Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11702/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Maritana Mineral Limited
Application received:	20 July 2026
Application area:	170 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Processing facility and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 27/200, 27/214, 27/216 General Purpose Lease 27/02
Location (LGA area):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Black Swan Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Maritana Minerals Limited proposes to clear up to 170 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,823 hectares, for the purpose of a processing facility and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 44 kilometres north-northeast of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, within the Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The application is to allow for the conversion of the Black Swan Nickel processing plant to a gold processing plant and allow ore from multiple sources to be treated on-site.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	27 October 2026
Decision area:	170 hectares of native vegetation

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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and one submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate a processing facility and associated infrastructure.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to riparian vegetation and waterflows;
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion;
- potential impacts to malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- potential impacts to suitable habitat for arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*); and
- potential impacts to suitable habtiat for inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- avoid clearing watercourses where practicable, and ensure surface flows are maintained or reinstated downstream;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition over suitable habitat to identify active ('in-use') malleefowl mounds and avoid clearing within 200 metres of any mounds from 1 September to 31 January;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals; and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies.

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 (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
- the polluter pays principle

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant demonstrating that cleared vegetation will be stored along with topsoil for future rehabilitation activities (Maritana Minerals, 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 (Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and vegetation). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. *Biological values (flora) - Clearing principle (a)*

Assessment

The application area is located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The Eastern Murchison subregion is characterised by internal drainage and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development (CALM, 2002). Vegetation within the subregion is dominated by Mulga woodlands (often rich in ephemerals), hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Tecticornia* shrublands (CALM, 2002). Pastoral grazing occurs over a vast majority of the subregion, and consequently, much of the subregion has been degraded by feral herbivores. Mining of gold and nickel in the region is considerable, with most mining tenements occurring on pastoral land (CALM, 2002).

A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over the application area by Botanica Consulting (2026) on 2 April and 6 May, 2026. No Threatened or priority flora species were recorded within the application area. The survey was undertaken outside of the recommended survey period for the region however, due to unseasonal rainfall leading up to the survey many species were identifiable (Botanica Consulting, 2026). It should also be noted that the survey was undertaken during the recommended EPA supplementary survey period (EPA, 2016). The desktop assessment found that six priority flora species were noted as potentially occurring within the application area.

Ptilotus rigidus, Priority 1, is a low shrub that occurs in quartz outcropping associated with large salt lakes (Botanica Consulting, 2026; WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 21 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA bioregions. The closest known record is a historic record from 1962, located within five kilometres of the application area (WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). There is no suitable habitat within the application area for the conservation significant species and, as a result the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact the species.

Eremophila praecox, Priority 2, is a broom-like shrub that occurs in red/brown sandy loam on undulating plains (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 52 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Coolgardie, Murchison and Nullarbor IBRA bioregions. There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of red/brown sandy loam on undulating plains (Botanica Consulting, 2026). As it is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significant impact on the species.

Angianthus prostratus, Priority 3, is a prostrate annual herb that occurs in red clay or loamy soils on saline depressions (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 10 Western Australia Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Avon Wheatbelt and Murchison IBRA bioregions. There have been records in open eucalypt woodlands which also occurs within the application area. There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of red loamy soils and *eucalyptus* woodlands. As the species was not identified during the survey, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significant impact on the species.

Lepidium fasciculatum, Priority 3, is an erect annual herb that occurs in dry lakebed in red loamy soil (Botanica Consulting, 2026; WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 13 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Esperance Plains, Mallee and Nullarbor IBRA bioregions. There is no suitable habitat within the application area and as a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the conservation significant species.

Rhodanthe uniflora, Priority 1, is an erect annual herb that occurs in brown earth in open *eucalyptus* woodland (WA Herbarium,1998-). There are 3 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records restricted to the Murchison IBRA bioregion. There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of brown earth in open eucalyptus woodland. As the species is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significantly impact on the species.

Ricinocarpos digynus, Priority 1, is an erect shrub that grows in red sandy loam and has been recorded in low *eucalyptus* woodland and rocky hillslopes (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 10 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA bioregions. There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of rocky hillslopes with *Casuarina pauper*. As the species is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significantly impact on the species.

