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 11636/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation Trading as Horizon Power
Application received:	12 June 2026
Application area:	2 hectares of native vegetation within a 15.6 footprint
Purpose of clearing:	Road widening
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 589 on Deposited Plan 077089 (Crown reserve 36991) Stove Hill Road reserve (PIN 1140221) De Witt Road reserve (PIN 11441933)
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Karratha
Localities (suburb/s):	Stove Hill

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is 2 hectares of native vegetation within a total Development Envelope area of 15.7 for the Horizon Power remote energy provider in the Karratha Region. Horizon Power is proposing to undertake road widening and resurfacing on Stovehill Road. The project works will start at De Witt Road and finish at the Horizon Power depot, approximately 2.6 km long.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	18 September 2026
Decision area:	2 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 advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received. In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), the findings of a biological survey (see Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the purpose of the clearing is for a solar farm supporting the economic development of the region and that this project is to replace existing power stations that are almost attend of life with no ability to extend their current life span.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- potential mortality of conservation significant fauna utilising the application area
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat value; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation or have long-term adverse impacts on habitat for conservation significant fauna and adjacent vegetation.

Impacts from the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to the above-mentioned environmental value with appropriate conditions imposed on the clearing permit.

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
- undertake the road construction no later than three months after undertaking the authorised clearing.

