GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11629/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	From 5 September 2026 to 5 September 2036

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 geotechnical investigation and installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 901 on Deposited Plan 432508, Halls Creek

Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970, Halls Creek

Great Northern Highway Road Reserve (PIN 1200836), Halls Creek

Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11462939), Halls Creek

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 10.76 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 5 September 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) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent *native vegetation;*

(b) allow a reasonable time for native vertebrate fauna present within the area being cleared under this permit to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity; and

(c) restrict *clearing* activities to *daytime hours*.

8. Fauna management - backfilling

The permit holder must:

(a) fence all test pits on the day of drilling/excavating with fine mesh to prevent fauna access; or

(b) cover all test pits on the day of drilling/excavating with a cover which prevents entry to the pits by fauna species and backfill upon completion;

(c) cover all boreholes at the end of each day and backfill upon completion; and

(d) cover all groundwater boreholes at the end of each day and seal them upon completion of works.

9. Revegetation and rehabilitation – *temporary works*

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 in an area that has already been cleared;

(b) at an optimal time within twelve (12) months following *clearing* authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this permit (*temporary works*) by laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 9(a) on the cleared area(s); and

(c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 9(a) of this permit:

(i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and

(ii) engage an *environmental specialist* to make a determination as to whether the composition, structure and density determined under condition 9(c) of this permit will, without further *revegetation*, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. 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 Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (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) evidence of backfilling / fencing / covering all excavations in accordance with condition 8 of this permit.
3.	In relation to *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* pursuant to condition 9	(a) actions taken in accordance with condition 9 to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* areas used for *temporary works*; (b) the size of the area(s) *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; (c) the date(s) on which the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* was undertaken; and (d) the boundaries of the area(s) *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings.

11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 10 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 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.
daytime hours	means the duration starting 30 minutes before sunrise and ending 30 minutes after sunset.
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.
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this permit, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same IBRA subregion of the area cleared.
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.
rehabilitate	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 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.
temporary works	means access tracks, spoil areas, side tracks, site offices, storage areas, laydown areas, extraction sites, camps, project surveys, pre-construction activities, and similar works associated with a project activity that are temporary in nature.
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

Term	Definition
	Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

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Date: 2026.08.13 16:05:48 +08'00'

Juraj Galba
MANAGER
GREEN ENERGY APPROVALS

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

13 August 2026

Schedule 1

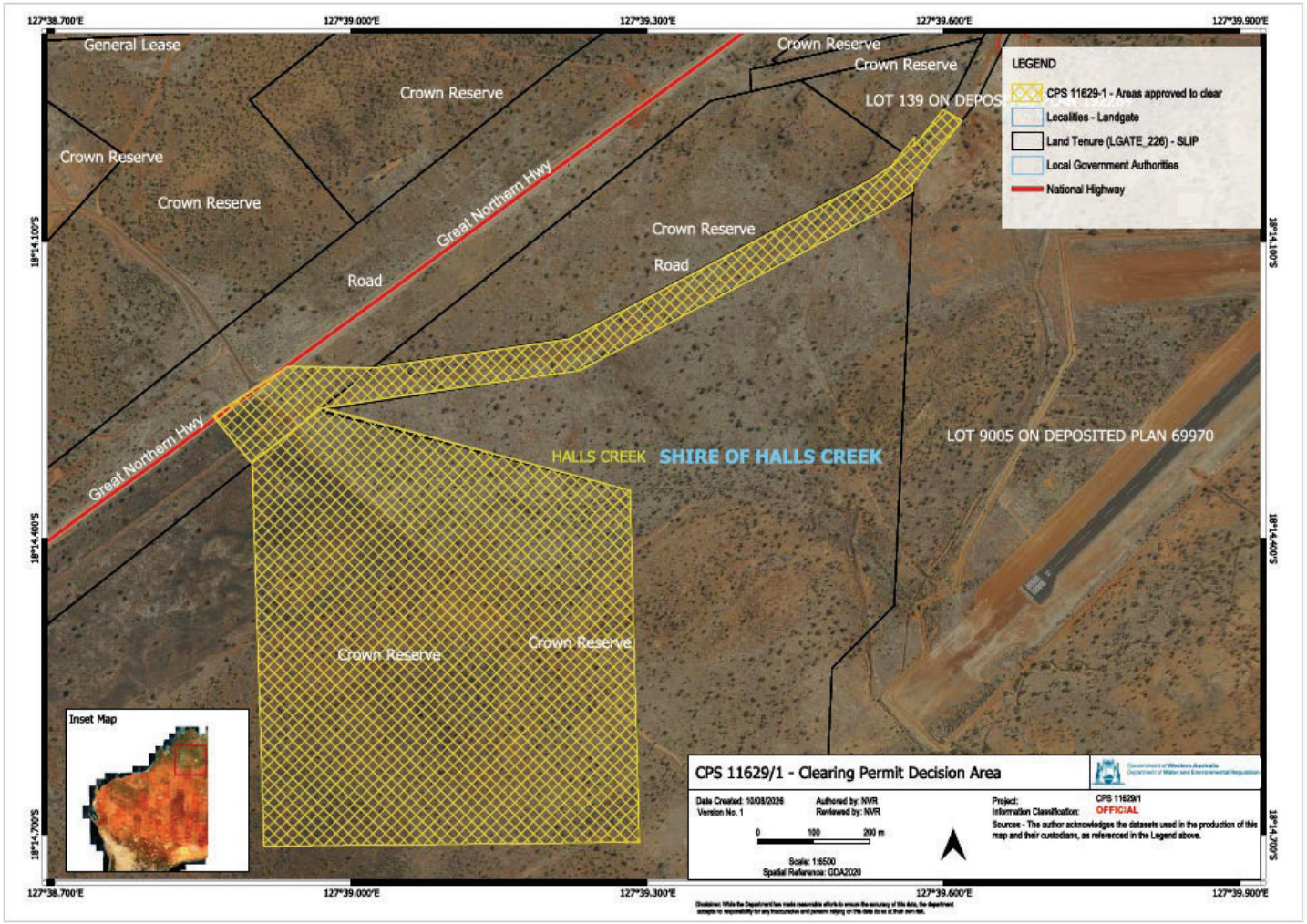


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

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 11629/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Application received:	8 June 2026
Application area:	10.76 hectares of native vegetation within a 59.3 hectare clearing area
Purpose of clearing:	Installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 901 on Deposited Plan 432508 Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970 Great Northern Highway Road Reserve (PIN 1200836) Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11462939)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Halls Creek
Localities (suburb/s):	Halls Creek