Xanthoparmelia dayiana, Priority 3, is a lichen that grows in association with laterite outcrops or rocky areas in open woodlands including *Eucalyptus* sp., *Acacia* sp., *Atriplex* sp., and *Eremophila* sp. (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are five Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records distributed across the Coolgardie, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. There is suitable habitat with the application area in the form of laterite within the Latimore land system that features gently undulating gravelly plains and low rises on laterite with acacia tall shrubland and occasional eucalypts (Botanica Consulting, 2026). As the species is not geographically restricted, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to a significantly impact on the species.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing can be managed by taking steps to avoid and minimise the extend of clearing.

Conditions

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

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

3.2.2. *Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (a) and (b)*

Assessment

The reconnaissance flora and vegetation and fauna survey undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2026) over Mining Leases 27/200, 27/214 and 27/216 in April and May 2026 identified six broad fauna habitats within the area proposed to be cleared. One conservation significant fauna species (malleefowl) has been recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There are seven conservation significant fauna species occurring within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) but are considered unlikely to occur within the area proposed to be cleared.

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), VU, occurs in a wide range of habitats, generally consisting of a sandy substrate with trees between 3 and 8 metres in height and a shrub layer providing horizontal cover (DCCEEW, 2024). The large ground-dwelling bird favours long unburned and ungrazed mallee and constructs nests in sandy soils and leaf litter by building large mounds used for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). Suitable habitat for the species occurs within the application area in the form of low *Acacia* woodland consisting of *Acacia incurvaneura Acacia caesaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* / *Acacia ramulosa* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain, particularly in the CLP-AFW1 vegetation type (see Appendix B.1) (Botanica Consulting, 2026). There are low to moderate levels of leaf litter within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026). There is a historical record of malleefowl within the application area, but no records of active or inactive mounds.

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*) has a severely fragmented and restricted geographic distribution across two remaining subpopulations in Western Australia. They are known to have a complex dependency on the co-occurring sugar ant (*Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*) to complete their lifecycle, with ABAB larvae living entirely in the sugar ants nest during their development (WABSI, 2022). The preferred habitat for ABAB is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over mid open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain and/or drainage depression.

Inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*), P2, is known from two locations near Kalgoorlie; however, it has been recorded from an additional 10 locations across an area extending approximately 121 kilometres north to south by 42 kilometres east to west (Eastwood et al., 2023). The preferred habitat for this species is open woodland with mature *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia* and mixed flowering shrubs (*Eremophila*, *Scaevola* and *Maireana*) with open areas of well drained exposed ground adjoining the host plants (Eastwood et al., 2023). Inland hairstreak caterpillars feed on the flowers of *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia*. The species has a symbiotic relationship with the ant species *Froggattella kirbii* (Eastwood et al., 2023). There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over mid open shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on rocky hillslope (RH-EW1) (see Appendix B.1). There are six records within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) with the closest known record located within 15 kilometres of the application area.

Several conservation significant species have been recorded within the local surrounds (20k kilometres) of the application area, however there is low likelihood of occurrence for many of these species including red-necked stint, common greenshank, curlew sandpiper and the hooded plover, hooded dotterel. There is limited suitable habitat for these bird species within the application area. As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on conservation significant bird species.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on suitable conservation significant fauna habitat can be managed by implementing a directional clearing condition and fauna management conditions for malleefowl, inland hairstreak butterfly and arid bronze azure butterfly.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition over suitable habitat to identify active ('in-use') malleefowl mounds and avoid clearing within 200 metres of any mounds from 1 September to 31 January;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak butterfly) condition requiring areas to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak butterfly host plants; and
- a fauna management (arid bronze azure butterfly) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potentially critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals; and no clearing within 100 metres of any colonies.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 14 August 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2020/005 – Kakarra Part A) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl and arid bronze azure butterfly which is a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*
- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has no objections related to the clearing permit application.	Taken into consideration throughout the assessment against principles and noted in Section 1.4 and 3.3.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	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 landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion. The proposed clearing area is part of the existing Black Swan project where approximately 307 hectares (13 per cent) of the broader project area has previously been cleared (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Bullock Holes Timber Reserve located approximately five kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • **20:** Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Allocasuarina cristata* & *Eucalyptus* sp. (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting on 2 April and 6 May, 2026. The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026): • **RH-CFW1:** Low forest of *Casuarina pauper* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia duriuscula* over low open shrubland of *Westringia rigida* on rocky hillslope; • **RH-EW1:** Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over mid open shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on rocky hillslope; • **CLP-AFW1:** Low forest of *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain; • **CLP-AFW2:** Low open forest of *Acacia caesaneura* over mid shrubland of *Acacia ramulosa* over low isolated shrubs of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain; • **CLP-EW1:** Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over mid open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain; • **CLP-EW2:** Mid woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* over mid open shrubland of *Atriplex nummularia* over low open chenopod shrubland of *Tecticornia disarticulata* on clay loam plain; • **CLP-MW1:** Low mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia hemiteles* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain; • **DD-MW1:** Low mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* in a drainage depression; • **DD-EW1:** Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over mid open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* in a drainage depression; • **DD-AFW1:** Low open forest of *Acacia caesaneura* over mid shrubland of *Acacia ramulosa* over low isolated shrubs of *Ptilotus obovatus* in drainage depression; and • **CV:** Cleared areas. Representative photos and the full survey mapping is available in Appendix E.
Vegetation condition	Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in Poor to Completely Degraded condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. The full survey mapping is available in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 231.9 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).
Soil description	The application area is mapped in the majority as red/brown hardpan shallow loam, red loamy earth and calcareous loamy earth. Some areas of the application area consist of red sandy

