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:	11708/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	22 July 2026
Application area:	3 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Installation of dewatering pipeline
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 77/109, 77/535, 77/552, 77/1016
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Yilgarn
Colloquial name:	Golden Pig Pipeline

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd (Cygnet Gold) (2026a) proposes to clear up to 3 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 43.6 hectares, for the purpose of installation of dewatering pipeline. The project is located within the town of Southern Cross, within the Shire of Yilgarn (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for installation of a dewatering pipeline within a bund from Golden Pig site to Lake Koorkoordine (Cygnet Gold, 2026a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	20 October 2026
Decision area:	3 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 no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, 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 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; and
- impacts to vegetation associated with a watercourse.

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; and
- a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing, and the clearing of riparian vegetation is avoided, where practicable.

1.5. Site map

A site map of proposed clearing is provided in Figure 1 below.

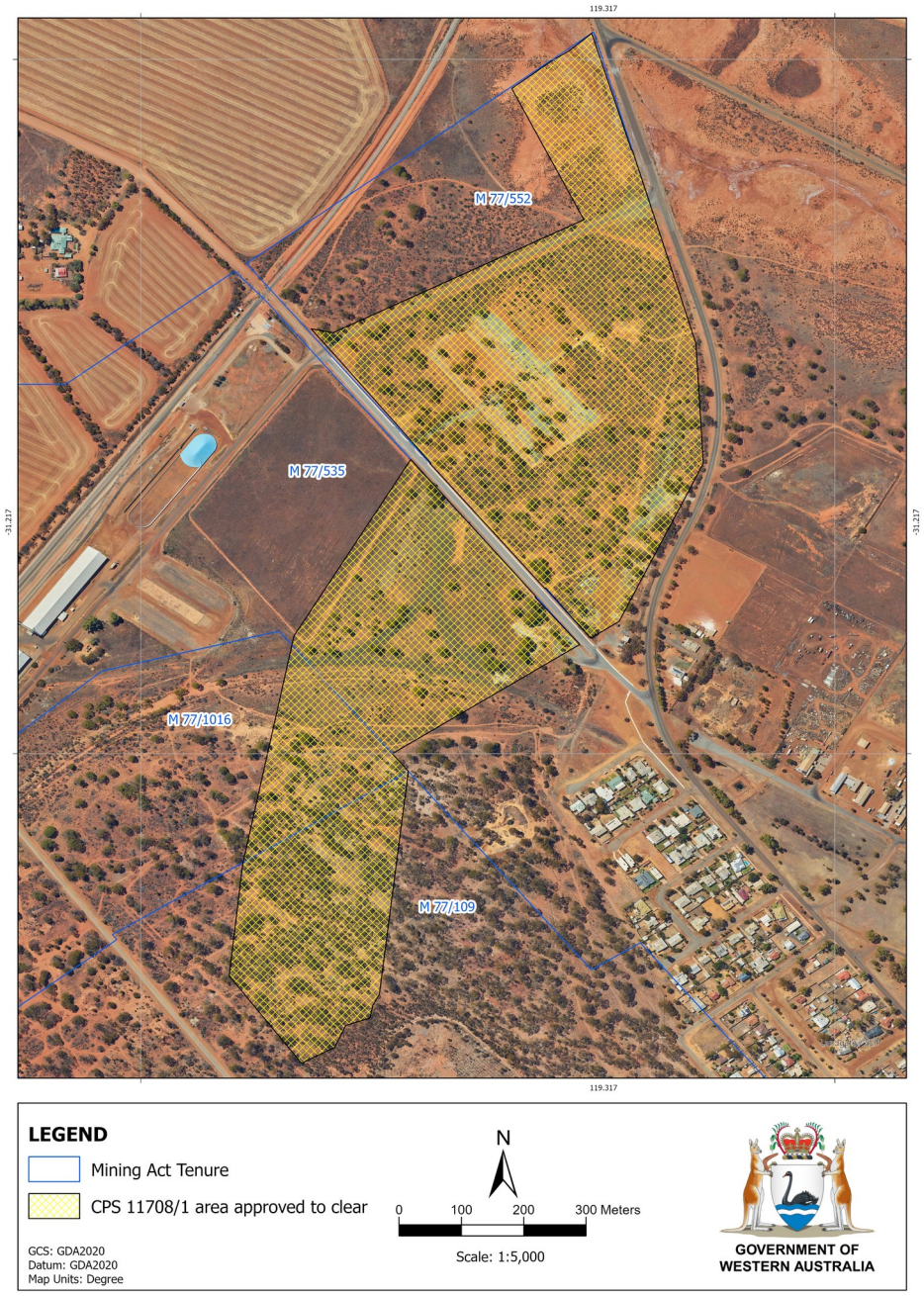


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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 (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)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

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

The applicant adequately demonstrated that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values. The following avoidance and mitigation measures will be implemented (Cygnet Gold, 2026b; Hanking Gold, 2026):

- pipeline infrastructure will be placed to avoid the clearing of the riparian zone of clay pans and shallow lakes;
- where infrastructure cannot be moved from the riparian zone of the drainage line, the clearing will be minimised, and water diversions will be created;
- try to utilize previously disturbed areas for the pipeline; and
- if disturbance is required, Hanking will avoid the *Eucalyptus* species (and EyEsMt vegetation in general) in this section of the route. Total disturbance within this vegetation community would be around 0.25 hectares (350 metres in length by 7 metres wide).

