, 2025, Targeted flora survey, Carnarvon



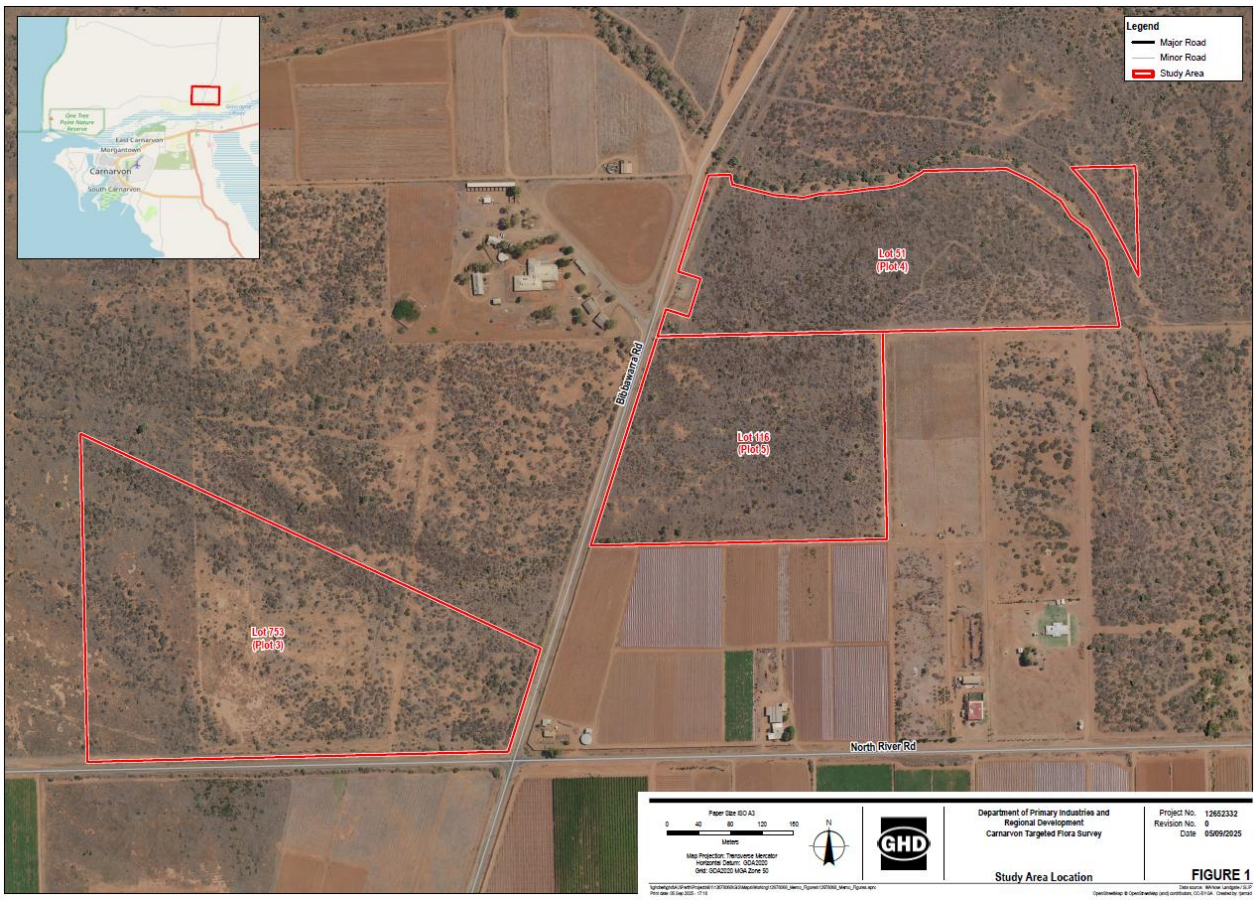

Legend
Major Road
Minor Road
Study Area
Lot 61
(Plot 4)
Lot 116
(Plot 5)
Lot 753
(Plot 3)
Babbamarra Rd
North River Rd
Carnarvon
East Carnarvon
Morgantown
South Carnarvon
Department of Primary Industries and
Regional Development
Carnarvon Targeted Flora Survey
Study Area Location
FIGURE 1
Project No. 12652332
Revision No. 0
Date 05/09/2025
GHD



Plate 1 Plot 3 Photo



Plate 2 Plot 5 Photo



Plate 3 Plot 4 Photo 1



Plate 4 Plot 4 Photo 2

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Statewide Vegetation Statistics

- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Divisions (DWER-029)
- Hydrography, Linear (Hierarchy) (DWER-031)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics (DPIRD-006)
- 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 (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems (DPIRD-064)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Conservation Covenants Western Australia (DPIRD-023)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- 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)

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