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>duplex, stony soil and friable non-cracking clay (DPIRD, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The application area lies within the Helag, Illaara, Gumland and Latimore land systems (GIS Database). These systems have been mapped and described as (Waddell & Galloway, 2023):
<table>
<tr><th>Land system</th><th>Description</th><th>Degradation and erosion risk</th></tr>
<tr><td>Gumland land system</td><td>Alluvial plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic shrub understoreys.</td><td>Alluvial plains, drainage tracts and foci are susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, as are footslopes if protective mantles are disturbed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Helag land system</td><td>Hardpan plains and central drainage tracts, supporting mulga and eucalypt (mallee) woodlands with minor chenopod shrublands.</td><td>Alluvial plains are susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Illaara land system</td><td>Low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga casuarina shrublands.</td><td>This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Latimore land system</td><td>Breakaways and low rises on ferruginous duricrust with gently undulating gravelly plains, supporting scattered eucalypt woodlands.</td><td>Stone and gravel mantles mean this land system is generally not prone to erosion.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies</td><td>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hydrogeography</td><td>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 28 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).

The application area is located within the Goldfields Ground Water Area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>There are no records of conservation significant flora species within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026; GIS Database). There are six conservation significant flora species that could occur within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological communities</td><td>The application area does not form any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is part of the Priority 3 ‘Emu Land System’ located approximately 18 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna</td><td>There is one record of conservation significant fauna within the application area (GIS Database). There are seven other conservation significant fauna species that occur within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) of the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026; GIS Database)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna habitat</td><td>A fauna habitat field assessment was conducted by Botanica Consulting (2026) over the application area on 2 April and 6 May, 2026. Six broad fauna habitat types were identified (Botanica Consulting, 2026):

• Fauna Habitat 1: Casuarina Pauper woodland over Acacia duriuscula and Scaevola spinescens over Ptilotus and Westringia low shrubland on rocky slopes;

• Fauna Habitat 2: Low open Eucalyptus woodlands over a mid shrub layer of Eremophila/Melaleuca/Santalum/Senna/Dodonaea/Acacia over a low open shrubland of Westringia/Olearia/ Ptilotus on rocky hillslopes;

• Fauna Habitat 3: Low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia over mid open shrubland of Eremophila scoparia over low open shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus on clay loam plain and/or drainage depression;

• Fauna Habitat 4: Low forest of Acacia incurvaneura / Acacia caesaneura over mid open shrubland of Eremophila scoparia / Acacia ramulosa over low open shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus on clay loam plain;

• Fauna Habitat 5: Low open forest of Acacia caesaneura over mid shrubland of Acacia ramulosa over low isolated shrubs of Ptilotus obovatus in drainage depression; and

• Fauna Habitat 6: Low mallee woodland of Eucalyptus oleosa over mid open shrubland</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	of *Acacia hemiteles / Acacia tetragonophylla* over low open shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* on clay loam plain and/or drainage depression. The full survey mapping is available in Appendix E.