1.5. Site map

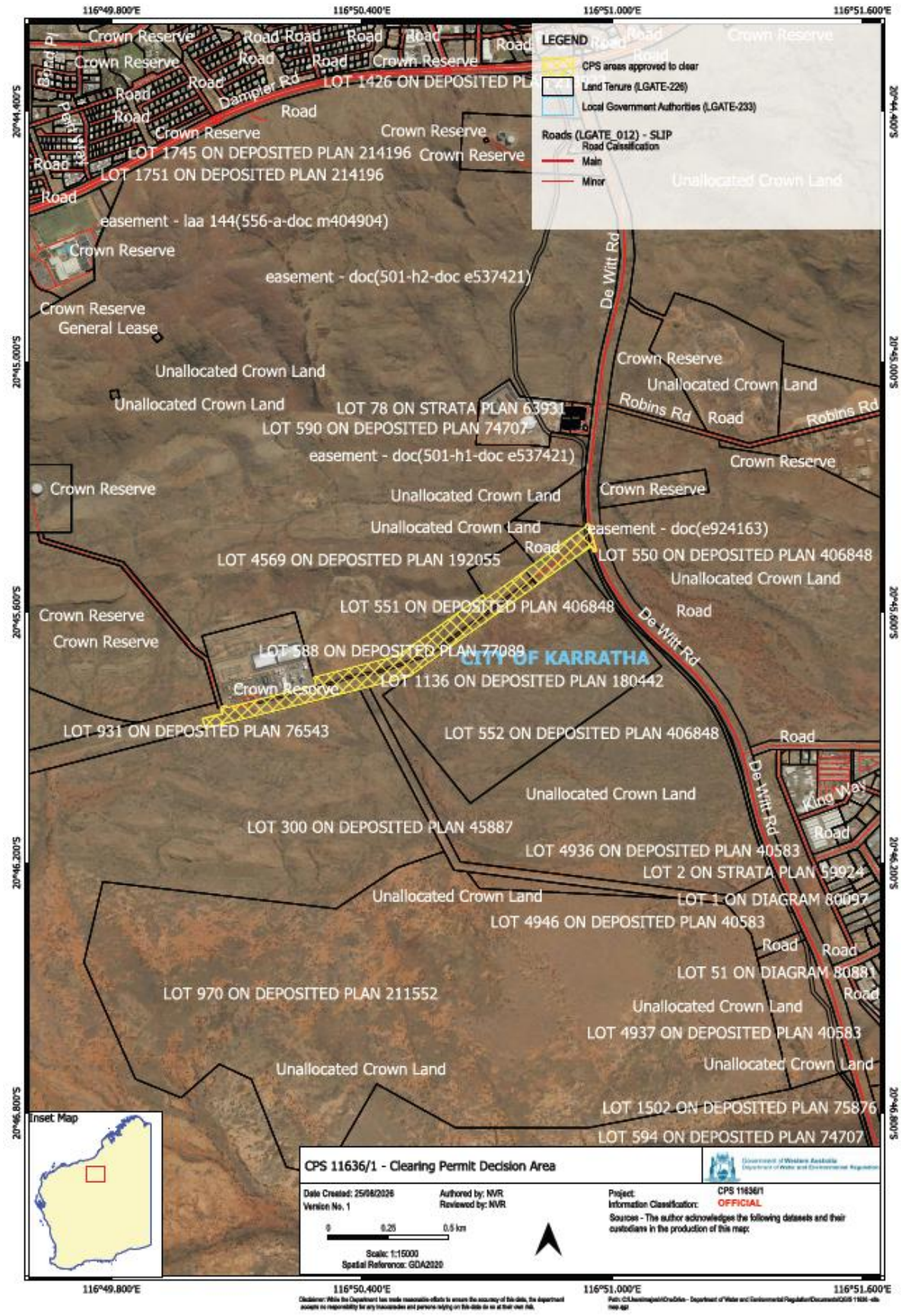


Figure 1 Map of the application area

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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)

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 following avoidance and minimisation measures have been considered by Horizon Power during the design of the proposed clearing area to be applied during the course of the activity (SLR, 2026).

Project has been designed to limit the amount of native vegetation clearing required for construction through:

1. use of existing cleared areas, including the existing road footprint, intersection and existing cleared areas around the power station for laydown, where possible.
2. Minimal clearing for drainage structures.

- No clearing will be permitted outside of the DE.
- The clearing locations will be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS, or similar prior to clearing activities.
- 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.
- Vehicles and machinery will remain on existing tracks and roads where possible.
- Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean and weed control will be undertaken at site post-construction as required.
- Weather will be monitored to avoid construction works during heavy rainfall to prevent runoff, erosion and mobilisation of sediment.
- Dust impacts resulting from clearing are not expected to significantly impact sensitive receptors given the distance to these receptors, however, standard construction dust control and mitigation measures will be implemented if required during clearing.
- Noise levels from the clearing activities are unlikely to exceed the Environmental Protection (Noise) regulations, however, standard construction noise management and control measures will be implemented if required during clearing.

A clearing permit supporting document was prepared and was submitted to DWER by Horizon Power with the above listed avoidance and mitigation measures (SLR, 2026). 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 risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and vegetation) and are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise along with erosion management conditions.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

The application area is within the Pilbara bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA). The majority of the application area is located over the Abydos Plain-Roebourne vegetation association 157.

The Development Envelope containing the application area intersects one broad vegetation association, the Abydos Plain –Roebourne. The vegetation association 157 is described as Hummock grassland Triodia species (Government of Australia, 2019).

The application area is linear strip approximately 2.6 kilometres long adjacent to the existing Stovehill Road within a 15.7 hectare Development Envelope. An upgrade flora, vegetation and vertebrate fauna survey was conducted by SLR, 2026 over 3 days (5 March – 6 March and 9th March 2026) to describe key flora, vegetation and fauna values within a survey area of 16.37 hectares.

The survey identified three vegetation types across 12.75 hectares of the Development Envelope excluding 2.91 hectares of cleared areas (SLR, 2026). The three vegetation types recorded (not including cleared areas) were:

- AbAiCc: *Acacia bivenosa* and *A. inaequilatera* tall-open shrubland over *Cenchrus ciliaris* and Chrysopogon fallax tall to low tussock grassland.
- AbAiTe: *Acacia bivenosa* tall sparse shrubland over *A.inaequilatera* mid-sparse shrubland over *Triodia epactia* low hummock grassland.
- AbAsTe: *Acacia bivenosa* tall- sparse shrubland over *Goodenia stobsiana* low-sparse forbland with *Triodia epactia* (and *T. wiseana*) low hummock grassland.

The vegetation condition (Trudgen, 1991) throughout the survey area varied from Completely Degraded (Trudgen,1991) to Excellent (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The majority of the survey area (76.36%) contained vegetation of Very Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition with no to minimal signs of disturbance and contained little to no weeds (SLR,2026). The 3.26 hectares of vegetation rated Completely Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition was observed immediately adjacent to cleared areas such as linear infrastructure (roads, vehicle tracks, and rail) and contained a higher proportion of weed species (predominantly **Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Chrysopogon fallax*) (SLR, 2026).

Areas within the application that are in excellent (Trudgen 1991) condition may provide habitat for priority flora that have been recorded in the local area (50km radius). These include *Tephrosia bidwillii, Acacia glaucocaesia* and *Themeda ap.* Hamersley station (Western Australian Herbarium 1998). A total of 86 vascular flora taxa from 26 families and 52 genera were recorded during the field survey but none that are EPBC Act or BC Act listed, or priority flora. Noting the survey did not identify any threatened or priority flora, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact of conservation significant flora.