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 (Appendix C) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, weed management and watercourse management conditions.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 28 August 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work 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. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The applicant provided additional information about the avoidance of suitable habitat for ABAB through RO (Cygnet Gold, 2026b).	The assessment is completed using the provided additional information.

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 intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of Southern Cross of the Coolgardie bioregion as described in Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is dry-land agriculture, grazing native pastures and mining activities (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not mapped within a conservation area. The closest conservation area is an un-named Nature Reserve which is located approximately three kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 1068: Medium woodland, salmon gum, morrel, gimlet & *Eucalyptus sheathiana* (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by AECOM during November, 2023. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (AECOM, 2024):

Vegetation Description	Details	Photographs
TpDcc **Tecticornia Samphire Shrubland** *Tecticornia pruinosa, Tecticornia halocnemoides* and *Roycea divaricata* low samphire shrubland over *Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum, Eragrostis falcata* and *Aristida holathera* mixed. This community is associated with the saltpan and represents the fringing vegetation. It is valuable for preventing erosion and managing surface hydrology.	Survey effort: 22Q,32R, 35Q Species richness: 24 native species Extent: 63.11 ha, 9%	
EyAnAe **Eucalypt Woodland** *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis, Eucalyptus corrugata* and *Eucalyptus longicornis* mid woodland over *Atriplex nummularia, Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* mid open shrubland over *Austrostipa elegantissima, Aristida holathera* and *Rytidosperma caespitosum* low sparse tussock grassland. Includes a second low tree stratum of *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *fastigiata*. Recorded on flat terrain with clay loam soils and rocks on surface.	Survey effort: 25Q, 26R, 27Q, 28R, 36R Species richness: 32 native species Extent: 73.05 ha, 10%	
EyEsMt **Eucalypt Woodland** *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis, Eucalyptus salubris* and *Eucalyptus corrugata* mid open woodland over *Eremophila scoparia* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* tall sparse shrubland over *Maireana trichoptera, Maireana integra* and *Roepera glauca* mixed low open chenopod shrub and forbland. Recorded on flat to lower slope terrain with sandy loam sands. Degraded areas (potentially historically cleared) lack a tree stratum.	Survey effort: 24Q, 29Q, 30R Species richness: 31 native species Extent: 47.63 ha, 7%	