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,295,103.39	1,292,474.58	99.80	250,985.57	19.38
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,174,259.17	1,171,630.81	99.78	181,845.19	15.49

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix F.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (Botanica Consulting, 2026; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
Ptilotus rigidus	P1	N	N	<5	21	Unlikely
Eremophila praecox	P2	Y	Y	<5	52	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Angianthus prostratus	P3	Y	Y	Unknown	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Lepidium fasciculatum	P3	Y	Y	Unknown	13	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Rhodanthe uniflora	P1	Y	Y	Unknown	3	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Ricinocarpos digynus	P1	Y	Y	Unknown	10	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Xanthoparmelia dayiana	P3	Y	Y	Unknown	5	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)	Likelihood of occurrence
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	VU	Y	0	13	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*)	P2	Y	<15	6	Possible – discussed in

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)	Likelihood of occurrence
					Section 3.2.2
Red-necked stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)	MI	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)	MI	N	<20	2	Unlikely
Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)	CR	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)	MI	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Hooder plover, hooded dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*)	P4	N	<20	1	Unlikely
Arid bronze azure butterfly (*Ogyris petrina*)	CR	Y	Unknown	0	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant flora.	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: The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant fauna.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica Consulting, 2026; GIS Database).	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: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Botanica Consulting, 2026).	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 application area falls within Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	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 (GIS Database), 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: There is one minor, non-perennial watercourse within the application area. There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). The potential impacts to riparian vegetation can be managed with the implementation of a vegetation management condition.	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 Gumland and Helag land systems within the application area are susceptible to erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced (DPIRD, 2026). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. It is noted that the application area intersects a possible contaminated site (GIS Database). Advice was sought from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2026) which determined that there was insufficient evidence to determine whether the site may be contaminated, as a result the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the proposed clearing. The impacts of erosion may be reduced by a staged clearing condition to utilise cleared areas within six months of conducting clearing, to prevent cleared areas from being unstable and prone to erosion for extended periods of times.	May 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: Given no permanent watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The average annual rainfall at the nearest weather station is 231.9 millimetres (BoM, 2026), and the average annual evaporation is between 2,400 and 2,800 millimetres, greatly exceeding rainfall (BoM, 2006). No permanent watercourses or waterbodies are recorded within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

Appendix E. Biological survey information excerpts and photographs of the vegetation

The following photographs represent the dominant vegetation communities in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

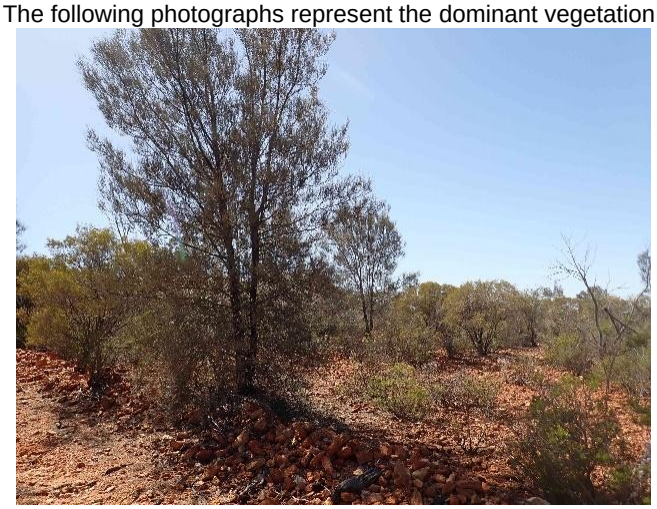


Figure 1. RH-CFW1



Figure 2. RH-EW1



Figure 3. CLP-AFW1



Figure 4. CLP-AFW2



Figure 5. CLP-EW1



Figure 6. CLP-EW2

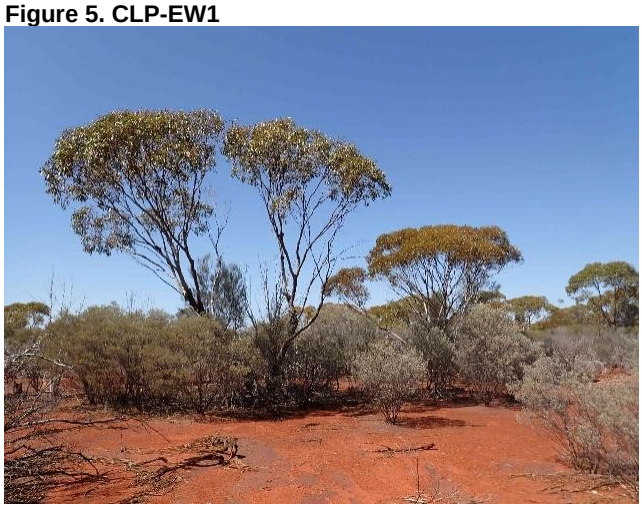


Figure 7. CLP-MW1



Figure 8. DD-MW1



Figure 9. DD-EW1



Figure 10. DD-AFW1



Figure 11. CV



Figure 12. Vegetation type in the surveyed area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