Vegetation representing the Horseflat Land System was mapped over approximately 75 hectares by GHD (2022) just outside of the application area and is in Good (Trudgen, 1991) to Very Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition. It is noted that the 75,700 hectares of Horseflat Land System mapped is in the local area of a 50-kilometre radius of the application area. The delegated officer has decided that the impact to Horseflat Land System will not be significant due to the small area of clearing in relation to its occurrence in the local area along with the revegetation of cleared areas. A condition will be imposed on the permit to avoid and minimise clearing where possible.

Conclusion

The native vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises of a vegetation type and flora taxa typical to the region. Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on priority flora or ecological communities. However, the proposed clearing may introduce and spread weeds into the surrounding vegetation which may impact on habitat
quality. Weed management practices will help reduce this risk.

Conditions

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

- weed management measures to be implemented to mitigate impacts to adjacent vegetation

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

Assessment

The fauna survey identified two fauna habitat types over the application area which are listed below. The Project is proposing clearing of up to 2 hectares of native vegetation across the two broad fauna habitats that were identified based on predominant landforms, soil and vegetation structure in the area, this survey and others undertaken to date (SLR, 2026).

Fauna habitats mapped:

- Triodia Plains and Slopes
- Minor Drainage

A likelihood of occurrence assessment concluded that ten significant fauna species are considered to have a high to medium likelihood of occurrence within the application area:

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) – Endangered under EPBC Act and the BC Act.
- Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) - listed as P4 by DBCA.
- Lined Soil-crevice Skink (*Notoscincus butleri*)- listed as P4 by DBCA.
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act
- Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus)* – Migratory under the EPBC and BC Act
- Oriental Plover (*Anarhynchus veredus*) – Migratory under the EPBC and BC Act.
- Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) – Migratory under the EPBC and BC Act.
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – Migratory under the EPBC and BC Act.
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – listed as Vulnerable under EPBC
- Short-tailed Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis*) – listed as P4 by DBCA.

Considering habitat requirements, proximity to the application area, number of records, and historical nature of the records, threatened conservation significant fauna species considered likely to occur over the application area have been assessed further - Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Endangered), Ghost Bat *Macroderma gigas* (Vulnerable) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (Vulnerable).

According to DWER'S desktop assessment, Northern quoll species were last recorded 17.24 kilometres from the application area in 2025, while the Ghost bat was recorded in 2025 too but further and outside the 50km buffer radius. These species are transient and potentially only visit the area on an occasional basis and also given the abundance of potential habitats for northern quoll in the local area, including vegetation immediately surrounding the application area, the proposed clearing is not considered to be locally significant for the survival of these species, should they be present within the application area.

Records of Peregrine falcon occur within the local area, and it typically nests on rocky ledges in tall, vertical cliff faces and gorges, or in tall trees associated with drainage lines which the local area provides. The falcon is however known to have a wide range of habitat types including plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings mimicking the cliff (DAWE, 2021). While the application area and surrounds exhibit some of these characteristics that are likely to provide suitable habitat for the Peregrine Falcon it is unlikely that the application area represents a significant habitat for this species. The Peregrine Falcon has a large home range and may fly by or utilise the area in transit.

The region has availability of large and intact tracts of vegetation and rocky landscape, and assessment does not consider the application area clearing to result in significant impact on the conservation values or significant habitat of the discussed threatened fauna species.

No significant fauna species or evidence of their presence were recorded within the DE during the SLR (2026) survey.

According to SLR 2026, the road is private and only used by people going to and from the Horizon Power depot and Power Station. The proposed works will not fragment the landscape or restrict access of fauna species to these habitats.

SLR 2026 indicates that there is approximately 33,979 ha of native vegetation which may also be utilized by fauna species within a 10 km radius of the DE and proposed clearing represents approximately 0.0059% of this available habitat.

However, the proposed clearing may result in injury to ground-dwelling fauna individuals if present during the clearing activities, noting it is part of a contiguous vegetated landscape.

Conclusion:
Based on the above assessment, the fauna habitats identified over the application area will remain well-connected and part of a larger contiguous landscape of similar habitats within the local area and surrounding region.

The delegated officer has determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in a significant residual impact on conservation significant fauna given the avoidance and mitigation measures provided by the applicant (Section 3.1) are implemented during the clearing activities and the conditions imposed on the clearing permit.

Conditions:
To address the potential impacts to fauna and fauna habitat from the proposed clearing, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit.

