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BARYTES ROAD REALIGNMENT AND UPGRADE

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION

18 August 2026

Prepared by:

Preston Consulting Pty Ltd

Prepared for:

Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Proponent contact details:

SHIRE OF WYNDHAM EAST-KIMBERLEY

[redacted]

Document developed by:

PRESTON CONSULTING PTY LTD

[redacted]

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley (SWEK) is one of the four Local Government Areas in the Kimberley region of Western Australia (WA). The SWEK covers over 120,000 km^2, including the towns of Kununurra and Wyndham, WA's northernmost town.

SWEK is planning for a road realignment and upgrade of a 3 km section of Barytes Road in Wyndham, approximately 100 km from Kununurra (Project). The Project is intended to separate port operations from general public traffic and improve safety for all road users. The Project will also improve access for haulage vehicles which are currently restricted by the tight turning radius and steep grades at the existing access. The Project will require clearing of up to 10 ha of native vegetation, and no relevant clearing exemptions apply, thereby requiring a formal Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) application under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA) (EP Act).

1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this NVCP application is to seek permission to clear up to 10 ha of native vegetation within a 24.6 ha Permit Area (Figure 1) to facilitate the Project.



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Figure 1: Permit Area

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2 PERMIT AREA

A Purpose Permit is being sought to allow a total clearing of up to 10 ha of native vegetation within a 24.6 ha Permit Area (Figure 1).

2.1 BOUNDARY

Clearing is to be conducted entirely within the boundaries of the Permit Area shown in Figure 1. Key environmental values are outlined in Section 4.

2.2 TENURE AND LAND ACCESS

All proposed vegetation disturbance addressed in this NVCP application will occur along Barytes Road in Wyndham WA. The Permit Area is entirely within the SWEK Local Government area. There are three underlying landowners and consents from all three have been provided as Attachment 1 and shown in Figure 2.

2.3 NATIVE TITLE

The Permit Area lies within the Balanggarra People Native Title Area (WCD200/006).

All vegetation disturbance will occur within the Permit Area shown in Figure 1. SWEK will comply with the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