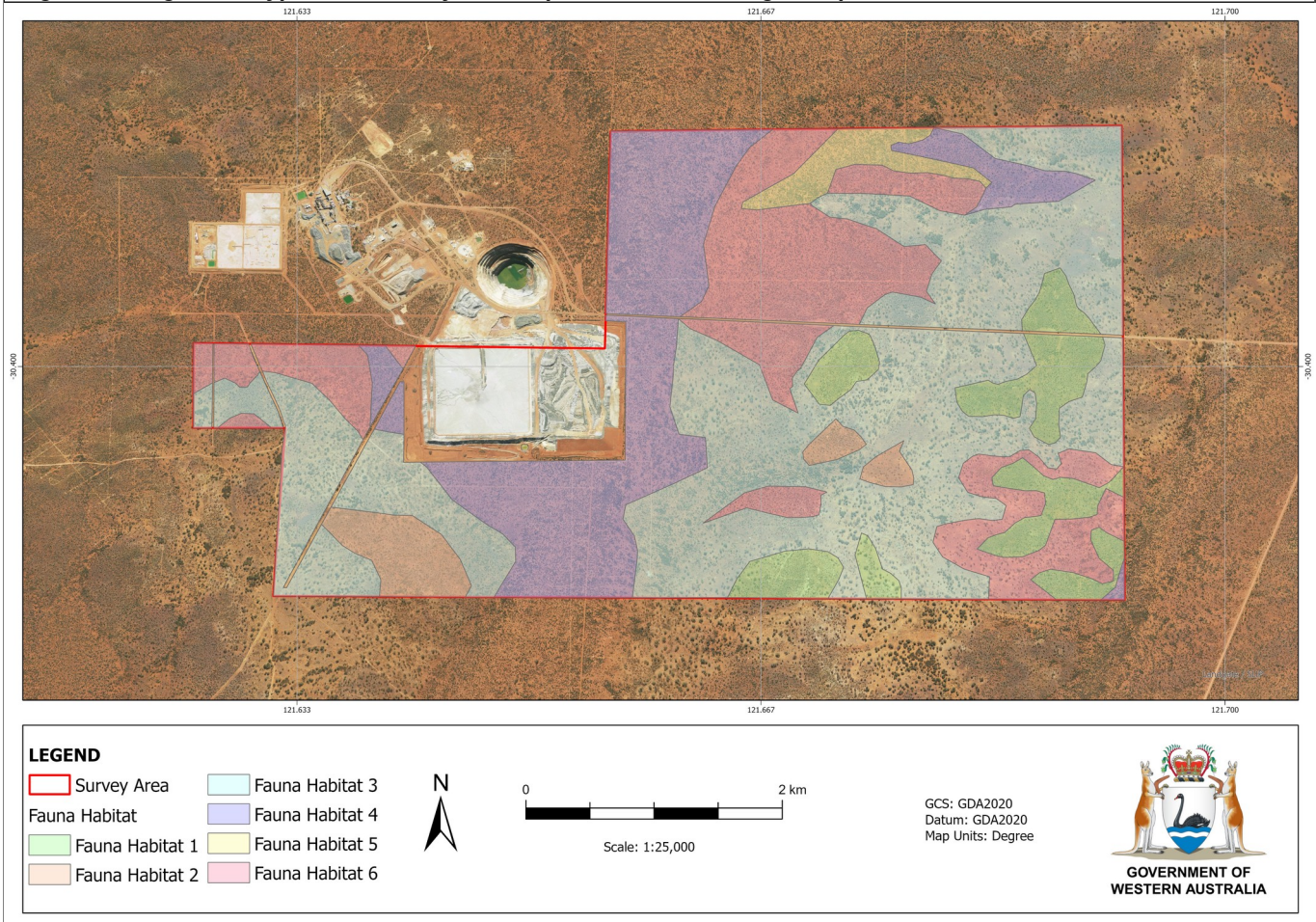


Figure 13. Fauna habitat in the surveyed area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