- conduct clearing in a slow progressive manner in a single direction towards adjacent native vegetation to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

3.2.3. Land and water resources (land degradation) - Clearing Principles (g)

Assessment

Based on the mapped soils within the application area, the proposed clearing may cause wind erosion in some portions of the application area, water erosion and may result in Acid Sulphate Soils risk.

The potential to cause land degradation in the form of wind erosion may exist if the area remains bare for an extended period of time. However, given the proposed clearing is a linear extent of only 2.6 kilometres it is not likely that the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation in the form of wind. These impacts can be managed by ensuring the period of soils left bare are kept to a minimal.

No primary watercourses (rivers) or wetlands intersect the application area. However, several non-perennial drainage lines intersect the application area. The road widening will only widen existing culverts, with the water hydrology regime maintained. No increase incidence of flooding or sever increase in surface water flow is expected. Any sheet flow will be over a short timescale and there is adequate surrounding native vegetation to allow water to infiltrate.

According to the Atlas of Australian Acid Sulphate Soils (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011), the DE predominantly overlays class C extremely low probability of occurrence (1-5% change of occurrence in mapping unit). With a small area in the eastern extent of the survey area overlapping a class B area. Noting no deep trenching is proposed and the appoican'ts commitment to incorporate standard construction management measures through implementation to reduce the risk of soil erosion and sedimentation, the exposure of Acid Sulphate Soils within the application area are likely to be negligible.

Conclusion:
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in land degradation in the form of wind erosion if soils are left bare for an extended period of time.

Conditions:
To address the above potential impacts, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:

- The permit holder must commence the construction of the road no later than three months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities.

3.3 Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The City of Karratha (the City) advised DWER that local government approvals are not required, and that the proposed clearing is considered consistent with the City's sustainability objectives, environmental management priorities and local biodiversity outcomes. The clearing of approximately 2 hectares of native vegetation within a 15.6 hectare footprint is considered insignificant to city's biodiversity and planning values provided appropriate clearing

controls, rehabilitation and ongoing land management practices are implemented and thus subject to appropriate environmental management measures, the City has no objection to the proposed clearing (City of Karratha, 2026).

The application area is located within the Pilbara Surface water area and the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RiWI Act) (DWER-037, DWER-034). There are no mapped rivers proclaimed under the RiWI Act in the vicinity, and the application area is not located within any *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act) Clearing Control Catchments, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033).

Advise was obtained from DWER Northwest Region (NWR) and Pilbara Water Licencing in relation to potential water quality impacts under the RiWI Act. NWR have no objection to the proposal provided the clearing and any subsequent development does not alter the existing hydrological regime and is undertaken in accordance with best practice measures (DWER, 2026).

Available records show there to be drainage lines in the vicinity of the proposal clearing. Any modification or additional culverts to facilitate the road widening will require a bed and banks permit under s17 of the RiWI Act. Applicant has however advised the alterations proposed are minimal and that Horizon Power is sufficiently authorised under Section 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* for the interference with the bed and banks in the area for purposes of a broad range of activities.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the Ngarluma People were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed clearing under section 24KA of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). No comments were received.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is, a linear strip of native vegetation approximately 2.6 kilometres long in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. The application area is located within the Pilbara IBRA Bioregion and extends from Stovehill Road to Dewitt Road. Aerial imagery indicates the local area (50 kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 96.65 per cent of the original native proposed clearing area.
Ecological linkage	No formal ecological linkages are mapped over the application area or occur in the vicinity of the application area.
Conservation areas	The application area does not intersect with any DBCA managed lands. The Murujuga National Park is mapped approximately 12 kilometres to the north of the application area and a DBCA land of interest is mapped 23 kilometres to the west while the Millstream Chichester National Park is 47 km south of the application area.
Vegetation description	The DE is located within VA 157, Abydos Plain - Roebourne. This Vegetation Association within is well represented within the region, with over 96% of the pre-European extent at all scales (e.g. State, IBRA Bioregion, IBRA Sub-region and Local Government Area (LGA). The flora and fauna survey undertaken over the application area in March 2026 (SLR, 2026) identified three types of vegetation namely: AbAiCc: *Acacia bivenosa* and *A. inaequilatera* tall-open shrubland over *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Chrysopogon* fallax tall to low tussock grassland. AbAiTe: *Acacia bivenosa* tall sparse shrubland over *A. inaequilatera* mid-sparse shrubland over *Triodia epactia* low hummock grassland. AbAsTe: *Acacia bivenosa* tall- sparse shrubland over *Goodenia stobsiana* low-sparse herbland with *Triodia epactia* (and *T. wiseana*) low hummock grassland. This survey findings are consistent with the Vegetation within the Pilbara bioregion and Roebourne sub-bioregion as described by IBRA, particularly: • Vegetation association 157 - Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana.* The mapped vegetation types retain greater than 94 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	Vegetation condition within the application area ranges between Very Good to Completely Degraded, with around 12.5 hectares (76.36%) being in good or better condition and approximately 3.26 hectares (19.91%) being completely cleared (SLR, 2026). The vegetation immediately adjacent to cleared areas, such as linear infrastructure (roads and vehicle tracks) is generally more disturbed. These areas are rated to be Degraded to Poor condition.