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The application is to clear up to 10.76 hectares of native vegetation within a 59.3 hectare clearing footprint for geotechnical surveys, solar photovoltaic (PV) system, battery energy storage systems (BESS), laydown and construction areas, ancillary infrastructure, network connection infrastructure and access tracks. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area (see Figure 1, Section 1.5) on the southeastern side of Great Northern Highway just outside of the Halls Creek town site. The Halls Creek airport and waste facility are located nearby.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	13 August 2026
Decision area:	10.76 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:

- site characteristics (see Appendix A)
- relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1)
- the findings of a biological survey (GHG, 2024)

- the mitigation measures informed by the biological survey (GHG, 2024), which avoided habitat for conservation significant fauna
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), and
- relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing, which is to upgrade the power station in Halls Creek to integrate grid-scale renewable electricity into the town supply and reduce emissions, ensuring security of energy supply to the community after the expiry of the power purchase agreement.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:
- the loss of 10.76 hectares of native vegetation that is representative of Priority 3 listed Priority Ecological Community (PEC) Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834
- potential clearing of up to two individuals of Priority 3 flora species *Goodenia crenata*
- the loss of native vegetation providing supporting and dispersal habitat for conservation significant fauna
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna if present during clearing activities, and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds, 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 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
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity, and restrict clearing activities to daytime hours
- fence or cover test pits at the end of each day and backfill once complete to avoid trapping fauna, and
- undertake revegetation of temporarily cleared areas.

1.5. Site map

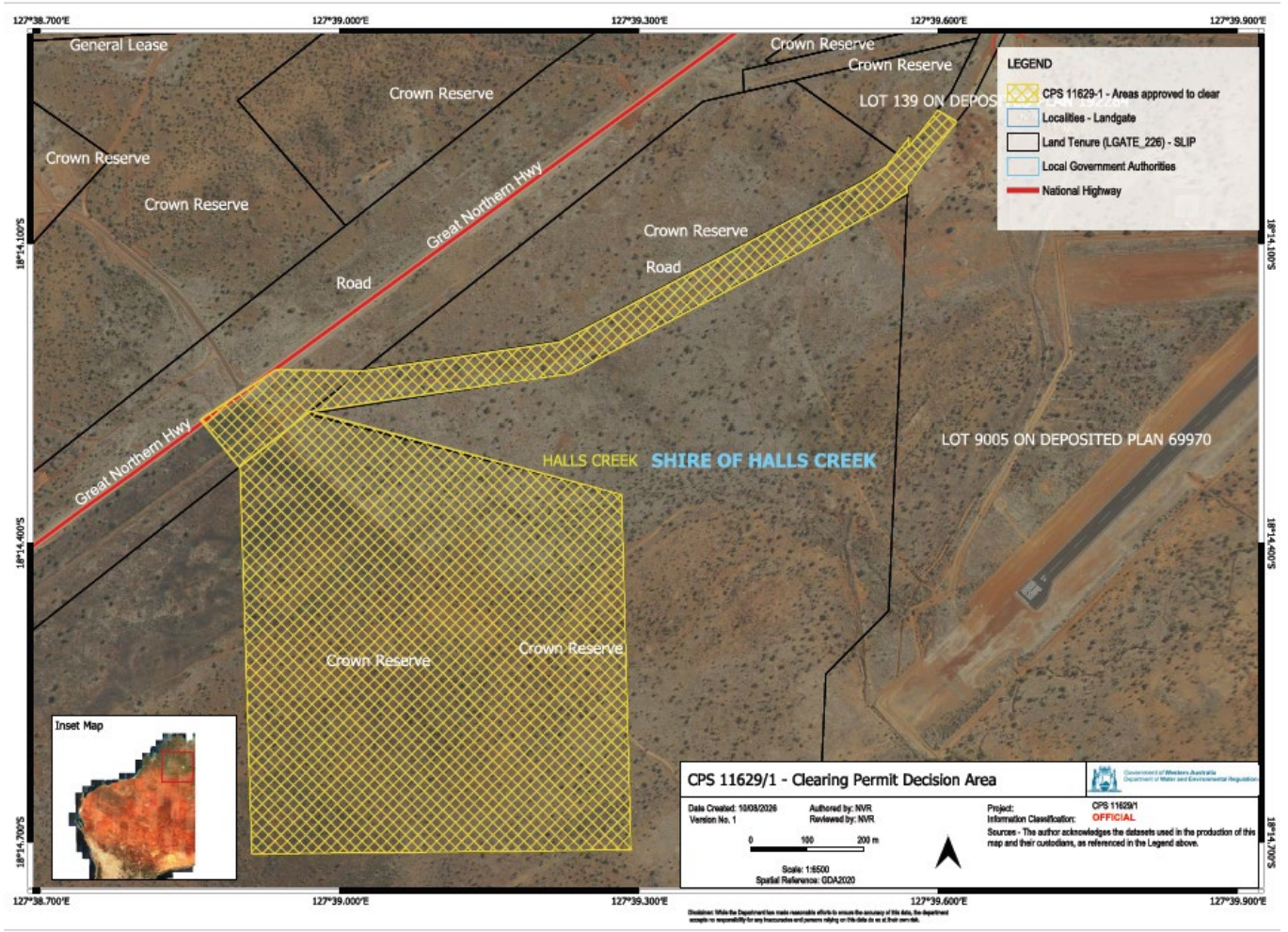


Figure 1 Map of the application area

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)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM 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 Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant advised that avoidance and minimisation measures were undertaken during site selection, including:

- avoiding drainage line habitat and recorded habitat being utilised by Gouldian finch at the alternative site surveyed
- reducing impact to foraging habitat for Gouldian finch from 20 hectares to 10.76 hectares
- selection of a site close to the existing power station site to reduce clearing required for connection infrastructure, and
- installing underground connection infrastructure to avoid direct collisions and associated injury/mortality of threatened fauna, particularly birds.

