GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11402/1
Permit Holder:	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Duration of Permit:	From 03/10/2026 to 03/10/2034

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of constructing and providing access to groundwater bores.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 413775, Waterbank
Lot 730 on Deposited Plan 71878, Roebuck
Lot 1544 on Deposited Plan 75840, Roebuck
Denham Road Reserve (PIN 11731076), Waterbank
Lawrence Road Reserve (PIN 11731075), Waterbank
McGuigan Road Reserve (PIN 11731069), Waterbank

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.64 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 to 12 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 03/10/2031.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Directional clearing

The permit holder must:

(a) undertake *clearing* authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent *native vegetation*; and

(b) allow sufficient time for fauna present within the area to be cleared to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of *clearing*.

8. Fauna management – Greater Bilby pre-clearance survey

(a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, for the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 to 12 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) undertake surveys using transects spaced at 100 metres on average to identify evidence of use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*); and

  (ii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under *condition* 8(a)(i), undertake surveys using transects spaced at 20 metres on average, to identify evidence of burrows that may be suitable for greater bilby use.

(b) Where potential greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition* 8(a), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

  (ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.

(c) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 8(b), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) monitor the burrow with remote cameras for greater bilby use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;

  (ii) where no evidence of greater bilby activity is identified under condition 8(c)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as un-*occupied* and the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

    A. carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrow; and

    B. collapse and fill the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed that no native vertebrate fauna are present within the burrow.

(i) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under condition 8(c)(i), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

A. continue to monitor the burrow for greater bilby activity;

B. implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent greater bilby from exiting the burrow; and

C. once greater bilby displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under *condition* 8(c)(ii)A and *condition* 8(c)(ii)B.

(d) If the greater bilby has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under *condition* 8(c)(iii), the permit holder must, no earlier than seven (7) days prior to clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilby to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat*, in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

(e) Immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition* 8(d), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition* 8(c)(ii)A and *condition* 8(c)(ii)B.

(f) Within 24 hours prior to undertaking clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect the flagged burrow/s identified under *condition* 8(b)(i) for evidence of re-excavation by greater bilby.

(g) Where re-excavated greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition* 8(f), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

(ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied.*

(h) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 8(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) remove and relocate any identified greater bilby from the burrow to an area of *suitable habitat*, in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and

(ii) immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition* 8(h)(i), undertake the actions required under *condition* 8(c)(ii)A and *condition* 8(c)(ii)B.

(i) Where an un-*occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 8(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition* 8(c)(ii)A and *condition* 8(c)(ii)B.

(j) Where any greater bilby burrows are identified under *condition* 8(a) or 8(f), and any greater bilby is relocated under *condition* 8(d) or 8(h), the permit holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the *CEO* within two (2) months of undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit:

(i) the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *occupied,* using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under condition 8(c);

(iii) the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under conditions 8(c), 8(e), 8(h) and 8(i);

(iv) the date and time greater bilby are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under condition 8(c);

(v) the gender of each greater bilby captured and relocated under condition 8(d) or 8(h);

(vi) the location of any greater bilby captured under condition 8(d) or 8(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(vii) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are captured under condition 8(d) or 8(h);

(viii) the location of any greater bilby relocated under condition 8(d) or 8(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ix) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are relocated under condition 8(d) or 8(h);

(x) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated greater bilby under condition 8(d) or 8(h); and

(xi) a copy of the relevant authorisations for the relocation of greater bilby under condition 8(d) or 8(h).

9. Flora management

(a) The permit holder must ensure that:

(i) the boundaries of the areas to be cleared are identified and demarcated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and

(ii) all *recorded priority flora* individuals are identified and demarcated using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees.

(b) With the exception of 18 *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) individuals, when undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must not cause or allow the clearing of:

(i) *priority flora* individuals; or

(ii) vegetation within 2 metres of *priority flora* individuals.

(c) The permit holder must not cause or allow the clearing of vegetation within 10 metres of the *Jacquemontia sp. Broome* (A.A. Mitchell 3028) individual *recorded* at the following location:

Species	**Site**	**Easting**	**Northing**	**No. Individuals**
Jacquemontia sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028)	RB_D	431895	8017805	1

10. Revegetation and rehabilitation- temporary clearing

The permit holder must:

(a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil to one (1) metre in height in an area that has already been cleared;

(b) as soon as is practicable, and no later than 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for constructing and providing access to groundwater bores (i.e. areas of temporary works) by:

(i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding five metres land;

(ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;

(iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 10(a) on the cleared areas; and

(iv) undertake weed control activities on an 'as needed' basis to reduce weed cover within the cleared areas to no greater than the weed cover within the adjacent native vegetation.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. 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 5 (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6; and (g) actions taken in accordance with condition 7.
2.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 8	(a) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 8, including photographic records demonstrating the method and

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		number of remote camera monitoring nights; and (b) a copy of the *fauna specialist's* report in accordance with condition 8.
3.	In relation to priority flora management pursuant to condition 9	(a) actions undertaken in accordance with condition 9(a)(i); (b) the species name and location of each *priority flora* species individual identified and demarcated in accordance with condition 9(a)(ii), recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) actions taken to demarcate each *priority flora* species individual identified and demarcated in accordance with condition 9(a)(ii); (d) details of each *priority flora* species individual cleared and retained in accordance with condition 9(b), including species name, number and the location data using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings, (e) actions undertaken in accordance with condition 9(c).
4.	In relation to *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas for temporary works pursuant to conditions 10	the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; (c) the date that the area was *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; (d) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and (e) any weed control activities undertaken within the area revegetated and rehabilitated.

12. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 11 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 administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
dieback	means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
occupied	means currently occupied, or where uncertainty exists, potentially occupied, by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia (as amended).
recorded	means individuals of those *priority flora* species found within the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1-12 of Schedule 1, or within a 20 metre radius of these areas, during the following survey: Broome and La Grange Targeted Significant Flora Survey 2026, dated 23 July 2026 (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2026).
rehabilitate/ rehabilitated/ rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area
revegetate/	means the re-establishment of a cover of local provenance native

Term	Definition
revegetated/revegetation	vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
suitable habitat for greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)	means habitat known to support *Macrotis lagotis* within the known current distribution of the species. In the Pilbara this often includes low *Acacia* spp over hummock grasses and Mulga shrubland on a substrate that is suitable for burrowing such as sand, sandy clay or sandy gravel) (Spectrum, 2025)
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

Digitally signed by Caitlin Conway
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Caitlin Conway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