Characteristic	Details
	EsMt **Maireana Chenopod Shrubland** *Eremophila scoparia* and *Acacia enervia* subsp. *explicata* mid to tall open shrubland over *Maireana trichoptera, Rhagodia drummondii* and *Maireana georgei* mid to low chenopod shrubland. Recorded at one discrete location between Tecticornia Samphire Shrubland and Eucalypt Woodlands. Represents lower slopes likely to act as floodplain for the saltpan. — Survey effort: 31Q Species richness: 16 native and 1 weed species. Extent: 12.74 ha, 2% —  **Trees** Comprising native and planted trees in paddocks. — Survey effort: observation Extent: 40.35 ha, 9% — No photo **Salt Pan** Bare natural saltpan. — Survey effort: observation Extent: 167.22 ha, 23% — 
Vegetation condition	Vegetation survey (AECOM, 2024) of the application area found the vegetation to be in completely degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Southern Cross subregion is described as arid to semi-arid warm Mediterranean with mainly winter rainfall (CALM, 2002). The application area receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 302.6 millimetres (BoM, 2026).
Soil description and Land degradation risk	The soils of the application area are broadly mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database): • 260Gt_1Qa: Alluvial flats adjacent to salt lakes in the eaten Zone of Ancient Drainage. Loamy earth (mostly calcareous), hard cracking clay and alkaline shallow duplex; • 260Gr_3: Rolling low hills in the eastern Zone of Ancient Drainage. Loamy earth (mostly calcareous) and clay; • 260GrPE: Tributary valley floors on greenstone, in the Southern Cross Zone. Calcareous loamy earths and shallow duplex; and • 260Ld_1: Broad valley floors adjacent to salt lakes with minor lunettes and sandy banks, supporting eucalypt woodlands and some halophytic shrublands.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated one minor, non-perennial watercourse transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	There is no record of Public Drinking Water Source Area within the 100 kilometres radius 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). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	The flora survey conducted by AECOM (2024) did not record any conservation significant or threatened flora species within the application area.
Ecological communities	There are no known records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the application area (AECOM, 2024; GIS Database).
Fauna	The fauna survey conducted by AECOM (2024) did not record any conservation significant fauna species within the application area. However, the desktop assessment recorded seven conservation significant fauna species in the vicinity of the application area (20 kilometres) (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	A fauna survey was conducted over the application area by AECOM (2024). The following fauna habitats were recorded within the application area (AECOM, 2024; GIS Database): • *Eucalyptus* woodland (14.249 hectares) • Tall shrubland (7.441 hectares) • Low Shrubland (1.307 hectares)

Characteristic	Details
	• Trees over cleared (12.182 hectares) • Salt pan (1.183 hectares) • Cleared (6.340 hectares)

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 - Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~97	2,114,349	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
- 1068	268,900	142,088	~52	16,761	6.23
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
- 1068	193,988	104,804	~54	14,153	7.30

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have records within a 10 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability and likelihood of occurrence was determined utilising biological survey information (AECOM, 2024; WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Likelihood of occurrence	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Acacia cylindrica	P3	N	Unlikely	<10	33	Y
Acacia desertorum var. *nudipes*	P3	N	Unlikely	<1	25	Y
Acacia filifolia	P3	N	Unlikely	<10	54	Y
Acacia formidabilis	P3	N	Unlikely	<10	15	Y
Balaustion grandibracteatum subsp. *grandibracteatum*	P3	N	Unlikely	<1	35	Y
Daviesia microcarpa	T	N	Unlikely	<3	10	Y
Eucalyptus crucis subsp. *crucis*	T	N	Unlikely	<2	45	Y
Hakea pendens	P3	N	Unlikely	<2	24	Y
Lissanthe scabra	P2	N	Unlikely	<5	18	Y
Rinzia fimbriolata	P1	N	Unlikely	<10	4	Y
Stylidium choreanthum	P3	N	Unlikely	<1	30	Y
Verticordia elizabethiae	P1	N	Unlikely	<3	11	Y

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have records within a 20 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). Habitat suitability, likelihood of occurrence and impact was determined utilising biological survey information (AECOM, 2024; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database).