The applicant advised that potential impacts of the proposed clearing would be managed through implementation of the Environment Management Plan (Horizon Power, 2026b). The applicant has proposed the following mitigation measures.

- No clearing is permitted outside the application area.
- Clearing will be reduced where possible through placement of assets and infrastructure to minimise impacts to vegetation and flora (including priority flora) and fauna habitat.
- The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities.
- Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 10.76 ha of clearing is undertaken for the project.
- A pre-clearing environmental toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
- Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.
- Presence of a licenced fauna specialist prior to the commencement of clearing activities to supervise avoidance, dispersal and relocation of fauna.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation.
- Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean and weed control will be undertaken at the site postconstruction as required.
- Dust, noise, vibration and light management measures will be implemented during construction.
- Any water abstraction required for construction of the project will be undertaken to minimise drawdown, and water allowed to reinfiltrate as close to the source as possible.
- Weather will be monitored to avoid construction works during heavy rainfall to prevent runoff, erosion and mobilisation of sediment.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing may present a risk to 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, flora and ecological communities) - Clearing Principles (a), (c) and (d)

Assessment

A single season detailed flora and vegetation survey, and targeted flora survey was conducted in April 2024 covering a total area of 195.14 hectares including the application area and an alternative site. The survey was conducted just outside the recommended survey timing for the Northern botanical province (January to March); however, this was not considered a limitation due to the high rainfall received during the three months prior to the survey (GHD 2024).

The survey (GHD 2024) identified the majority of vegetation within the survey area to be in excellent condition, which may provide habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna taxa. No Threatened Ecological Communities

listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) were identified within the application area.

One DBCA-listed PEC, Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (Priority 3), was recorded in the survey area (GHD, 2024). This PEC has a known extent of approximately 6,878 hectares, with approximately 118.157 hectares mapped within the survey area, including the application area. The proposed clearing would impact approximately 9.1 percent of the PEC at the local level and 0.2 percent at the regional level. Vegetation representing this PEC is consistent with mapped vegetation associations in the bioregion and extends beyond the application and survey areas. Given this, and the relatively small extent of the proposed clearing compared to the native vegetation remaining in the bioregion, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 PEC.

DWER's desktop assessment identified that the application area may provide habitat for the following species:

- *Goodenia creanata* (Priority 3) – is known to occupy red clay, loam soils, flat sandplains and sandstone outcrops in Hummock grassland with sparse Eucalypts e.g. bloodwoods & snappy gum *Triodia spp., Corymbia dichromophloia, C. opaca, Eucalyptus leucophoia* and is known from 14 records across the Halls Creek and Wyndham-East Kimberley Shires and Central Kimberley, Ord Victoria Plan and Tanami bioregions (WA Herbarium, 1998-)
- *Pentalepis trichodesmoides* subsp. *incana* (Priority 1) – is known to occupy sandy, loam-based soils and woodland or hillside environments in Hummock grassland with sparse Eucalypts e.g. bloodwoods & snappy gum *Triodia spp., Corymbia dichromophloia, C. opaca, Eucalyptus leucophoia* and is known from eight records across the Halls Creek Shire and the Ord Victoria Plan bioregion (WA Herbarium, 1998-)
- *Trachymene dusenii* (Priority 3) – is known to occupy red-brown clay soils and rocky ridges in Hummock grassland with sparse Eucalypts e.g. bloodwoods & snappy gum *Triodia spp., Corymbia dichromophloia, C. opaca, Eucalyptus leucophoia* and is known from 12 records across the Halls Creek, Wyndham-East Kimberley and Derby-West Kimberley Shires and the Central Kimberley, Northern Kimberley and Ord Victoria Plan bioregions (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

To verify the presence of conservation significant flora species considered likely to occur in the application area, the applicant commissioned GHD to conduct a biological survey. No threatened flora listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded within the survey area (GHD 2024).

One DBCA listed priority flora taxa *Goodenia crenata* (Priority 3) was recorded in the survey area with three individuals recorded from three locations; two of these are within the clearing footprint. This species is known from 14 records with the distribution of approximately 425 km north-south and 200 km east-west distributed over the Central Kimberley, Ord Victoria Plain and Tanami bioregions including from the Halls Creek and Wyndham-East Kimberley local government areas (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Clearing of up to two individuals of *G. crenata* is therefore unlikely to impact this species at the local, regional or conservation level. DWER also noted DBCA's advice to the applicant that this species is widely distributed in the East Kimberley, on which basis it is not at an immediate risk from limited local development.

No other significant flora species were identified as likely to occur post-survey (GHD 2024). No flora taxa recorded from the survey areas represented range extensions, flora of interest, such as undescribed species or taxonomic anomalies. The majority of flora were able to be identified to species level, and some only at genus level due to lack of flowering and/or fruiting material required for identification; none of these species were considered likely to be significant flora (GHD 2024).

Nine introduced flora taxa were recorded within the survey area. With the exception of **Azadirachta indica* (Neem), a Declared Pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) that has s22(2) legal status and 'exempt' keeping category, no other Weeds of National Significance or Declared Pests were recorded within the survey area (GHD 2024).

Conclusion

Given the relatively small extent of clearing within the context of the much larger extent of native vegetation in the area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation of significant flora species or ecological communities at the local and regional levels.

Clearing, however, may introduce and spread weeds to the native vegetation surrounding the application area which can reduce the quality and habitat values of the vegetation. This can be managed by ensuring that stringent weed control and management is implemented during the clearing activities.

Conditions

To mitigate potential impacts, the following management measures will be required on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds, and
- rehabilitation of temporary cleared areas.

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

Assessment

A targeted fauna survey was conducted in April 2024 covering a total area of 195.14 hectares including the application area and an alternative site (GHD 2024). Three fauna habitat types including Eucalyptus woodland clay plain, Acacia shrubland thicket and rocky hills and plains were mapped across the application area (GHD 2024). All three of these habitat types are well represented locally and regionally, are considered to have high value for fauna known or likely to be present within the application area but do not contain breeding habitat or critical habitat for conservation significant fauna (GHD 2024).