10 September 2026

Schedule 1



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



Figure 2. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

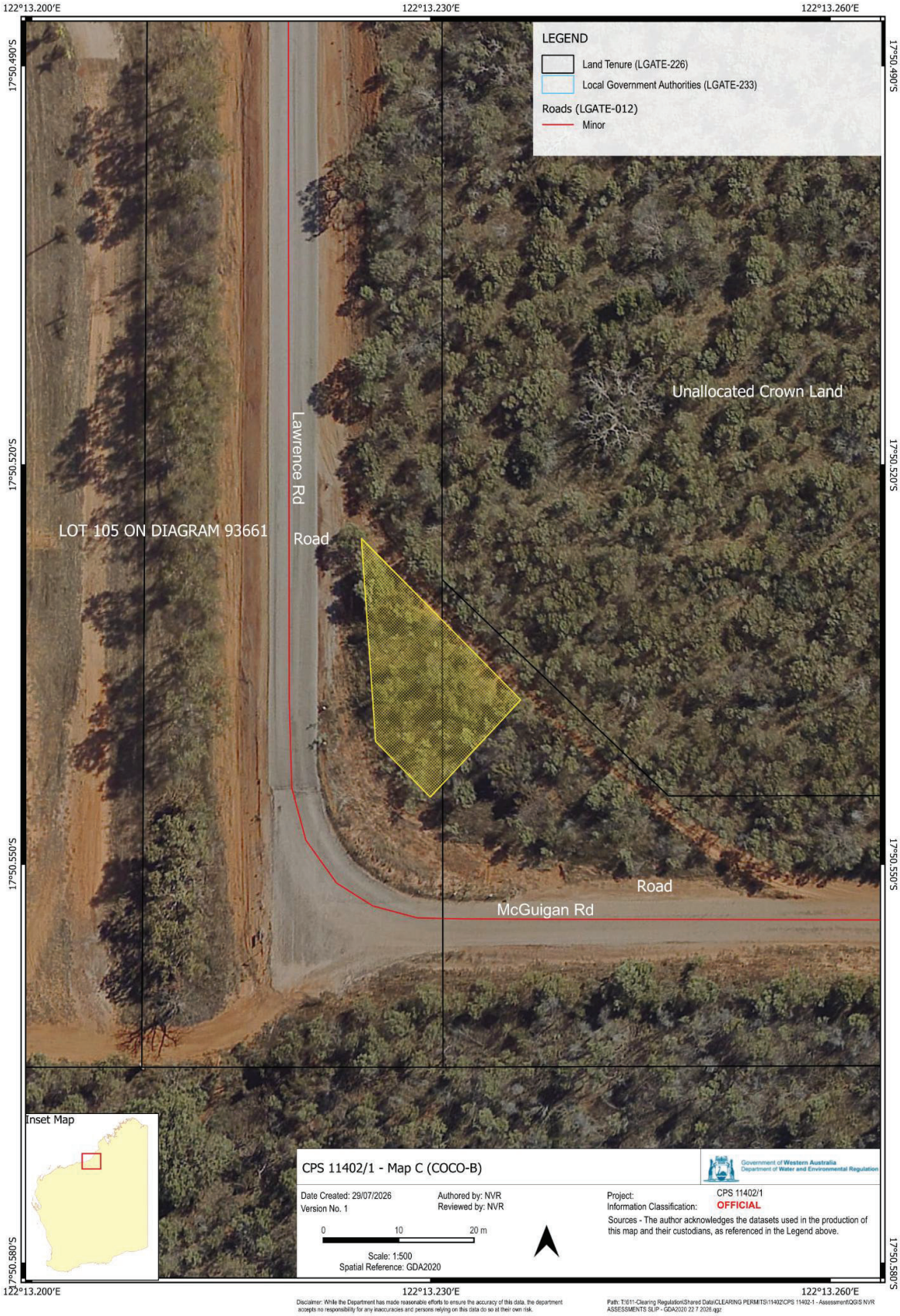


Figure 3. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 4. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 5. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 6. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 7. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

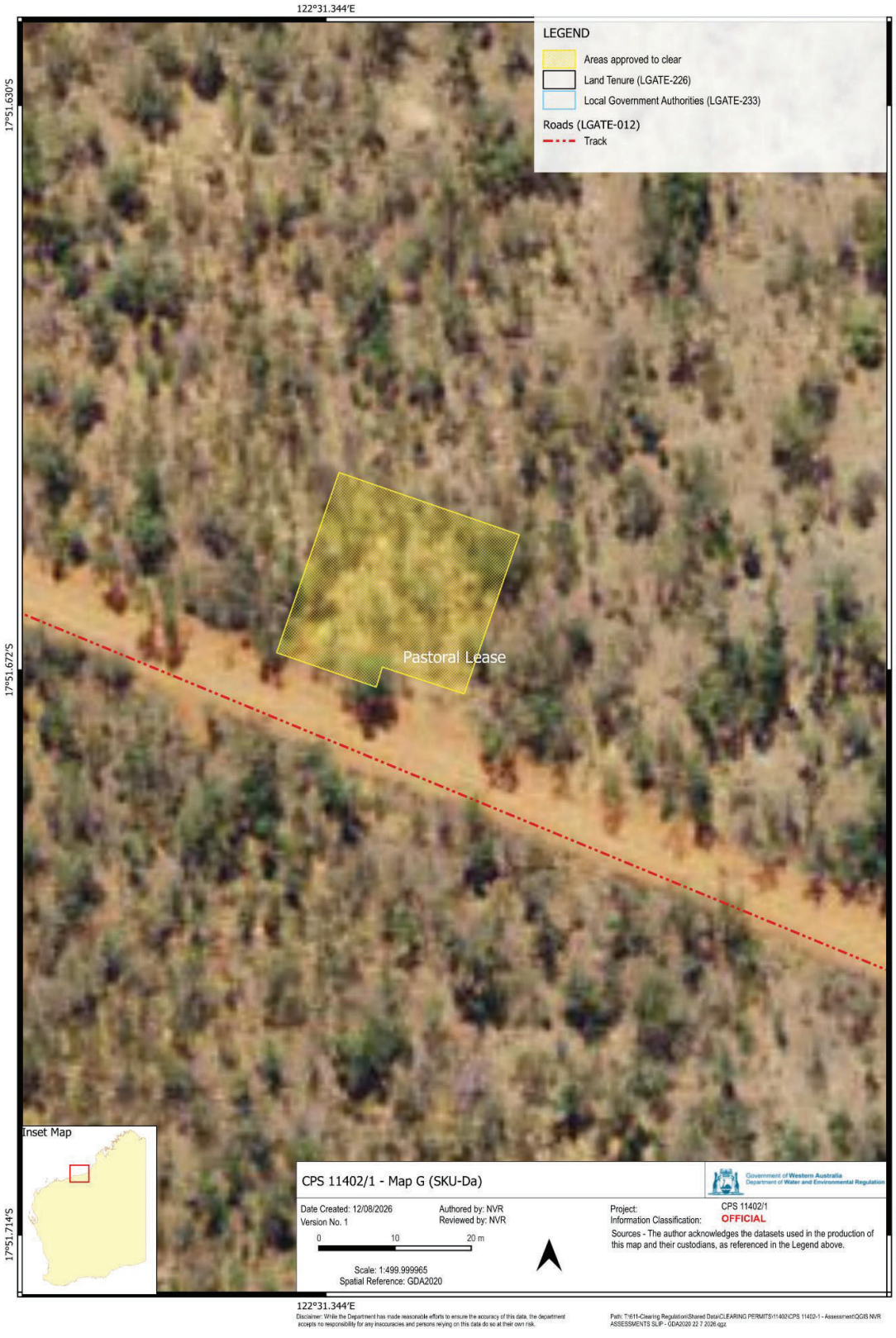


Figure 8. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 9. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 10. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 11. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Figure 12: Maps 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 11402/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Application received:	18 December 2025
Application area:	0.64 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Providing appropriate access to the specified bore site locations and a safe work area for drilling crews and the storage of equipment and machinery
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 413775 Lot 730 on Deposited Plan 71878 Lot 1544 on Deposited Plan 75840 Denham Road Reserve (PIN 11731076) Lawrence Road Reserve (PIN 11731075) McGuigan Road Reserve (PIN 11731069)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Broome
Localities (suburb/s):	Waterbank and Roebuck

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is within 12 distinct areas comprising 0.64 hectares (refer to Figures 1-12, Section 1.5). The proposed clearing will enable appropriate access to 12 designated bore locations and establish a secure working environment for drilling personnel, as well as space for equipment and machinery storage. Each bore pad measures 25 by 25 meters or less. The proposed clearing bore locations are named as COCO-A, COCO-B, RB-Ab, RB-D, SKU-A, SKU-Aa, SKU-C, SKU-Da, ROESWIM-01-26, THASWIM-01-26 and THASWIM-02-26, SKU-D (DWER,2025).