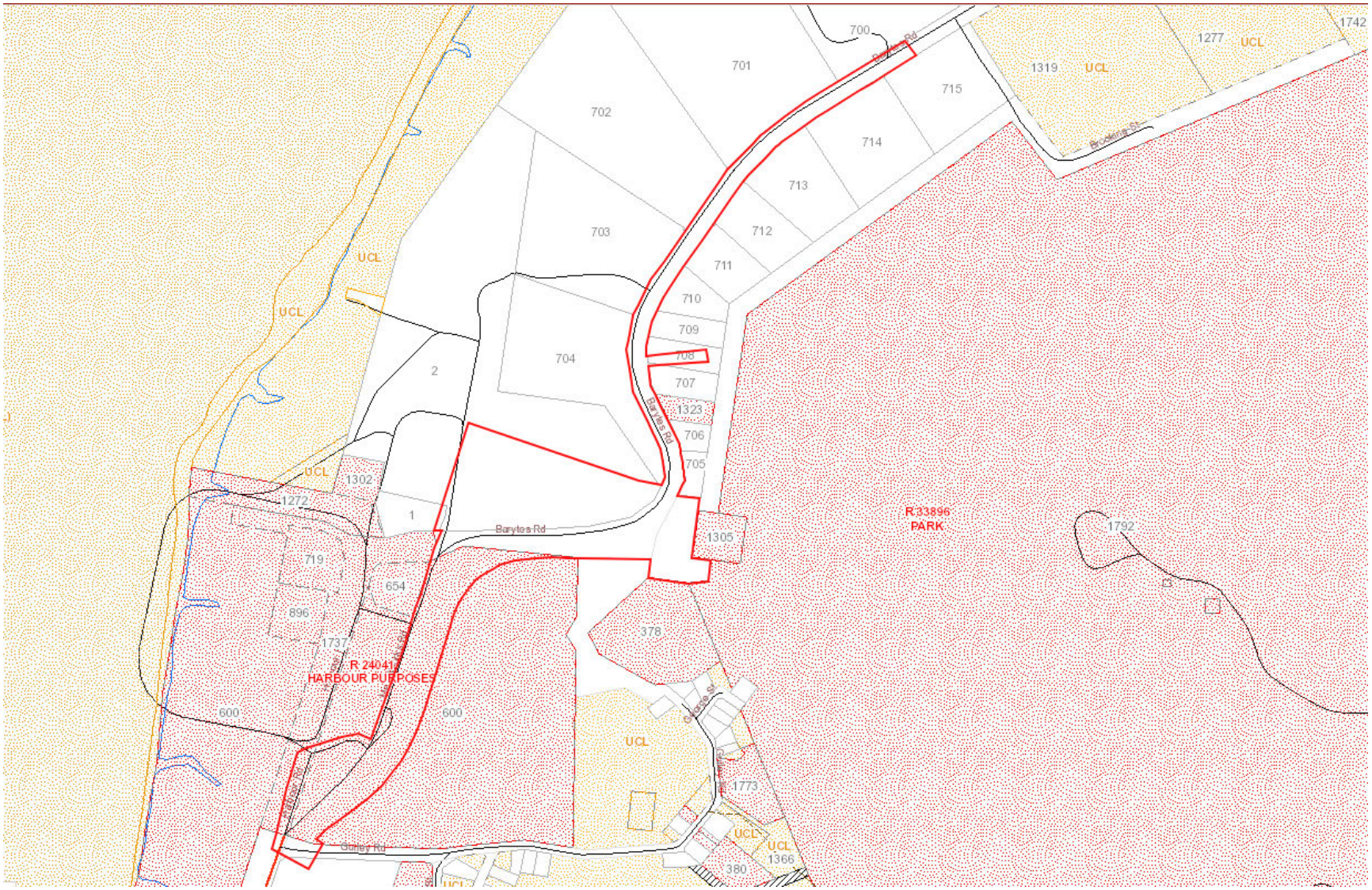


Figure 2: Underlying landholders

3 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Clearing is required to realign and upgrade Barytes Road. Mechanical clearing will be undertaken. A general design has been provided as Attachment 2.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 SURVEY DETAILS

Emerge Associates (Emerge) were engaged by SWEK to undertake a undertake a detailed flora and vegetation survey and basic fauna survey within the Permit Area (Emerge, 2026). The flora and vegetation survey was conducted with reference to the EPA's Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016b). The fauna survey was conducted with reference to the EPA's Technical Guidance - Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020).

The following tasks were undertaken:

- Desktop study to provide contextual information relevant to the assessment of flora, vegetation and fauna within the site;
- Field survey to record flora and fauna species, vegetation units, vegetation condition, and fauna habitats;
- Analysis and mapping of contextual information, vegetation units, vegetation condition and threatened and priority flora, ecological communities and fauna habitats; and
- Documentation of the desktop study, methods, results, discussion and conclusions.

4.2 BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) classifies Australia's landscapes into large 'bioregions' and 'subregions' based on climate, geology, landform, native vegetation and species information (DCCEEW, 2025). The Permit Area is located in the Keep subregion (VB1) of the Victoria Bonaparte bioregion which is characterised as 'including dissected plateaus and alluvial plains and a number of river basins with Eucalypt woodlands as the dominant vegetation community (Figure 2).

4.3 LAND SYSTEMS

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development undertakes land system mapping for WA using a nesting soil-landscape mapping hierarchy (Payne & Schoknecht, 2011). While the primary purpose of the mapping is to inform pastoral and agricultural land capability, it is also useful for informing biological assessments. Land systems are defined as areas with recurring patterns of landforms, soils, vegetation and drainage (Payne & Leighton, 2004). There are two land systems intersecting the Permit Area; the Carpentaria and Pinkerton System (Figure 3). These systems are described as:

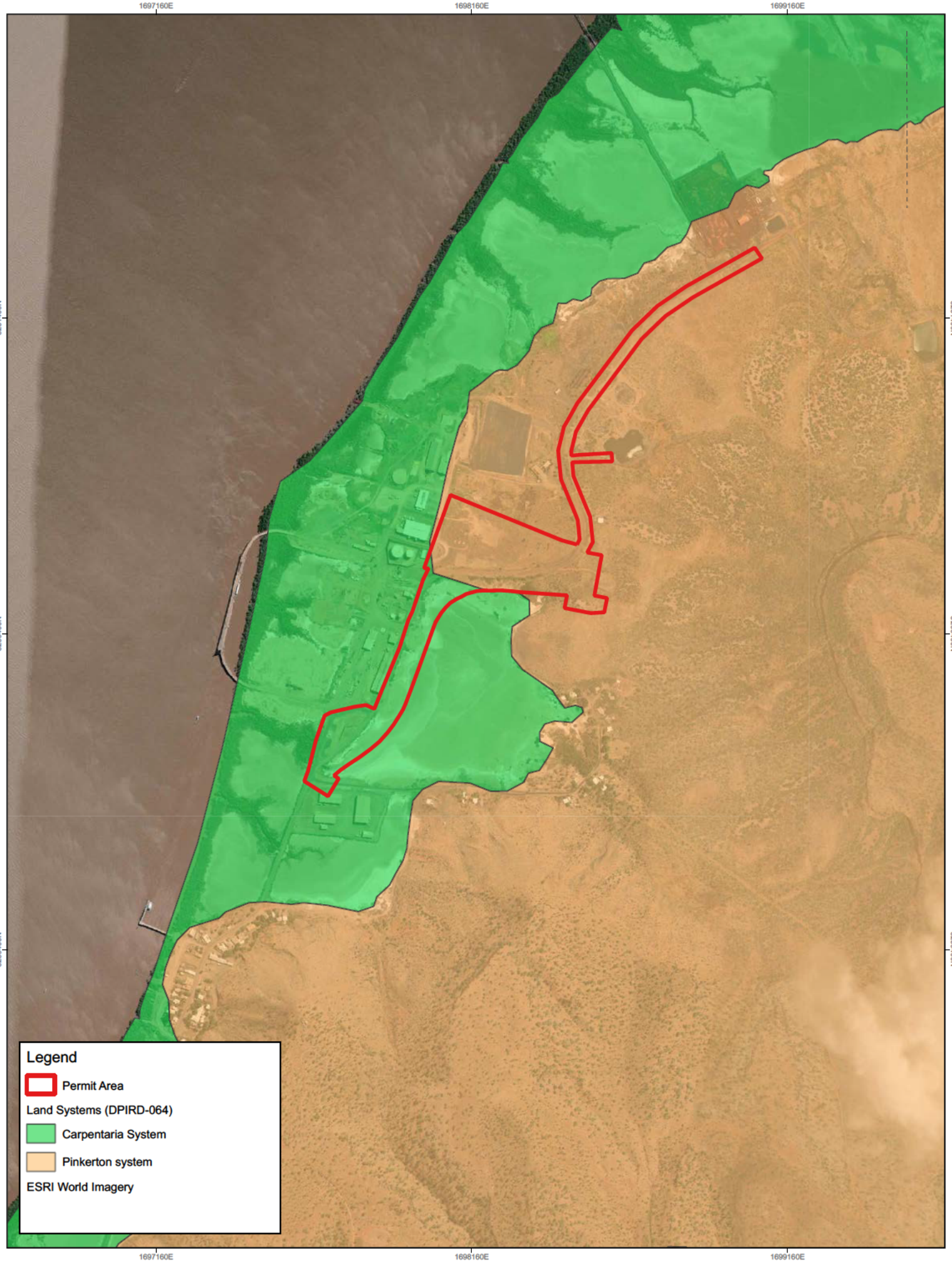
- Carpentaria System: Coastal plains, extensive bare mud flats, associated sandy margins and minor dunes, saline sands and muds, supporting paperbark thickets, samphire shrublands and fringing mangrove forests; and
- Pinkerton System: Ridges, hogbacks, cuestas, and structural plateaux of sandstone, siltstone, and shale supporting stringybark-bloodwood woodlands over upland tall grass.

4.4 Pre-European Vegetation

The Permit Area intersects two vegetation associations defined by Beard (1975) (Table 1; Figure 4). From 2007 to 2018, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) published regular updates regarding the pre-European extent and current year's extent of each of Beard's vegetation units in WA. The pre-European vegetation and current extent of the vegetation associations within the Permit Area are outlined in Table 1. Both vegetation associations have over 94% of their statewide pre-European extent remaining

Table 1: Vegetation Associations

Vegetation Association	Statewide Pre-European Extent (ha)	Statewide Current Extent (ha)	% remaining	Pre- European Extent in Bioregion (ha)	Current Extent in Bioregion (ha)	% remaining in Bioregion
127: Tidal mud flat	737,724.1	697,871.4	94.6	171,574.3	170,791.4	99.5
911: Grasslands, high grass savanna woodland on sandstone	41,557.6	41,521.1	99.9	41,557.6	41,521.1	99.9