Three significant fauna species were recorded during the survey including:

- Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – Endangered under the EPBC Act and DBCA listed Priority 4
- Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus*) – Priority 1
- Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (*Vespadelus douglasorum*) – Priority 2.

All three species were observed approximately two kilometres north of the application area within the drainage line habitat. The Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat and Yellow-lipped Cave Bat were both recorded in the rocky hills and slopes habitat of the application area. A further nine conservation significant fauna species were considered likely to occur within the application area, these are discussed below.

Three introduced species including the Dingo (*Canis familiaris*), Cat (*Felis catus*) and Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) were recorded during the survey, with the Cane Toad a Declared Pest (Prohibited) under section 12 of the BAM Act (GHD 2024).

Following the biological survey (GHD 2024), which identified various environmental constraints, the applicant implemented mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts on habitat for conservation significant fauna. These measures resulted in selection of the site with the fewest constraints and reduced impacts to minor drainage lines habitat, which provides suitable habitat for Gouldian Finch.

Gouldian Finch – Endangered under EPBC Act, DBCA Priority 4

The Gouldian Finch would likely utilise all three habitats present within the application area due to their foraging values. Critical habitat for the species is characterised by rocky hills with hollow bearing smooth barked gums (*Eucalyptus brevifolia or E. tintinnans*) within two to four kilometres of small water bodies that persist throughout the dry season (O'Malley 2006). The only water body recorded in proximity to the application area is a seasonal, minor drainage line and no *E. brevifolia or E. tintinnans* were recorded during the field survey (GHD 2024). The three habitats within the application area constitute supporting habitat for Gouldian Finch. This species was recorded within the minor drainage habitat in the survey area, approximately 700 metres north of the application area, and is highly likely to forage within the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, Acacia shrubland thicket and rocky hills and slopes habitats (GHD 2024). The drainage line habitat has been removed from the application area to mitigate potential impacts to this species.

Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat – DBCA Priority 1

The Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat is typically associated with mangroves and coastal woodlands, roosting in tree hollows (GHD 2024). Based on the GHD (2024) report, it is assumed that the Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat would likely utilise the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitat. This species was recorded within the minor drainage line and rocky hills and slopes habitats within the survey area; one of these records is within the application area (GHD 2024). The GHD (2024) survey did not identify any suitable breeding trees within the survey area.

Yellow-lipped Cave Bat – DBCA Priority 2

The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is confined to the West Kimberley and mostly occurs in high rainfall areas (>800 mm). The species forages in woodlands, particularly riparian vegetation in proximity to rocky habitat where it will roost in caves and crevices (GHD 2024). This species was recorded within the minor drainage line and rocky hills and slopes habitats within the survey area; one of these records is within the application area (GHD 2024). The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is likely to forage within the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitat; there are no caves present that would be suitable for breeding/roosting in the survey area (GHD 2024).

Ghost Bat – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act

The Ghost Bat occurs in a wide range of habitats ranging from the arid Pilbara to tropical savanna woodlands and rainforests (TSSC 2016), requiring an undisturbed cave, deep fissure or disused mine shaft to roost in. The

species' range is discontinuous with geographically disjunct colonies in the Pilbara, Kimberley, north Northern Territory, Gulf of Carpentaria, coastal and near coastal eastern Queensland from Cape York to near Rockhampton, and Western Queensland (TSSC 2016). Ghost Bats in the Kimberley are distinct from all other Australian populations with genetic structure evident in the Kimberley populations (Worthington Wilmer 1996). A targeted assessment was undertaken for the Ghost Bat during the GHD (2024) survey; the species was not recorded within the survey area. There is no suitable roost habitat for the Ghost Bat within the survey area; however, there is extensive potential roost habitat in the surrounding region as well as foraging habitat within the survey area (rocky hills and slopes and minor drainage line habitats). Therefore, the species is likely to forage within the application area, at least on an occasional basis (GHD 2024).

Northern Blue-tongue Skink – Critically endangered under EPBC Act and DBCA Priority 4

The Northern Blue-tongue Skink occurs across northern Australia (DCCEEW 2023), typically occupying small, fragmented patches of habitat that offer cooler moister conditions within the savannah landscape. Individuals spend long periods within these patches, interspersed with directional movement between them. There are no records of the Northern Blue-tongue skink on the DBCA database within the local area, and no individuals were recorded during the GHD (2024) survey; however, due to the presence of suitable habitat the species is considered likely to occur. The Northern Blue-tongue Skink is likely to utilise the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, Acacia shrubland thicket and rocky hills and slopes habitat types. Based on the definition in the conservation advice for the species, all three habitat types within the application area are considered supporting habitat for the species.

Northern Short-tailed Mouse – DBCA Priority 4

The Northern Short-tailed Mouse is known to occur on sandy soils and cracking clays in Western Australia. They have also been recorded on tussock grasslands in northern Australia and stony clay hummock grasslands in the Pilbara (GHD 2024). It is likely this species will use the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging and therefore is likely to occur in the application area.

Gravel Dragon – DBCA Priority 1

The Gravel Dragon is found in the northeast interior of Western Australia within a notable habitat preference for stony soils and spinifex vegetation (Wilson & Swan 2017). The rocky hills and slopes habitat within the survey area is considered suitable habitat for the species and therefore is likely to occur in the application area (GHD 2024).

Grey Falcon – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act

The Grey Falcon is usually confined to the arid inland and inhabits Triodia grassland, Acacia shrubland and lightly timbered arid woodland especially stony, inland plains, gibber deserts, sand ridges, pastoral lands, and timbered watercourses, but seldom in driest deserts (Morcombe, 2004). This species is known to occupy a wide range of habitats. It is likely this species will use the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket for foraging (GHD 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the species is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat.