During the assessment process, the application was revised following a flora survey that identified locally significant priority flora species within bore locations RB_A, RB_C and SKU_Ca. The applicant requested that these bore locations be removed from the current permit. The applicant also modified the boundaries of the several areas to avoid impacts to priority flora individuals (refer to Section 3.1). These changes resulted in a reduction of the total clearing area from 0.83 to 0.64 hectares (DWER, 2026d).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	10 September 2026
Decision area:	0.64 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) initially advertised the application for 21 days and readvertised for 7 days following changes to the original application. 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),
- Broome and La Grange Targeted Significant Flora Survey 2026 (see Appendix E),
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C),
- other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3.3) being;
    - advice received from the Shire of Broome;
    - advice received from the Northwest Region water team
    - Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd access approval

The Delegated Officer also took into account that the proposed monitoring bores are part of the Statewide Seawater Interface Monitoring Study. The department's Groundwater Resource Science team confirmed that the bores will be drilled into the unconfined aquifer for monitoring purposes only. This is a departmental priority project for groundwater monitoring (DWER, 2026e).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing:

- will result in the loss of up to 18 individuals of *Polymeria sp*. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759) (Priority 3);
- may have indirect impacts to priority flora species adjacent to the bore pad locations (29 individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759), one individual of *Jacquemontia* sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 302) individual and four *Bonamia oblongifolia* individuals);
- will result in the loss of 0.052 hectares of native vegetation that is representative of Kimberley Vegetation Association 73 (Priority 3) ecological community;
- may impact greater bilby and other terrestrial fauna individuals should they occur within the application area at the time of clearing, noting they may periodically utilise the site; and
- 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.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead have long-term adverse impacts on environmental values and can be minimised and managed to unlikely 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
- pre-clearance surveys to identify greater bilby within the application area, and the relocation of any individuals recorded
- demarcate the clearing area to prevent inadvertent clearing of priority flora and vegetation outside the application area
- retain a 10-metre buffer area of vegetation around one individual of *Jacquemontia sp. Broome* (A.A. Mitchell 3028) recorded 8 metres away from one of the proposed clearing areas

- revegetate and rehabilitate areas cleared for temporary works within 12 months following the proposed clearing

1.5. Site maps



Figure 1. Map of the application area – bore site COCO-A. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 2. Map of the application area – bore site RB-Ab. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 3. Map of the application area - bore site COCO-B. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 4. Map of the application area - bore site RB-D. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 5. Map of the application area – bore site SKU-A. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 6. Map of the application area – bore site SKU-Aa. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 7. Map of the application area - bore site SKU-C. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

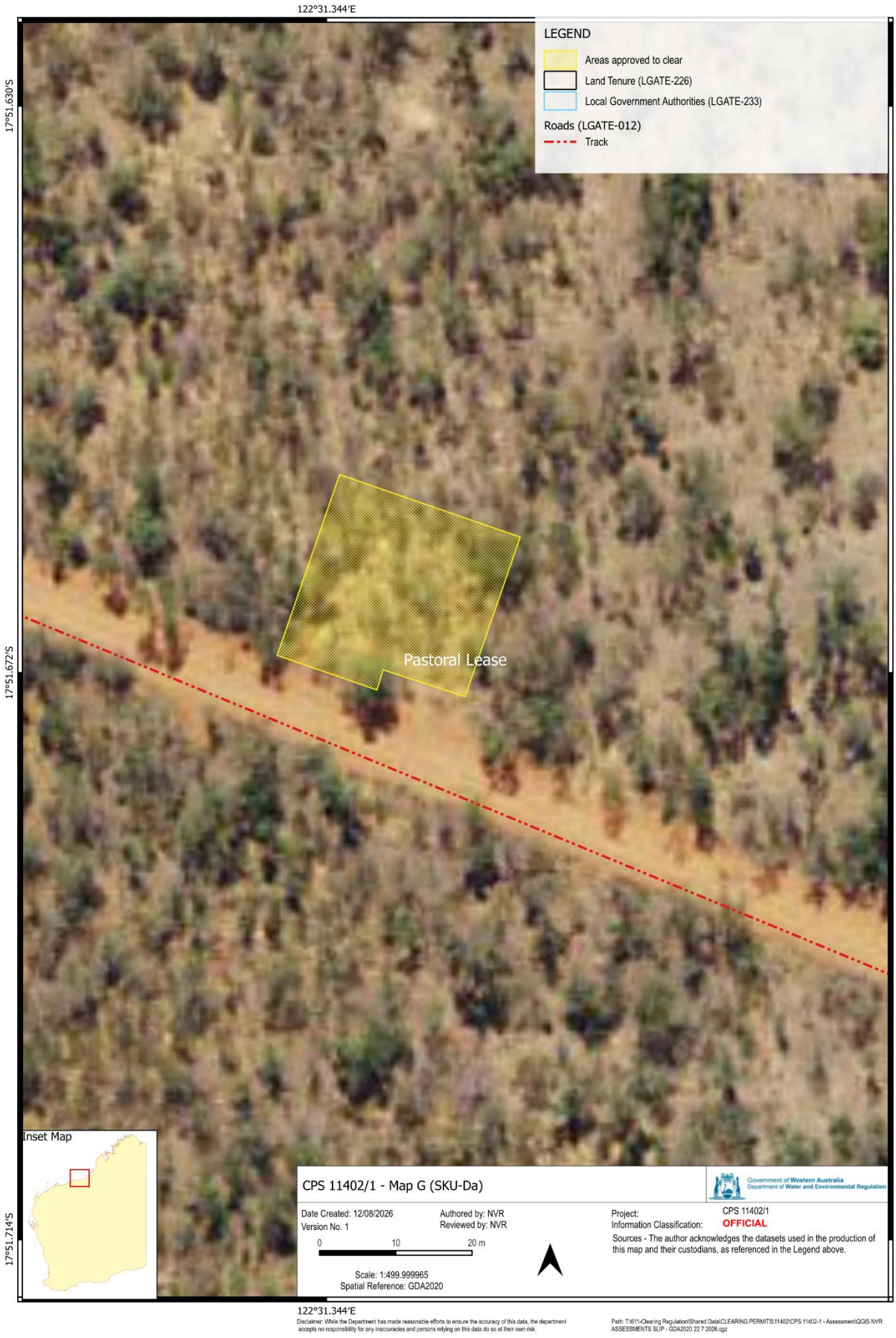


Figure 8. Map of the application area – bore site SKU-Da. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 9. Map of the application area - bore site ROESWIM-01-26. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 10. Map of the application area – bore site THASWIM-02-26. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



Figure 11. Map of the application area – bore site THASWIM-01-26. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