Characteristic	Details
	The full vegetation condition for the (Trudgen, 1991) rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Excerpts of the surveys are available in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The project is located in the Karratha Coast Zone of the Pilbara Province. The Karratha Coast Zone is characterised by coastal mudflats with sandy coastal plains and some hills on marine deposits and some sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Pilbara Craton (Tille 2006). The climate of the application area is semi-arid with warm to hot temperatures all year and low rainfall. Most of the rain falls in the late summer months. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 36.3 °C in March, to 26.4 °C in July. The mean minimum temperature ranges from 26.9 °C in January to 13.8 °C in July. The mean annual rainfall for all years is 292.4 mm. 2019 was a dry year, receiving only 110.4 mm (BoM 2020).
Soil description	The application area is mapped over two soil landscape units. • Horseflat System (281HF) described as gilgaied clay plains supporting Roebourne Plains grass grasslands and minor grassy snakewood shrublands (DPIRD, 2019). • Ruth System (281Rt), described as hills and ridges of volcanic and other rocks supporting shrubby hard spinifex and occasionally soft spinifex grasslands (DPIRD, 2019).
Land degradation risk	The risks of land degradation in the local area include that of associated with acid sulphate soils (ASS). Risk mapping indicates the soils of the survey area have a 'High to moderate' and 'Moderate to low' risk of ASS, causing environmental damage, if those soils are disturbed. The dry condition of a semi-arid climate may exacerbate the risk of wind erosion, especially over the exposed soils. Sheet flows of surface water during the larger cyclonic rainfall events can result in significant water erosion (DPIRD, 2019).
Waterbodies	No primary watercourses (rivers) or wetlands intersect the Development Envelope (DE). However, several drainage lines intersects the application area.
Hydrogeography	The area proposed to be cleared is within the proclaimed Pilbara Groundwater and Surface water areas under the RIWI Act (DWER-034, DWER-037). The application area does not occur within a Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-034) or an area subject to the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947. Groundwater salinity level (Total Dissolved Solids) is mapped as 1,000 - 3,000 milligrams per litre (fresh to brackish) (DWER-026).
Flora	The flora and vegetation survey (SLR 2026) did not identify any Threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act 1999 nor the BC Act 2016. The survey also did not find any Priority flora species.
Ecological communities	No TECs or PECs were mapped within the application area. None of the vegetation types recorded within the DE were restricted to the SLR (2026) Survey Area, nor were they analogous to nearby Priority Ecological Communities (SLR, 2026) - the Horseflat land system and the Roebourne Plains (P3).
Fauna	Conservation significant fauna species considered likely to occur over the application area include the Northern Quoll *(Dasyurus hallucatus)* – Endangered under EPBC Act and the BC Act, the Western Pebble-mound Mouse *(Pseudomys chapmani)* - listed as P4, the Lined Soil-crevice Skink *(Notoscincus butleri*)- listed as P4 and the Ghost Bat *(Macroderma gigas)* – Vulnerable under EPBC and BC Act. The survey identified 21 fauna taxa from 14 families (6 birds, 7 mammals and 6 reptiles) and no significant or introduced fauna taxa.