Peregrine Falcon – Other Specially Protected under BC Act

The Peregrine Falcon is found on and near cliffs, gorges, timbered watercourses, riverine environments, wetlands, plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings, though less frequently in desert regions (Morcombe, 2004; Pizzey & Knight, 2012). Peregrine Falcons are not common but can be found almost anywhere throughout Western Australia. The species is likely to use the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging (GHD 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the species is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat.

Barn Swallow – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act

The Barn Swallow inhabits open country in coastal lowlands near water, towns and cities. They often occur on overhead wires, over freshwater wetlands, paperbark Melaleuca woodland, mesophyll shrub thickets and tussock grassland (Pizzey, 1980; Blakers et al., 1984; Schodde & Mason, 1999). The open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats provide suitable foraging habitat for the species. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the species is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat.

Yellow Wagtail – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act

The Yellow Wagtail occurs in open country near swamps, salt marshes, sewerage ponds, grasses surrounding airfields, bare ground, and occasionally on drier inland plain. This species roosts in mangroves and other dense vegetation (GHD 2024). The open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket provides suitable

foraging habitat. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the species is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat.

Oriental Pratincole – Migratory under EPBC and BC Act

This species usually inhabits open plains, floodplains or short grasslands. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. It is likely this species will use the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and Acacia shrubland thicket habitats for foraging (GHD 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the species is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is not considered to impact significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species. Any impacts to fauna individuals that may be present at the time of the clearing can be managed by undertaking slow, progressive, directional clearing. Impacts to fauna which forage at night can be managed by restricting the clearing activities to daytime hours.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required on the clearing permit:

- clearing is to be undertaken in a slow directional manner to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity to minimise impact to individuals
- fence or cover test pits at the end of each day and backfill once complete to avoid trapping fauna, and
- restrict clearing to daytime hours.

3.2.3.Biological values (land and water resources) - Clearing Principle (f)

Assessment

Vegetation types VT09 and part of VT11 are considered riparian vegetation based on the biological survey undertaken by GHD (2024). The riparian areas were identified as minor drainage lines, containing mature Eucalyptus and Corymbia and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* trees, and moderate drainage lines containing mature Eucalyptus and Corymbia and *Melaleuca bracteate* trees over isolated shrubs of *Flueggea virosa subsp. Melanthesoides* and *Leucaena leucocephala subsp. leucocephala.*

Two drainage lines were recorded with flowing water at the time of the survey; however, they do not intersect the application area, with the closest located approximately 900 metres to the north (GHD, 2024). The closest non-perennial minor river, Elvire River, is located approximately 6 kilometres to the northeast of the application area. It is noted that there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area and that the non-perennial minor watercourses present are only likely to flow under heavy rainfall conditions.

The portions of the application area that are considered to be riparian habitat are associated with the minor drainage lines, and the applicant has committed to avoiding these.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact riparian vegetation.

Conditions

To mitigate potential impacts, the following management measures will be required on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise and reduce impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds, and
- rehabilitation of temporary cleared areas.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

DWER advised the Shire of Halls Creek of the proposed clearing but did not receive a response. The project is considered Public Works and is expected to be exempt from development approval under Section 6 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, however, due regard is required with respect to:

- the purpose and intent of any planning scheme that has effect in the locality where, and at the time when, the right is exercised
- the orderly and proper planning, and the preservation of the amenity, of that locality at that time, and
- any advice provided by the responsible authority in the course of the consultation required.

The applicant is permitted to access water under Section 42 and 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979*. Any licences required for construction water will be acquired by the construction contractor.

The project may require approval from DWER through a works approval/licence application under Part V of the EP Act if a concrete batching plant is required for construction. This will be obtained by the contractor as required.

One registered Aboriginal heritage site of significance (Halls Creek ID 14324: Creation/Dreaming Narrative; Painting) intersects a portion of the application area associated with the existing power station. The applicant advised that they received written advice from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) confirming that no further approvals are required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AH Act) in this area, as the proposed works do not intersect the site boundaries. The remainder of the application area is not subject to any registered heritage sites and has been partially disturbed by historical land use activities.

The application area has not previously been surveyed; therefore, the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage values is unknown. There is no Native Title determination or registered claim over this area. Consultation between the applicant and the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) did not identify any relevant knowledge holders, and KLC was unable to assist further. Following advice from DPLH, the applicant published a public notice in late 2025 seeking responses from Aboriginal people with relevant cultural knowledge of the application area. Two separate parties initially responded with one progressing to participate in a heritage survey. Ngarrawanji were scheduled to undertake an Aboriginal heritage survey in May 2026.

DWER advised the DPLH of the proposed clearing but did not receive a response. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the AH Act and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The solar PV and BESS will be installed approximately three km southwest of the Halls Creek town site with the network connection route corridor to follow Old Great Northern Highway to connect the solar PV and BESS to the existing power station. The network connection will be underground electrical distribution up to three km long. Neighbouring land uses include the airport, waste facility and rural. The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by large areas of uncleared land within the Central Kimberley IBRA Bioregion and Hart IBRA Subregion. 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	The application area is not within any mapped linkages or within a formal ecological linkage.
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within a conservation area. The closest legislated conservation area is the Ord River Regeneration Reserve approximately 54 km to the southeast. The closest Environmentally Sensitive Area, Purnululu National Park, is located approximately 70 km northeast of the clearing area.
Vegetation description	The flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2024) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of three vegetation types: • VT09 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over closed shrubland of *Acacia trachycarpa, Acacia colei* and *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line. • VT10 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes. • VT11 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica*, *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Ehretia saligna* and *Gossypium australe* on brown loam clay on clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line. Riparian vegetation was identified at minor drainage lines containing mature Eucalyptus and Corymbia and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* trees and moderate drainage lines containing mature Eucalyptus and Corymbia, and *Melaleuca bracteata* trees over isolated shrubs of *Flueggea virosa* subsp. *melanthesoides* and **Leucaena leucocephala* subsp. *leucocephala*. This is consistent with the Beard mapped vegetation types: • Bow River Hills_871, which is described as Curly spinifex or short grass low tree savanna / Grass-steppe. • Bow River Hills_837, which is described as Grasslands, short bunch-grass low-tree savanna. Short grasses with scattered trees e.g. *Bauhinia* and snappy gum *Enneapogon* spp., *Aristida* spp. with *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii, Eucalyptus brevifolia.* • Bow River Hills_834, which is described as Grasslands, tall bunch-grass savanna. Mainly Mitchell grass *Astrebla* spp. The mapped vegetation types retain over 99 percent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