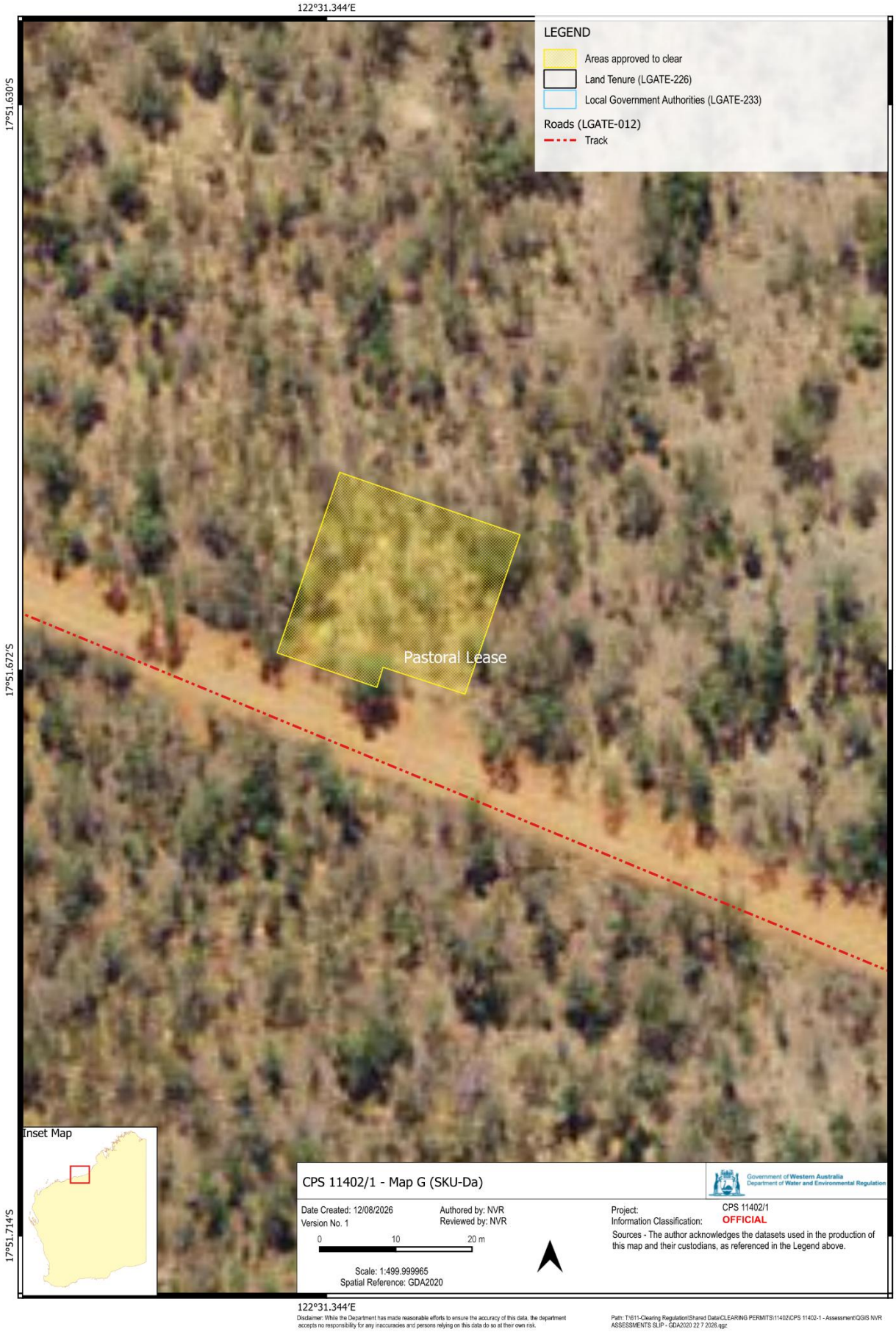


Figure 12. Map of the application area - bore site SKU-Da. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

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 polluter pays principle
- 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)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*

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)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant provided the following evidence that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures have been applied to minimise impacts on native vegetation (DWER,2026a):

- alternative bore locations were considered; however, due to monitoring requirements, the bores must be located close to the identified natural groundwater areas.
- environmental impacts have been minimised by using existing tracks and, where possible, avoiding the clearing of more established vegetation and trees.
- the proposed bore sites are adjacent to existing tracks or sealed roads, limiting clearing to the bore pads and associated equipment areas.
- all drill sites have been inspected in the field, and locations were adjusted where necessary to avoid clearing large trees or dense vegetation.
- depending on the drilling contractor's requirements, the final cleared area may be smaller than the applied 25 x 25 m area.
- where necessary, machinery will be cleaned before use and washed down between sites to reduce the risk of weed spread.

The applicant also advised that, while a 10-metre squared area will need to remain cleared around each borehead to provide ongoing access to the bore, they will revegetate the surrounding areas that only require temporary clearing for bore installation.

During the assessment process, in response to a request from the department, the applicant undertook a targeted flora survey (Biota, 2026). Following this, the applicant removed three bore pad locations (RB_B, RB_C and SKU-Ca) from the application area to avoid impacts to Priority 1 and Priority 2 flora individuals, and modified the boundaries of SKU_A, SKU_C, SKU_D, SKU_Da and THASWIM-01-26 to avoid several Priority 3 flora individuals.

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 **Error! Reference source not found.**) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora, vegetation and fauna). 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 (biodiversity) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

Flora

The department's desktop assessment identified that conservation-significant flora was likely to occur at the proposed bore pad locations. The flora likelihood analysis found that several priority flora species listed under the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) may occur within the proposed clearing area and adjacent areas. In response, the applicant undertook a targeted flora survey of the proposed bore locations and a 20-metre buffer. The survey recorded one threatened flora species listed under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and four Priority flora species listed by DBCA. They are listed as below.

- *Seringia exastia* (critically endangered)
- *Jacquemontia* sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028) (Priority 1)
- *Corymbia paractia* (Priority 2)
- *Bonamia oblongifolia* (Priority 3)
- *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759) (Priority 3)

Nine *Seringia exastia* individuals were recorded between approximately 1 metre and 21 matres from the THASWIM-01-26 application area (Biota, 2026). Although the proposed clearing may indirectly impact these individuals through spread of weeds, dust or by impacting stored seed, given that *Seringia exastia* is not a threatened species under the BC Act or under DBCA listed priority flora species, the impacts of clearing of this individual are unlikely to be significant. However, noting that it is a threatened species under the EPBC Act, it is the applicant's responsibility to confirm with DCCEEW whether the proposed clearing of this individual needs to be referred to DCCEEW under the EPBC Act.

***Jacquemontia* sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028) (Priority 1)**

Jacquemontia sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028) is endemic to the Dampier Peninsula bioregion, with known records largely concentrated around the Broome area. It is typically associated with pindan vegetation communities occurring on well-drained red sandy soils and has been recorded within open shrubland and woodland habitats. Suitable habitat generally comprises relatively intact pindan vegetation on flat to gently undulating plains (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

54 individuals of this species were recorded in the wider survey area by Biota (2026), however only one individual was recorded within a 20-metre radius (approximately 8 metres away) of the current application area, at RB_D. A condition has been placed on the permit requiring the applicant to retain a 10-metre buffer around the recorded individual. Also noting some revegetation will occur in temporarily cleared areas around the edge of the RB_D bore site, which will help protect this individual in the long term, it is unlikely that this individual will be significantly impacted through indirect impacts (e.g. spread of weeds, dust or by impacting stored seed) from the clearing. Furthermore, noting the 53 other individuals identified during the survey, it is unlikely any impacts to this individual will impact the species at a local or regional level.

***Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) (Priority 3)**

Polymeria sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) is a Priority 3 flora taxon listed by DBCA. The species is known from the Dampierland and Great Sandy Desert bioregions, including the Pindanland, Fitzroy Trough and McLarty subregions of the Kimberley. The species is associated with pindan vegetation communities occurring on red-orange sandy soils and flat sandy plains. Habitat records indicate that it occurs within open shrubland and woodland vegetation on well-drained sandy substrates, including relatively intact pindan communities. It is a decumbent herb with hairy leaves, and pink flowers that have two long linear stigmas (Western Australian Herbarium (1998-).

A total of 61 individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) were recorded in the wider survey area by Biota (2026) from eight of the original bore sites. Of these, 18 individuals are within the current application areas, and an additional 29 individuals are within a 20-metre radius of the current application areas. Given that six records of this species are present within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), 394 individuals of this species were recorded by GHD (2024) for a survey for a clearing permit application 6.3 kilometres east of the application area, and that this species was recorded in eight bore pad locations, it is understood that this species is common in the region and is likely to occur within the extensive surrounding pindan vegetation. As such, clearing of 18 individuals and potential indirect impacts to a further 29 individuals is considered unlikely to impact this species at a local or regional level. A condition to demarcate the clearing area will prevent inadvertent clearing of individuals outside of the application area and conditions to revegetate temporarily cleared areas will limit indirect impacts outside of the application area.

***Corymbia paractia* (Priority 2)**

Corymbia paractia is a small tree endemic to the Broome area of the Dampierland bioregion. The species is associated with skeletal sandy soils occurring within the transition zone between coastal beach dunes and red pindan soils. Suitable habitat includes relatively intact coastal vegetation and pindan communities on well-drained sandy substrates adjacent to coastal dune systems. This species was recorded within the survey area by Biota (2026), but not within the current application areas or their buffers. As such, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact this species.

***Bonamia oblongifolia* (Priority 3)**

Bonamia oblongifolia is a perennial herb or subshrub known from the Dampierland bioregion, including the Broome and Pindanland areas. The species occurs on sandy and gravelly soils and is associated with pindan vegetation communities on well-drained substrates. Suitable habitat includes relatively intact shrubland and woodland vegetation on sandy plains and low rises where native vegetation condition has been retained (Western Australian Herbarium (1998-).

Biota (2026) recorded five individuals of this species in the wider survey area from four of the original bore pad locations. Of these, four individuals are within a 20-metre radius of the current application areas. Although only six records of this species have been recorded by Western Australian Herbarium (1998-), several of these are within the southern Dampier Peninsula, and previous advice from DBCA (2024) indicates this species is likely widespread across the La Grange area to the south of the application areas. Noting its habitat preferences, this species is considered likely to occur within the extensive surrounding pindan vegetation. As such, potential indirect impacts to four individuals outside the application area is considered unlikely to impact this species at a local or regional level. A condition to demarcate the clearing area will prevent inadvertent clearing of these individuals and conditions to revegetate temporarily cleared areas will limit indirect impacts to these individuals.

Ecological Communities
0.052 hectares of the application area, at bore site ROESWIM-01-26, is mapped within the Kimberley Vegetation Association 73 Priority 3 priority ecological community (PEC) (Biota, 2026). The total extent of this ecological community is calculated as 73,502.8 hectares. The area of PEC being cleared is 0.0000007 percent of its current extent. As such, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant impacts to this PEC. Conditions to manage weeds and to revegetate temporarily cleared areas will minimise impacts to surrounding PEC vegetation.

Kimberley Vegetation Association 770, a Priority 1 ecological community, is mapped approximately 8 metres from bore location COCO_A. However, the survey data does not indicate that this ecological community occurs within the application area. The survey also indicates that the vegetation at this bore site is completely degraded and largely comprises weed species. Given the condition of the site, the vegetation is unlikely to be representative of this ecological community.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing:

- will result in the loss of up to 18 individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759) (Priority 3);
- may have indirect impacts to priority flora species adjacent to the bore pad locations (29 individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759), one individual of *Jacquemontia* sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 302) individual and four *Bonamia oblongifolia* individuals);
- will result in the loss of 0.052 hectares of native vegetation that is representative of Kimberley Vegetation Association 73 (Priority 3) ecological community.

For the reasons described above, impacts to the above are unlikely to be significant.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to threatened flora and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the Commonwealth Department of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following conditions were imposed on the clearing permit to mitigate the impacts of the proposed clearing:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- demarcate the clearing area
- retain a 10-metre buffer area of vegetation around one individual of *Jacquemontia* sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028) recorded 8 metres away from one of the proposed clearing areas
- revegetate and rehabilitate areas cleared for temporary works within 12 months following the proposed clearing.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (b)

A review of available GIS databases identified 100 conservation-significant fauna species recorded within a 50-kilometre radius of the application area. A fauna likelihood assessment determined that the following conservation-significant species are likely to occur within the application area. This assumption is based on the habitat requirements, distribution, mapped vegetation types and condition of the vegetation.

- Greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) (Vulnerable)
- Grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (Vulnerable)
- Northwestern coastal Ctenotus *(Ctenotus angusticeps*) (Priority 3)
- Spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland) (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti*) (Vulnerable)
- Dampierland plain slider (*Lerista separanda*) (Endangered)
- Dampierland burrowing snake (*Simoselaps minimus*) (Endangered)
- Dampier Peninsula goanna (*Varanus sparnus*) (Specially Protected Migratory Species, Priority 1)
- Northern brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) (Specially Protected Migratory Species)
- Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Vulnerable)

58 Migratory waterbird species

Greater bilby

The greater bilby is known from numerous records within the local area, the closest of which is 290 metres from the application area. greater bilby largely occupies three major vegetation types; open tussock grassland on uplands and hills, mulga woodland or shrubland growing on ridges and rises, and hummock grassland in plains and alluvial areas (DCCEEW, 2023). The distribution of the greater bilby is highly fragmented in Western Australia (Pavey, 2006). Potential greater bilby habitat within the application area consists of pindan woodland, shrubland and hummock grassland vegetation on deep sandy soils characteristic of the Broome and Bidyadanga area. These habitats provide suitable burrowing substrates, foraging resources and shelter opportunities for the species.

Any area where the species is known or likely to occur is considered habitat critical to the survival of the greater bilby (DCCEEW, 2023). Considering the proximity of nearby records, the presence of suitable habitat across all application areas, and the nomadic and transient nature of the species, the proposed clearing is not considered to result in a significant residual impact to greater bilby habitat. However, due to the reasonable likelihood that greater bilbies may utilise the application areas at the time of clearing, a pre-clearance fauna survey and the implementation of appropriate fauna management actions are required to ensure clearing activities do not result in harm to individuals.

Grey falcon

Potential grey falcon habitat within the application area includes vegetation communities typical of the Broome region, such as pindan shrublands, open woodlands and grasslands. These habitats may provide foraging opportunities, particularly where open areas support small bird populations. However, suitable breeding habitat is unlikely to occur within the application area, as the species generally nests in tall trees along watercourses, major drainage lines and river systems in arid and semi-arid landscapes (DCCEEW, 2026). Given the broad extent of similar habitat in the

surrounding landscape, the application area is considered to be a small part of a wider habitat network available to the species and impacts to this species are unlikely to be significant.