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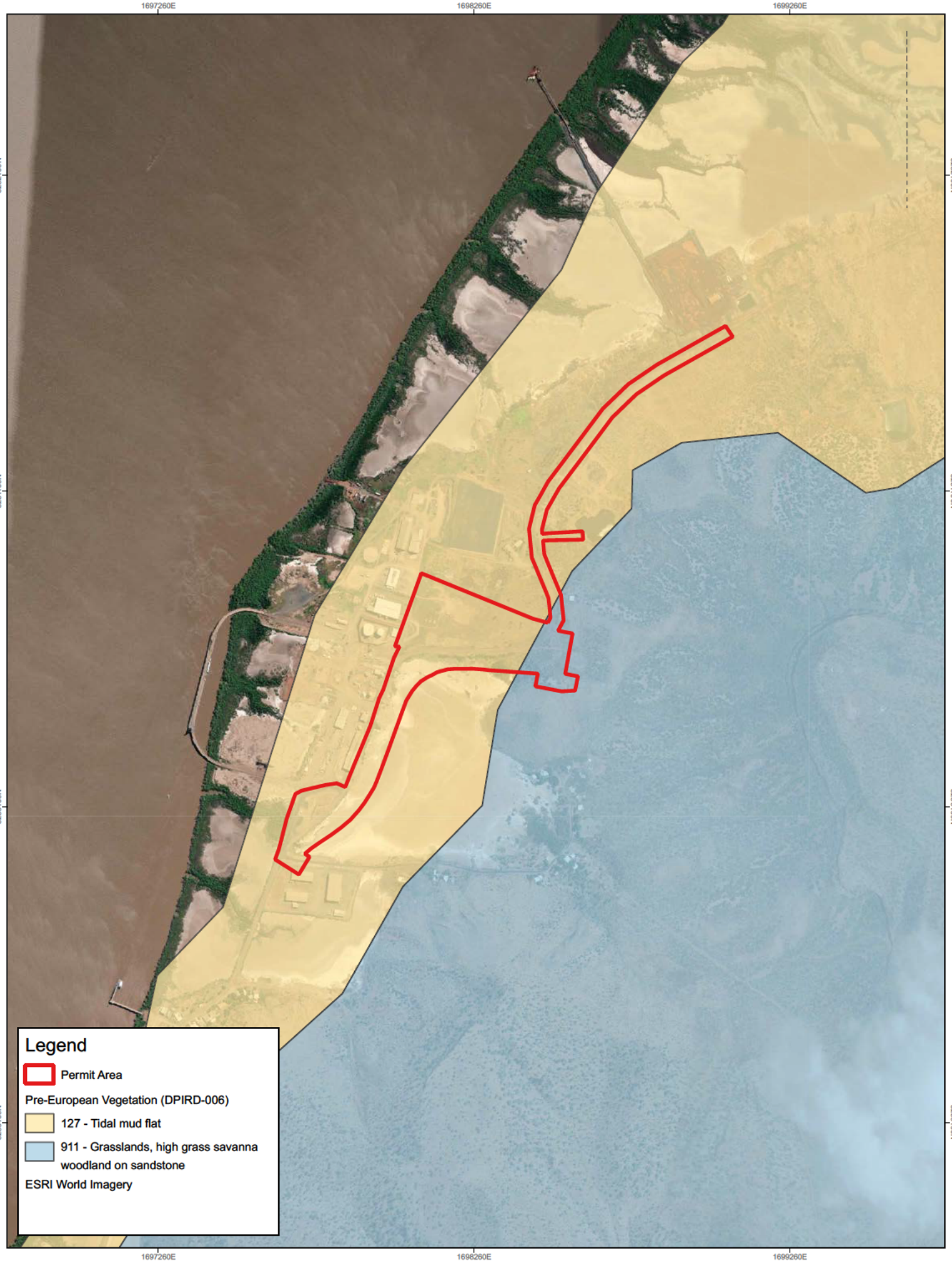
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Figure 3: Land Systems



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Figure 4: Pre-European Vegetation

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4.5 Flora and Vegetation

4.5.1 Listed Flora

Initial desktop studies identified 92 listed flora species that had been recorded within a 60 km radius of the Permit Area, comprising entirely of Priority Flora. Of these 92 species, three were recorded in the field survey, eight were considered possible to occur and 81 unlikely to occur due to a lack of suitable habitat. The 11 species recorded or identified as possibly occurring and their conservation status are summarised in Table 2.

The eight Priority Flora identified as possibly occurring within the Permit Area have all been recorded across two or more bioregions and/or have large population records. Therefore, any individuals of the species that could potentially be impacted by narrow and isolated disturbance are unlikely to represent a substantial proportion of their total population.