Characteristic	Details
Vegetation condition	The flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2024) indicate vegetation condition within the proposed clearing area ranges from excellent to degraded (Trudgen, 1991), with the majority in in excellent condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in the East Kimberley District within the Shire of Halls Creek. The local area climate is described as dry, hot and tropical with semi-arid summer rainfall. Climate data obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) weather station at the Halls Creek Airport (002079) is considered representative of local climatic conditions. Annual average temperatures range from 28.1°C to 38.3°C, with an average annual rainfall of 638.7 millimetres (BoM, 2026). The application area is situated within the O'Donnell land system which is characterised as stony undulating country with scattered hills, loamy skeletal soils, also restricted cracking clay plains, supporting open snappy gum woodlands with spinifex, arid short grasses and tussock grasses (GHD, 2024).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as the O'Donnell system (312Od), described as undulating plains and scattered low hills on granite and gneiss, loamy skeletal soils, supporting snappy gum and bloodwood very open woodlands with arid short grasses and ribbon grass; also minor Mitchell grass grasslands.
Land degradation risk	Mapping is not available for land degradation risk factor mapping (wind, water, salinity, phosphorus, etc) in the area. The application area contains soils that may be susceptible to erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the application area is within the Ord River (upper) catchment and Elvire River sub-catchment. There are no permanent wetlands or watercourses transecting the area proposed to be cleared, however, there are three mapped non-perennial minor watercourses traversing the application area and several in the surrounding area. Elvire River, a non-perennial minor river is approximately 6 kilometres to the northeast of the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, Fitzroy River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and Ord Irrigation District, proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The Halls Creek Water Reserve, a Priority 1 (P1) Public Drinking Water Source Area under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act) is located approximately 700 metres southeast of the application area, with the P3 portion approximately 350 metres to the southeast. Groundwater salinity is mapped as 500–1,000 mg/L total dissolved solids (TDS), which is considered fresh. Depth to groundwater in the surrounding area is approximately 75-100 metres below ground level.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified 19 priority flora species listed by DBCA recorded within the local area ranging from Priority 1 to Priority 3. The nearest mapped significant flora record is *Goodenia crenata* (Priority 3) located approximately 1.2 kilometres north of the application area. A total of 135 vascular flora species from 39 families and 93 genera (including subspecies and variants) were recorded from the survey area (GHD 2024). No EPBC Act or BC Act listed threatened flora were recorded during the biological survey (GHD 2024). One DBCA priority listed species *Goodenia crenata* (Priority 3) was identified within the application area recorded from two locations in the rocky hills and slopes habitat type and one location outside the survey area within the open Eucalypt woodland clay plain. A total of nine introduced flora species were recorded within the survey area representing seven percent of the total flora species recorded. One declared pest under the BAM Act was recorded within the survey area **Azadirachta indica* (Neem), which has s22(2) legal status and 'exempt' keeping category (GHD 2024).

Characteristic	Details
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified within the application area. One Priority Ecological Community (PEC), the 'Kimberley Vegetation Association 834' listed as a Priority 3, was identified within the application area with a total of 36.6 hectares intersecting this PEC. Further patches of this PEC are mapped to the north and northwest of the application area within the local area. Also mapped within the local area is the Priority 3 PEC Kimberley Vegetation Association 850 and the Priority 3 PEC Gordon Land System to the east and southeast of the application area.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified 19 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area. The closest records include: • Northern brushtail possum (Kimberley) (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) – Vulnerable, 1.4 km • Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Migratory, 2.3 km • Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Critically endangered, 2.3 km • Greater sand plover (*Charadrius leschenaultia*) – Vulnerable, 2.3 km • Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Migratory, 2.3 km • Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) – Migratory, 2.3 km • Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) – Migratory, 2.3 km • Marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Migratory, 2.3 km The survey recorded a total of 69 species, including 45 birds, 17 mammals, 6 reptiles and one amphibian. Of these, three are introduced species including the Dingo (*Canis familiaris*), Cat (*Felis catus*) and Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) (GHD 2024). The Cane Toad is a Declared Pest (Prohibited) under section 12 of the BAM Act. Three significant fauna species were recorded during the survey including: • Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – Endangered under the EPBC Act and DBCA listed Priority 4 • Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus*) – Priority 1 • Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (*Vespadelus douglasorum*) – Priority 2

A.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*					
Central Kimberley	7,675,476.83	7,674,290.30	99.98	340,718.53	4.44
Vegetation complex - Beard vegetation association*					
BOW RIVER HILLS_834	24,391.01	24,382.67	99.97	NA	NA
BOW RIVER HILLS_837	151,537.39	151,274.46	99.83	NA	NA
BOW RIVER HILLS_871	230,415.48	230,131.84	99.88	NA	NA

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

A.2 Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Goodenia crenata	P3	Y	Y	N	1.4	3	Y
Pentalepis trichodesmoides subsp. *incana*	P1	Y	N	N	12.9	4	Y
Trachymene dusenii	P3	Y	N	N	7.2	5	Y

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

A.2 Fauna analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
Chloebia gouldiae (gouldian finch)	P4	Y	7.4	4	Y	Known
*Cryptagama aurita (*gravel dragon)	P1	Y	25.2	2	Y	Likely
*Falco hypoleucos (*grey falcon)	VU	Y	7.1	1	Y	Likely
*Falco peregrinus (*peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	26.9	2	Y	Likely
*Leggadina lakedownensis (*northern short-tailed mouse)	P4	Y	39.4	1	Y	Likely
*Macroderma gigas (*ghost bat)	VU	Y	21.7	1	Y	Likely
Ozimops cobourgianus (northern coastal free-tailed bat)	P1	Y	within		Y	Known
Tiliqua scincoides intermedia (northern blue-tongue skink)	P4	Y	-	-	Y	Likely
*Vespadelus douglasorum (*yellow-lipped cave bat)	P2	Y	within	2	Y	Known