Northwestern coastal ctenotus

The application area supports vegetation typical of the Broome and Bidyadanga region, with most sites occurring on pindan plains dominated by *Acacia eriopoda* tall shrubland, scattered *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* and *Corymbia* species, and a ground layer of *Triodia caelestialis* hummock grassland and tussock grasses. These sandy substrates provide habitat features consistent with those used by the species, including native ground cover, shelter and foraging habitat (Maryan et al., 2013). The northwestern coastal ctenotus is considered likely to occur in the local area and may occur within the application area where suitable sandy pindan habitat is present. However, given the small extent of the proposed clearing in the context of the large extent of similar vegetation in the surrounding area, significant impacts to the species are unlikely.

Spectacled hare-wallaby

The spectacled hare-wallaby inhabits open woodlands, shrublands and hummock grasslands and typically shelters in dense tussocks during the day, and forages at night on shrubs, grasses and herbs, usually within proximity to shelter sites (Ingleby and Westoby,1992). While this species has not been recorded within any of the application areas, it may transiently occur on site given the proximity of known records, high mobility of the species and habitat suitability of the application areas. However, given the low extent of the proposed clearing and presence of extensive similar habitat in the local area, it is not considered likely that any of the application areas contain significant habitat for the species.

Dampierland plain slider

The dampierland plain slider is known only from the dampierland bioregion and is poorly known. There are 105 records of the species, with the closest record located 11.87 kilometres from the application area. Given the small extent of proposed clearing and the broad availability of similar habitat in the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact significant habitat for this species.

Dampierland burrowing snake

The dampierland burrowing snake is associated with pindan woodland in the dampierland bioregion and is poorly known. There are 60 records of the species, with the closest record located 11.87 kilometres from the application area; all records are from before 2010. Given the small extent of proposed clearing and the broad availability of similar habitat in the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact significant habitat for this species.

Dampier Peninsula goanna

This species is endemic to the central Dampier Peninsula in the Kimberley region and prefers areas with loose soils suitable for burrowing, including pindan shrublands and open woodlands on sandy soils. There are 180 records of the species, with the closest record located 12.46 kilometres from the application area. Given the small extent of proposed clearing and the broad availability of similar habitat in the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact significant habitat for this species.

Peregrine falcon

The peregrine falcon is found in most habitats, from rainforests to the arid zone, and at most altitudes, from the coast to alpine areas (Australian Museum, 2019). It requires abundant prey and secure nest sites and prefers coastal and inland cliffs or open woodlands near water and may even be found nesting on high city buildings. This species is widespread and highly mobile and is found in various habitats (Australian Museum, 2019). Given the highly mobile nature of the species, its large home range, and the extensive availability of similar foraging habitat throughout the surrounding landscape, the application area is unlikely to represent an important habitat resource. Therefore, while the peregrine falcon may utilise the application area for foraging or overfly the site, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Migratory waterbirds

The 58 migratory waterbird species protected under international agreements may use the application area for foraging or as temporary habitat while moving between coastal habitats. Most of these species do not breed in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2015). Given the application area's proximity to Roebuck Bay and the Roebuck Plains System wetlands, these birds may use the area for foraging or as transient habitat during migration.

Noting the small extent of clearing and the availability of suitable habitat in the local and regional area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on breeding, foraging or roosting habitat for conservation-significant waterbird species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on significant habitat for any conservation listed fauna species given the small extent of vegetation to be cleared within an extensive local and regional extent and the fact that the clearing areas are concentrated along existing tracks. However, the proposed clearing may result in fauna fatalities should individuals occur within the application area at the time of clearing. Conducting clearing in a slow, progressive manner from one direction to the other will allow any fauna present to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

Outcome

To address the above impacts and reduce any potential risks to fauna, the clearing permit contains conditions that require the applicant to undertake the following management measures:

- slow, progressive, one-directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity
- identify, remove (if present), and relocate (if necessary) greater bilby from the application area to an area of suitable habitat

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Shire of Broome advised the department that it had considered the proposed clearing application and had no comments on the purpose permit, noting that no environmental reports had been provided. The Shire's Engineering Department has also granted temporary access to several sites within local road reserves (Shire of Broome, 2026).

The department's Northwest Region (NWR) advised that the application area is within the Broome Groundwater Area and Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The proposed monitoring bores form part of the Statewide Seawater Interface Monitoring Study. The Water Licensing team consulted the Groundwater Resource Science team, which confirmed that the bores will be drilled into the unconfined aquifer for monitoring only. Monitoring bores drilled in unconfined aquifers for this purpose are exempt from licensing under the RIWI Act. Accordingly, the monitoring bores associated with CPS 11402/1 do not require a section 26D or 5C licence. The proposed clearing does not involve water abstraction or land use development, other than maintaining access to the wellheads for monitoring visits. It is therefore unlikely to increase impacts on groundwater or surface water resources (DWER, 2026e).

The NWR team also acknowledged that the groundwater resources in the Broome and La Grange area are under increasing pressure from agricultural, industrial, and town water supply abstraction. Data from the Seawater Interface Monitoring Bores will support allocation planning and adaptive water licence management in the region, helping to protect the resource and coastal groundwater-dependent ecosystems. The NWR considers the proposal is unlikely to impact on the quality of water resources provided clearing and drilling activities are undertaken in accordance with best practice (DWER, 2026e).

The application area is located within the boundaries of the registered area of interest of the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, acting on behalf of the Rubibi Community. The Rubibi Community and the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC were invited to provided comment on the clearing permit application under section 24KA of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). No comments were received.

As the proposed clearing is within Shire of Broome Road reserve and pastoral stations owned by traditional owners, the applicant has undertaken the required consultation and obtained verbal and written approval to carry out the proposed bore construction works. Most bore locations are on land managed by Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd, which has granted temporary access for drill pad establishment, equipment movement, drilling, bore construction and bore development associated with the proposed Seawater Interface Project. Nyamba Buru Yawuru does not object to the proposed works, subject to the conditions below:

- DWER, its employees, agents or contractors must not access the areas or commence any works prior to the area and the proposed work being subject and cleared (with or without conditions) by Yawuru heritage assessment processes
- any cleared works or access will be subject to the terms of the collaborative agreement between Yawuru and DWER dated 25 January 2022

- any cleared works or access will be carried out the 2026 calendar year;
- DWER, its employees, agents or contractors agents must comply with every reasonable direction of Nyamba Buru Yawuru, its officers and, in respect of the Roebuck Plains Station sites, station management
- all required environmental, heritage, clearing and statutory approvals are to be obtained prior to commencement of works or access.
- as far as practicable, any areas disturbed because of the works or access are to be reinstated to a condition generally consistent with the pre-works state (DWER, 2026c).