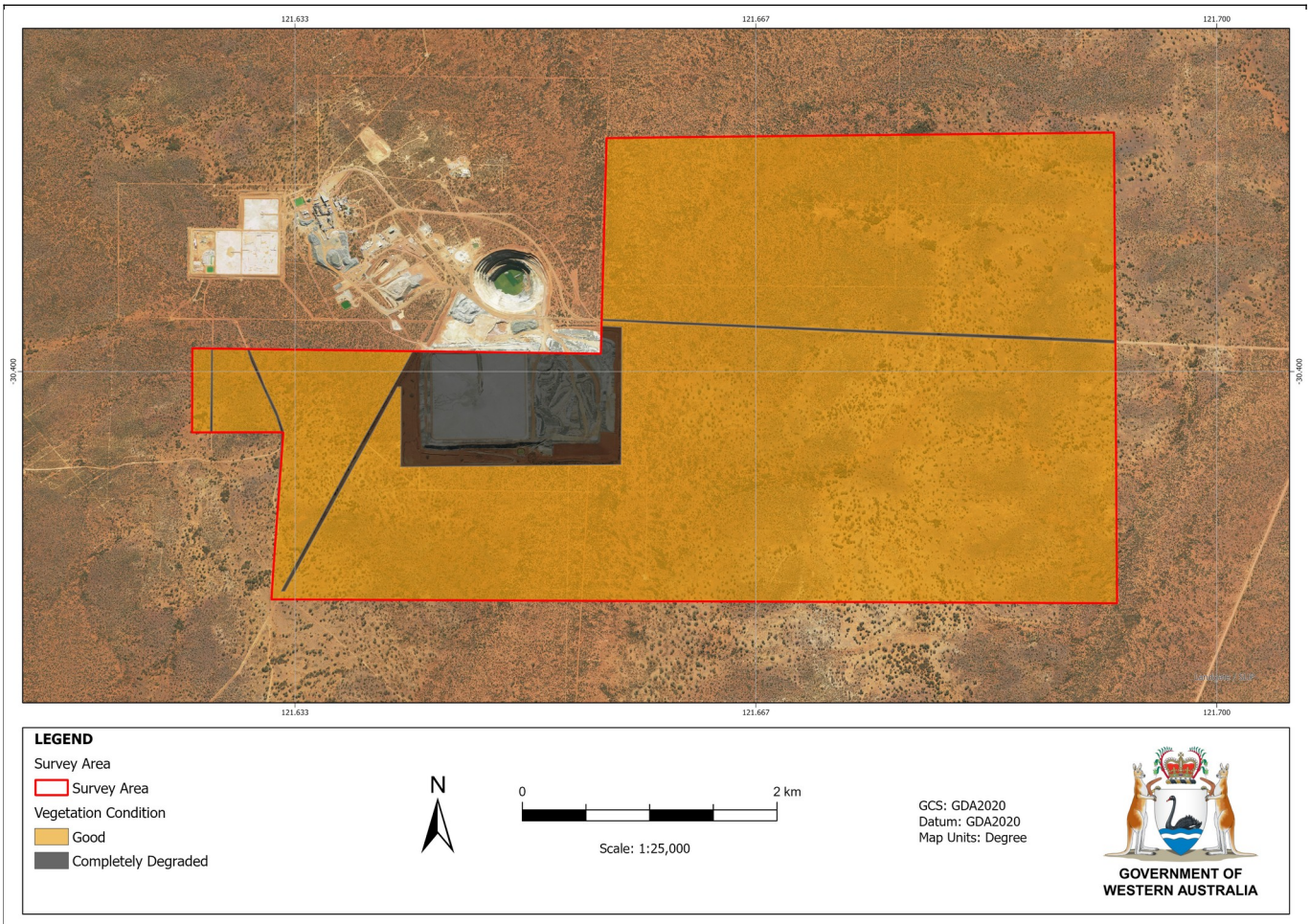


Figure 14. Vegetation condition in the surveyed area (Botanica Consulting, 2026).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)

- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

F.2. References

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR **Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN **Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU **Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

EX **Extinct species**

Species where "*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

Species that *"is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

MI **Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P **Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1 **Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.

P4 **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

(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.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

(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.

(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.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

(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.

(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.

(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.

Clearing Permit Decision Report