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority, MI: migratory, OS: other specially protected

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally threatened flora or TECs. A portion of the application area is mapped as the Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 PEC (P3) and priority listed flora have been recorded in the application area and might be impacted by the proposed clearing activities.	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 area proposed to be cleared contains potential foraging and dispersal habitat for conservation significant fauna species. However, this habitat is not considered to be critical habitat to any of the conservation significant species occurring in the local area. The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any conservation significant fauna that might occur in the local area.	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 biological survey (GHD 2024) did not record any threatened flora species likely to occur in the application area and there is no recorded threatened flora in the local area. The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for threatened 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 mapped vegetation associations within the proposed clearing area retain over 99 percent of the pre-European extent and is not considered to be within an area that has been extensively cleared. 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. DWER also considered the cumulative impacts of this proposal together with the clearing of 3.05 hectares of adjacent native vegetation for construction of the thermal power station under CPS 11226/1. DWER concluded that the cumulative impacts are not significant, noting the extent of native vegetation	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
remaining in the bioregion and that the native vegetation within both project areas is not considered significant remnant vegetation.		
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the Ord River Regeneration Reserve approximately 54 kilometres southeast, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands present within the application area. The non-perennial minor watercourses in the application area are only likely to flow under heavy rainfall conditions. The portions of the application area that are considered to be riparian habitat are associated with the minor drainage lines recorded in the survey (GHD 2024) and will be avoided. Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact riparian native vegetation.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above*.
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soil types may be susceptible to wind or water erosion. The application area has previous disturbance next to and within the existing power station lease area and access track. Noting the location of the application area, and management actions such as dust control and erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented through the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	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: No permanent watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas (PDWSA) are recorded within the application area. The application area is located within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, Fitzroy River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and Ord Irrigation District, proclaimed under the RIWI Act. The Halls Creek Water Reserve (a P1 PDWSA) is located approximately 700 metres southeast of the application area, with the P3 portion approximately 350 metres to the southeast. The proposed works will be limited to a depth of 5 metres below ground level for installation of footings for the solar system and is not expected to intercept groundwater. No dewatering or groundwater extraction is required for the project and is therefore unlikely to impact on groundwater quality. Potential impacts to surface water quality from erosion/sedimentation/hydrocarbons will be managed in accordance with the EMP. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface water or groundwater quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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 do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Mean annual rainfall for the area is 638.7 mm (BoM 2026) with rainfall generally received from downpours and cyclonic events typical of the region. There may be risk of flooding at the application area associated with storms and cyclones. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing in the context of the extensively vegetated area, no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area and management measures in the EMP, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Biological survey information excerpts

Representative photographs of the vegetation types and significant flora identified during the survey (GHD 2024).



Plate 1: Vegetation type VT09 **–** Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over closed shrubland of *Acacia trachycarpa, Acacia colei* and *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* over open tussock grassland of *Chrysopogon pallidus, Aristida pruinosa* and *Eriachne mucronata* over mixed open forbland of *Cucumis melo, Ipomoea polymorpha and Ptilotus calostachyus* on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line.



Plate 2: Vegetation type VT10 **–** Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* over low open shrubland of *Acacia adoxa, Corchorus tridens* and *Indigofera monophyla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* over open tussock grassland of *Eulalia aurea, Cymbopogon procerus, Schizachyrium fragile* and *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* over mixed open forbland of *Polycarpaea holtzei, Polygala galeocephala, Stackhousia intermedia* and *Trigastrotheca molluginea* on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes.



Plate 3: Vegetation type VT11 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica*, *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Bauhinia cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Ehretia saligna* and *Gossypium australe* over tussock grassland of *Heteropogon contortus, Chrysopogon pallidus, Urochloa* sp. (indet) and *Eulalia aurea* over mixed open forbland of *Crotalaria medicaginea* var. *neglecta, Afrohybanthus aurantiacus* and *Indigofera linifolia* on brown loam clay on clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line. Aligns with Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3 PEC) where it intersects with the pre-European vegetation association 834 boundary and/or buffer of the PEC boundary.



Plate 4: *Goodenia crenata* (Priority 3) flowering specimen.



Figure 2: Survey area with application area indicated in red (Horizon Power 2026b).