Several 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

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Changes to three bore locations requested following the heritage survey 9 June 2026	RB-Ab, SKU-A and SKU-C bore locations moved as requested.
Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd.'s approval for land access provided on 23 June 2026	This has been considered during the assessment process (Section 3.3)
In response to the department's Request for further information, applicant provided the targeted flora survey details on 24 July 2024	Survey details incorporated into the assessment and flora management conditioned in the permit (Section 3.2)
Request for removal of three bore pad locations following the targeted flora survey were received on 14 July 2026	This has been considered during the assessment process (Section 3.2.1)

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The areas proposed to be cleared form part of an extensive tract of native vegetation within Western Australia's extensive land use zone. The sites are adjacent to existing tracks or sealed roads within the Shire of Broome and are located within 50 kilometres of Broome. The application comprises 12 borehole sites, including three within Shire of Broome Road reserves, seven within Roebuck Station and two within Thangoo Station (DWER, 2026a). The proposed borehole sites are located near the Roebuck Bay and Roebuck Plains System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. The proposed monitoring bores form part of the Statewide Seawater Interface Monitoring Study. Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	No formal ecological linkages are mapped within the local area, or the application area. Given the extensive amount of vegetation remaining in the local area, the application areas do not substantially contribute to local ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	The 12 bore sites are located near DBCA legislated lands and waters, including a section 5(1)(h) reserve for conservation, recreation, and traditional and customary Aboriginal use and enjoyment, and Roebuck Bay Marine Park, which is managed for conservation purposes. The closest occurrence is the DBCA legislated lands and waters, including a section 5(1)(h) reserve for conservation, recreation, and traditional and customary Aboriginal use and enjoyment which is 34 metres south to the bore site RB-Ab.
Vegetation description	Broome and La Grange Targeted Significant Flora Survey 2026 (Biota, 2026) indicates bore sites are having following vegetation description and habit types within the application area.

Bore site	Vegetation description	Habitat Type
COCO-A	Tussock grasslands including weed species	Swale on the side of the road.
COCO-B	*Acacia eriopoda* tall open shrubland over herbland.	Undulating plain
RB-Ab	Acacia *eriopoda* scattered tall shrubs	Flat pindan plain

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>RB-D</td><td>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii, Corymbia bella, Corymbia paractia low open woodland over Acacia colei tall open shrubland</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>ROESWIM-01</td><td>low open woodland and open tussock grassland.</td><td>Seasonally inundated plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_A</td><td>Acacia eriopoda tall shrubland and tussock and hummock grassland</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_Aa</td><td>Acacia eriopoda tall shrubland and hummock grassland.</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_C</td><td>Acacia eriopoda tall closed shrubland over scattered hummock grasses.</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_D</td><td>Acacia eriopoda tall shrubland over scattered hummock grasses.</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_Da</td><td>low open woodland over Acacia tumida tall open shrubland</td><td>Flat pindan plain, slower draining.</td></tr>
<tr><td>THASWIM-01</td><td>Acacia eriopoda tall shrubland over open hummock grassland.</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
<tr><td>THASWIM-02</td><td>Acacia monticola closed shrubland over annual grassland</td><td>Flat pindan plain</td></tr>
</table>

Representative photos are available in Appendix E.

This is consistent with the mapped vegetation types:
• Dampierland_750, which is described as Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass & curly spinifex
• Mandora coastal plain_73, which is described as Grasslands, short bunch grass savanna, grass; salt water grassland (Sporobolus virginicus)
• Dampierland_699, which is described as Shrublands, pindan; Acacia eripoda shrubland with scattered low bloodwood (Eucalyptus dicromophloia) & E. setosa over soft & curly spinifex on sandplain (Shepherd et al, 2001)

The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 99 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>Broome and La Grange Targeted Significant Flora Survey 2026 (Biota, 2026) indicates vegetation within the bore sites are in completely degraded to excellent (Trudgen, 1991) condition.

<table>
<tr><th>Bore site</th><th>Vegetation Condition</th><th>Bore site</th><th>Vegetation Condition</th></tr>
<tr><td>COCO-A</td><td>Completely Degraded</td><td>SKU_Aa</td><td>Very Good to Excellent</td></tr>
<tr><td>COCO-B</td><td>Degraded</td><td>SKU_C</td><td>Very Good to Excellent</td></tr>
<tr><td>RB-Ab</td><td>Good</td><td>SKU_D</td><td>Very Good</td></tr>
<tr><td>RB-D</td><td>Very Good to Excellent</td><td>SKU_Da</td><td>Good</td></tr>
<tr><td>ROESWIM-01</td><td>Good</td><td>THASWIM-01</td><td>Very Good</td></tr>
<tr><td>SKU_A</td><td>Very Good to Excellent</td><td>THASWIM-02</td><td>Excellent</td></tr>
</table>

The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.

Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The Broome area has a tropical climate and is characterised by hot wet summers (December to March) and a dry season (April to November). Rainfall is generally received during the summer via unpredictable tropical downpours and cyclonic low-pressure systems.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description and Land Degradation risk</td><td>The soil is mapped as:
Yeeda System described as red sandplains supporting pindan vegetation with dense acacia shrubs, scattered bloodwood and grey box trees and curly spinifex and ribbon grass.
Wanganut System described as Sandplains and linear dunes supporting pindan woodlands with acacias and bloodwoods and curly spinifex- ribbon grass, and broad low-lying swales supporting bloodwood-grey box woodlands with curly spinifex-ribbon grass.
<table><tr><th>Mapped soil</th><th>Bore locations</th></tr><tr><td>Yeeda System(335We)</td><td>COCO_A, RB_Ab, COCO_B, RB_D, SKU_A, SKU_D, ROESWIM-01-26, THASWIM-01-26 and THASWIM-02-26</td></tr><tr><td>Wanganut System (335Wa)</td><td>SKU_Aa, SKU_C, SKU_Da</td></tr></table>Based on their soil characteristics, the Wanganut and Yeeda systems are generally not susceptible to degradation or erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies and Hydrogeography</td><td>The proposed bore sites are located near Roebuck Bay and the Roebuck Plains System, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. However, no mapped water polygons or waterlines occur within the proposed bore sites.

Part of the proposed clearing area occurs within a groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystem.

The proposed clearing areas are within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area and Broome Groundwater Area, both proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

Groundwater salinity is mapped at 7,000 to 14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids at three bore sites: SKU_A, SKU_C and ROESWIM-01-26. The remaining bore sites are mapped within areas of low groundwater salinity (<500 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>Available database records identify 29 conservation-listed flora species within the local area, comprising eight Priority one, two Priority two, 18 Priority three and one Priority four species (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Based on soil type, habitat suitability and species distribution, the likelihood assessment determined that most of these species may occur within the application area.
Given the number of potential priority flora species likely to record near the bore site locations, the department requested a targeted flora survey to identify any locally significant flora species within the application area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological communities</td><td>No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or buffers are mapped over the application area, or within the local area.

Kimberley Vegetation Association 73, a state-listed Priority 3 ecological community, is mapped within one bore location (ROESWIM-01-26). Kimberley Vegetation Association 770, a Priority 1 ecological community, is mapped approximately 8 metres from bore location COCO_A.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna</td><td>The desktop assessment identified a total of 100 conservation significant fauna species that had previously recorded within the local area. These include 74 migratory bird species, 16 mammals, one bird and nine reptiles. The closest record is a bilby (Macrotis lagotis), approximately 0.29 kilometres away from the application area.</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, the application area provides suitable habitat for nine conservation significant fauna species and Migratory waterbirds and impacts to these species required further consideration (see Appendix B.4.).