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*					
Pilbara	82,705.78	78,096.64	94.43	17,600.29	21.28
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 157*	12,538.04	12,117.67	96.65	225.49	1.80

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

A.3. 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]
Horseflat Land System of the Roebourne Plains	Priority 3	Y	Y	Y			Y
Roebourne Plains coastal grasslands with gilgai microrelief on deep cracking clays (Roebourne Plains gilgai grasslands)	Priority 1	Y	Y	Y			Y

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

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 significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants.	Not likely to 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: Two broad fauna habitat types have been identified within the survey area – Triodia plains & slopes and Minor Drainage. However, no significant fauna species or evidence of their presence was recorded during the survey by SLR 2026. Potential impact on any individual present during clearing or works can be minimised by applying a slow, directional clearing method.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain flora species listed as threatened under the BC and EPBC Acts.	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: No threatened ecological community present over the application area.	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 remaining native vegetation cover is in the excess of 96% of its original cover. This is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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, approximately 13km to Murujuga National Park, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of 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: Several minor drainage lines intersects the application area. The applicant advised that the road widening will only widen existing culverts and will maintain the waterflow in the landscape. No significant impacts to riparian vegetation is expected.	At variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The proposed clearing may result in land degradation in the form of wind erosion and is likely to result in increased surface water flow if soils are left bare for an extended period of time. Noting the extent and the linear nature of the of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation but as a precaution land management can mitigate potential impact from localised land degradation.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: The application area is located within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the RIWI Act. The applicant has no intention to abstract groundwater	Not likely to be at variance	No .
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area 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 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 excerpt

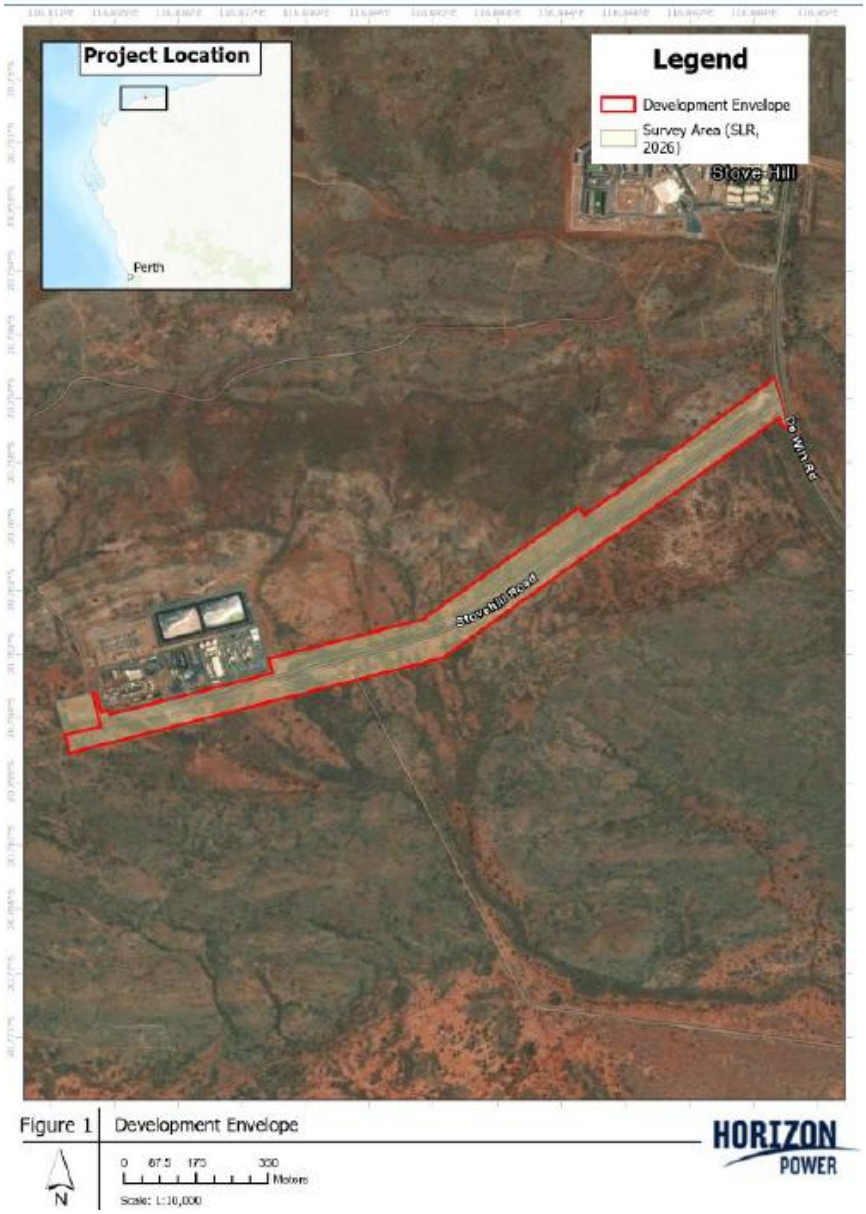


Figure 2

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)

E.2. References

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