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Likelihood of occurence	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
		WA	EPBC				
Aspidites ramsayi (southwest subpopulation)	Woma (southwest subpopulation)	P1		N	Unlikely	<2	N/A
Dasyurus geoffroii	Chuditch	VU	VU	Y	Possible	<2	Y
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	OS		Y	Possible	<2	Y
Idiosoma castellum	Tree-stem trapdoor spider	P4		N	Unlikely	<5	Y
Leipoa ocellata	Malleefowl	VU	VU	Y	Possible	<5	Y
Nyctophilus major tor	Central Long-eared Bat	P3		N	Unlikely	0	N
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	MI	MI	Y	Possible	<2	Y

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:* Flora and fauna survey identified 93 taxa of flora from 28 families and four weed species (AECOM, 2024). There are no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities located within the application area (GIS Database). There are no records of any conservation significant flora within the application (AECOM, 2024). There is potential for four species of conservation significant fauna species to occur within the application area (AECOM, 2024). The application area provides suitable habitat for four fauna species (AECOM, 2024; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
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:* Five fauna habitats were identified within the application area (AECOM, 2024). The *Eucalyptus* woodland fauna habitat provides potential suitable habitat for chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), which may use the hollowed fallen tree trunks as potential refuge and potential foraging habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*); and the common greenshank (*Tringia nebularia*) may utilise the fringing shoreline of low shrubland and salt pan fauna habitat during the wet period (AECOM, 2024; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). However, the proposed clearing of approximately three hectares within the boundary of approximately 43.6 hectares is unlikely to have significant impact to significant fauna habitat.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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 threatened flora or habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act (AECOM, 2024; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a*	Not likely to be	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community." *Assessment:* No threatened ecological communities (TECs) are known from the local area (20 kilometres radius) of the application area and flora and vegetation surveys did not detect and vegetation representative of a TEC (AECOM, 2024; GIS Database).	at variance	
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* *Assessment:* The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; GIS Database). 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
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:* There are no conservation areas within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is an un-named Nature Reserve located approximately three kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.	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 are no permanent watercourses within the application area, however, there is a minor non-perennial watercourse that intersects the application area (GIS Database). The vegetation type TpDcc is identified growing in association with salt lake (AECOM, 2024). This vegetation provides important ecological functions by reducing erosion and managing surface hydrology (AECOM, 2024). This vegetation type covers approximately 1.3 hectares of the total proposed area boundary of 43.6 hectares (GIS Database). The proposed pipeline disturbance area is surrounded by cleared land used for agriculture, which has altered drainage in the local area (Hanking Gold, 2026). Potential impact to the vegetation growing in association with the watercourse can be minimised by implementation of a watercourse management condition.	May be 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 area proposed to be cleared lies within extensively disturbed area (Hanking Gold, 2026; GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing of up to three hectares is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* *Assessment:* Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation*	Not likely to be	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding." *Assessment:* Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging (GIS Database).	at variance	

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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- 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)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- 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)
- 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)

E.2. References

AECOM (2024) Golden Pig – Flora and Fauna Assessment. Prepared for Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd, by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd, June 2024.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2019) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Groundwater Information – Average Salinity. Bureau of Meteorology. https://www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/insight/metadata.shtml (Accessed 7 October 2026).

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Southern Cross Airfield (012320). Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 7 October 2026).

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl (Accessed 7 October 2026).

Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd (2026a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 11708/1, received 22 July 2026.

Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd (2026b) Information received via RO, 4 September 2026.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 6 October 2026).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 7 October 2026).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

Hanking Gold (2026) Golden Pig - NVCP application supporting document – M77/109, M77/1016, M77/535 & M77/552. Prepared for Cygnet Gold Pty Ltd, by Hanking Gold Pty Ltd, July 2026.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAH) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 7 October 2026).

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.

<u>Principles for clearing native vegetation</u>:

(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.