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*					
Dampierland	8,343,944.95	8,319,879.14	99.71	142,055.31	1.70
Vegetation complex					
Dampierland_750	1,229,182.16	1,225,280.52	99.68	34,114.53	2.78
Mandora coastal plain_73	240,283.59	239,716.89	99.76	27,746.94	11.55
Dampierland_699	1,976,313.50	1,974,958.06	99.93	9,409.78	0.48

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

B.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and targeted flora 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)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Jacquemontia sp. Broome ((A.A. Mitchell 3028)	P1	Y	Y	Y	Within buffer area	4	Y
Corymbia paractia	P2	Y	Y	Y	Within buffer area	2	Y
Bonamia oblongifolia	P3	Y	Y	Y	Within and buffer area	5	Y
Polymeria sp. Broome (K.F. Keneally 9759)	P3	Y	Y	Y	Within and buffer area	41	Y

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

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 (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Macrotis lagotis	VU	Y	Y	0.29	21,060	N/A

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 (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti	VU	Y	Y	7.29	6195	N/A
Lerista separanda	T	Y	Y	11.87	105	N/A
Simoselaps minimus	T	Y	Y	11.87	60	N/A
Varanus sparnus	P1	Y	Y	12.46	180	N/A
Ctenotus angusticeps	P3	Y	Y	4.83	525	N/A
Ozimops cobourgianus	P4	Y	Y	2.24	300	N/A
Falco hypoleucos	VU	Y	Y	3.34	120	N/A
Falco peregrinus	VU	Y	Y	2.69	600	N/a
Migratory waterbirds	MI	Y	Y	-	-	-

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

B.5. 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)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Kimberley Vegetation Association 73	Priority 3	Y	Y	Y	within	-	NA

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 area proposed to be cleared contains locally and regionally significant flora and their habitats. A portion of the application area is mapped as the 'Kimberley Vegetation Association 73' (Priority 3) priority ecological community (PEC).	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 may contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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 national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001) The mapped vegetation types and Bioregion vegetation, all retain much greater than the 30 per cent threshold. Therefore, the application area is not within an extensively cleared area.	Not likely to be 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 separation from nearby conservation areas, including intervening road networks, and considering the low extent of clearing, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the environmental values of adjacent or nearby 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."* Assessment: As no watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the proposed clearing areas, the clearing is unlikely to affect on-site or off-site hydrology or	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
water quality. Although the proposed clearing areas surround Roebuck Bay, which is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, the clearing extent is very small in the context of the surrounding native vegetation and is unlikely to result in a significant impact.		
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 not considered susceptible to land degradation. Given the limited clearing extent and the proximity of the targeted bore locations to existing tracks or sealed roads, the proposed clearing is unlikely to present a significant land degradation risk.	Not likely to 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: The application area is located within the Broome Groundwater Area and Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, both proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). However, the proposed clearing does not involve water abstraction or land use development, apart from maintaining access to the wellheads for monitoring visits. It is therefore unlikely to increase impacts on groundwater resources.	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 in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance	No .

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. Excerpts from the survey and photographs provided by the applicant

Photographs of application areas from Biota (2026)



Site: COCO_A



Site: COCO_B



Site: RB_Ab



Site: RB_D



Site: ROESWIM-01



Site: SKU_A



Site: SKU_Aa



Site: SKU_C



Site: SKU_D



Site: SKU_Da



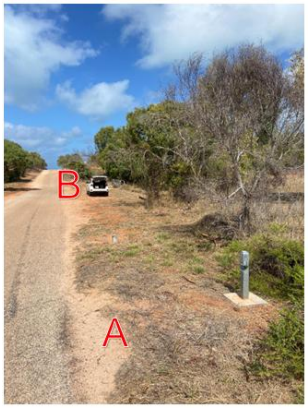
Site: THASWIM-01-26



Site: THASWIM-02-26

Photographs provided by the applicant





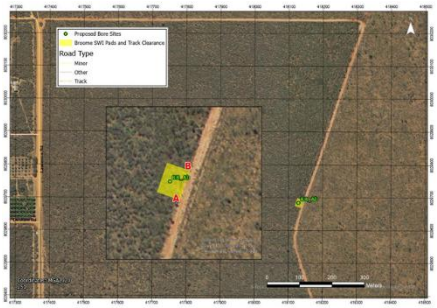
Site: COCO_A Looking West







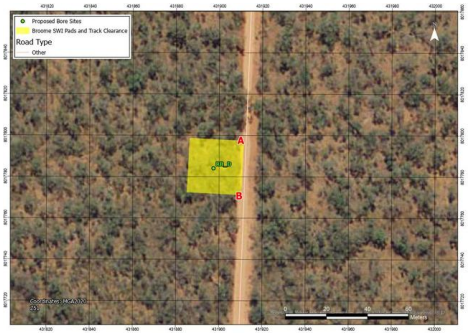
Site: COCO_B Looking North-west Looking South-east





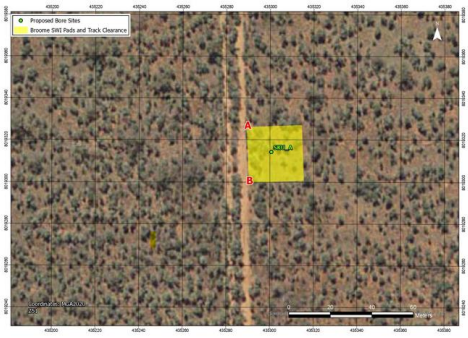


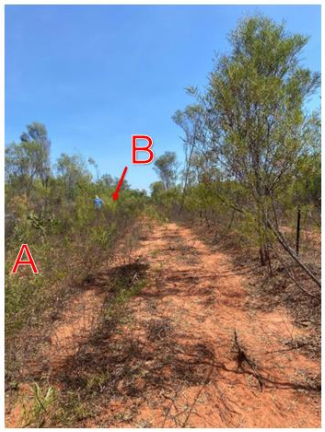
Site: RB_Ab Looking North-east Looking West





Site: RB_D Looking West







Site: SKU_A Looking South Looking South-east







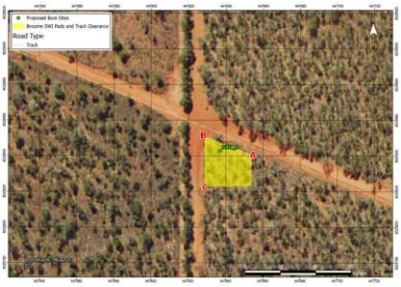
Site: SKU_Aa Looking South Looking North-west







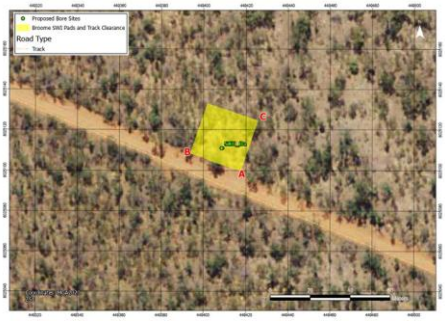
Site: SKU_C Looking South-east Looking West







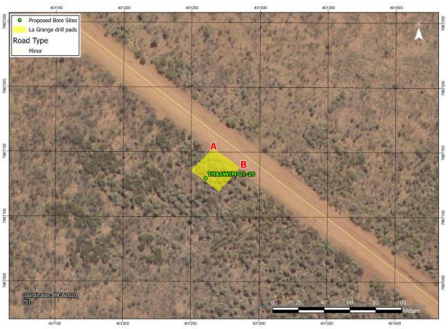
Site: SKU_D Looking West Looking North-east







Site: SKU_Da Looking North-west Looking South-west





Site: THASWIM-01-26 Looking South-west





Site: THASWIM-02-26 Looking South-west





Site: ROESWIM-01-26 Looking North

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)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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