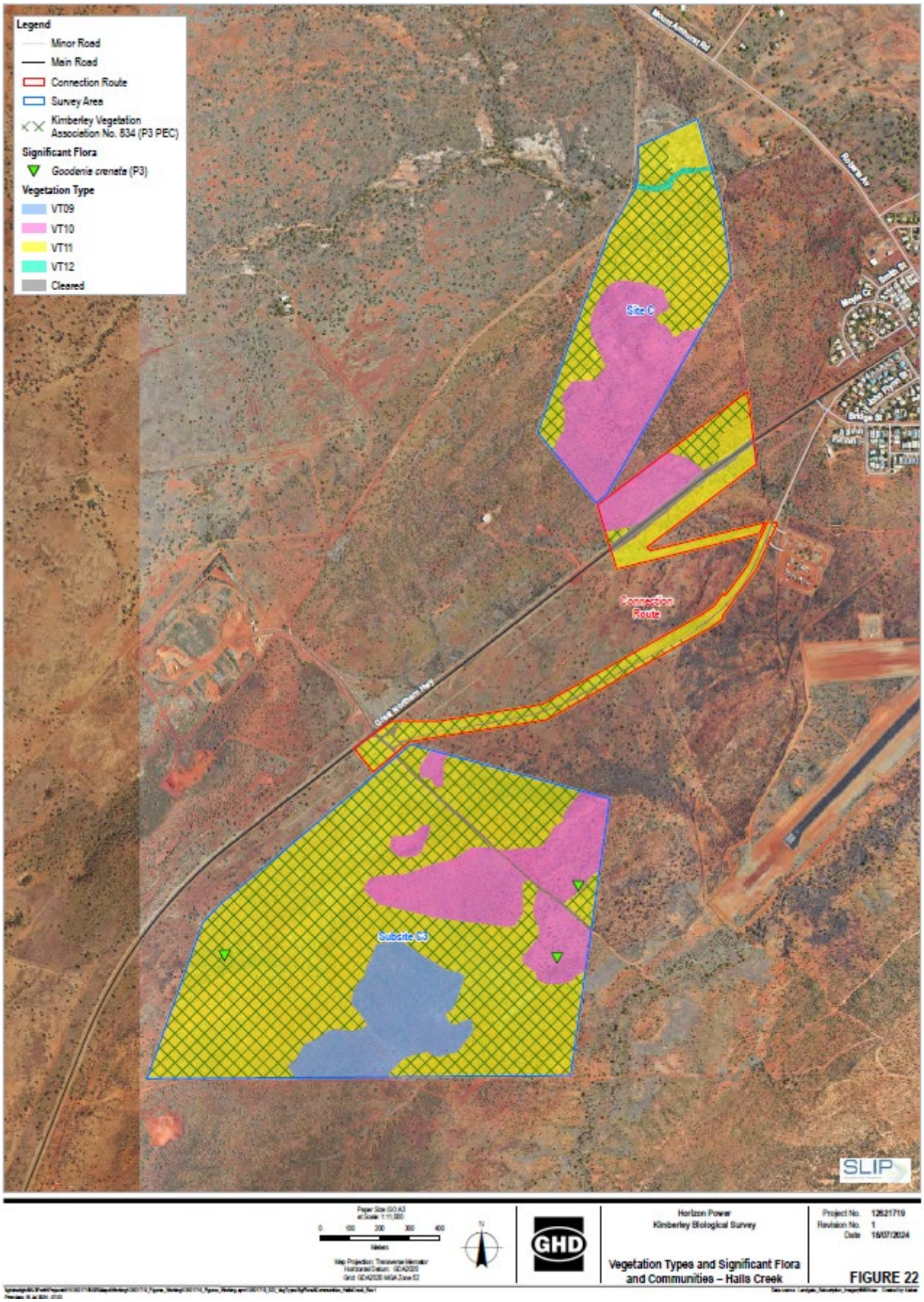


Figure 3: Vegetation types, significant flora and ecological communities identified within the survey area (GHD 2024).

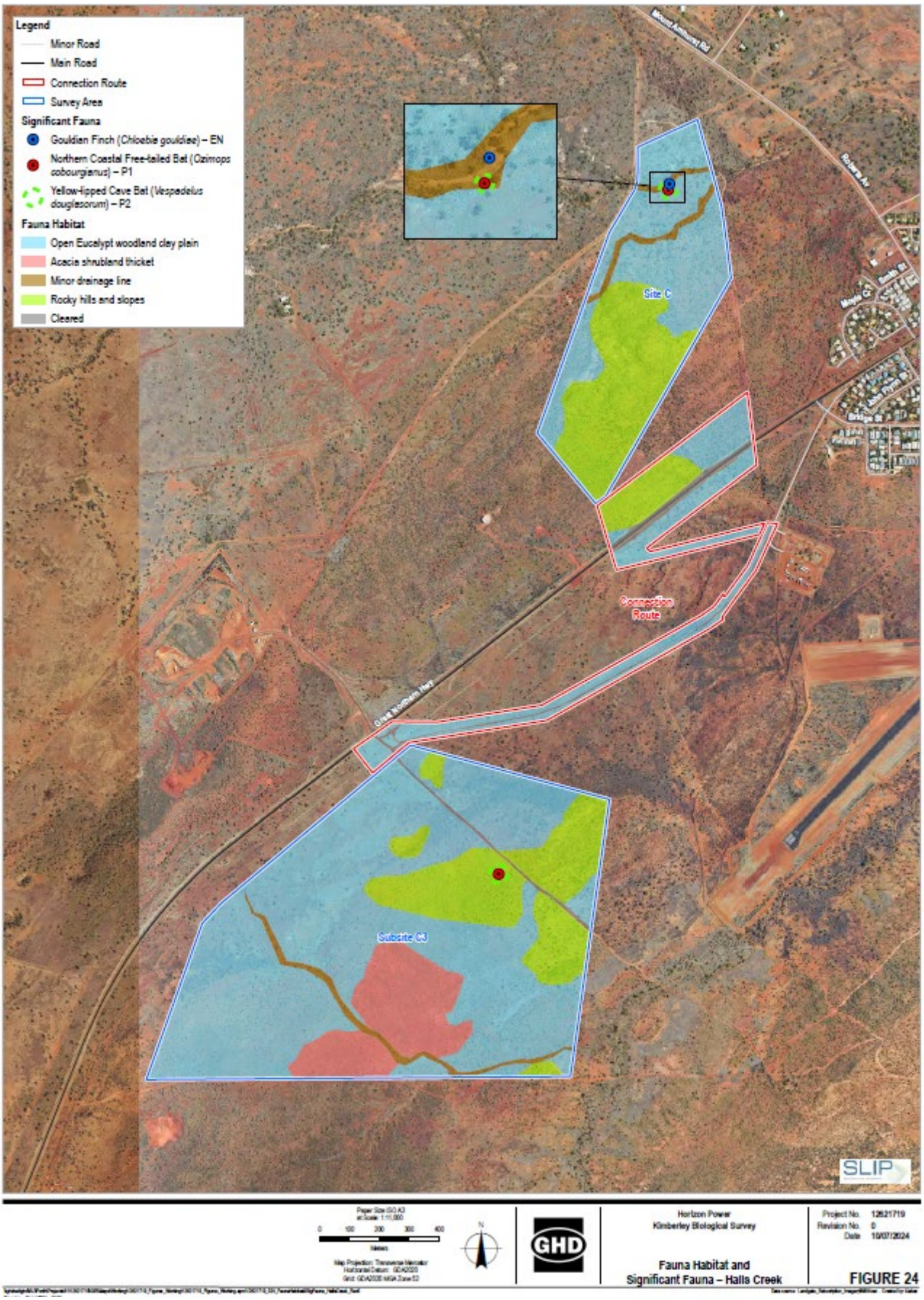


Figure 4: Fauna habitat types and significant fauna recorded within the survey area (GHD 2024).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.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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