Table 2: Likelihood of Occurrence for Significant Flora Identified in the Desktop Assessment

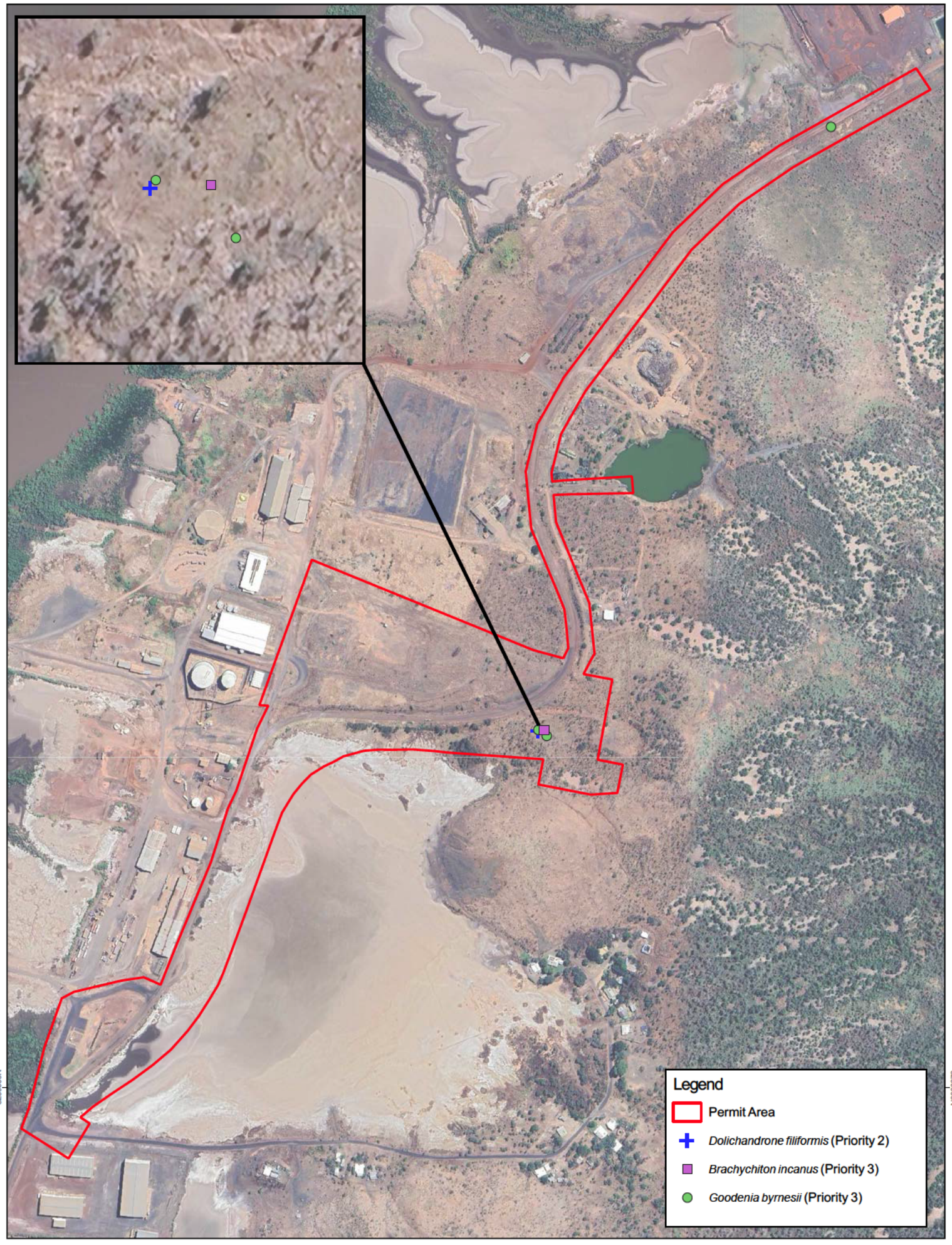
Species	Status	Likelihood of occurrence
Dolichandrone filiformis	P2 (DBCA list)	Recorded.
Brachychiton incanus	P3 (DBCA list)	Recorded.
Goodenia byrnesii	P3 (DBCA list)	Recorded.
Goodenia heterotricha	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Iseilema trichopus	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Polygala crassitesta	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Solanum pugiunculiferum	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Sphaeranthus africanus	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Utricularia tridactyla	P1 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Gomphrena longistyla	P2 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.
Stylidium incognitum	P2 (DBCA list)	Potential to occur.

4.5.2 Recorded Significant Flora

No Threatened Flora were recorded during the field survey. Three Priority Flora were recorded within the Permit Area (Figure 5) comprising of:

- *Dolichandrone filiformis* - Priority 2 DBCA List*;*
- *Brachychiton incanus* - Priority 3 DBCA List*;* and
- *Goodenia byrnesii* – Priority 3 DBCA List.

The site supports suitable habitat for *Dolichandrone filiformis, Brachychiton incanus* and *Goodenia byrnesii.* There are also additional DBCA records of these taxa which occur near the Permit Area (Emerge, 2026). The individuals recorded appeared to be stunted regrowth, likely due to previous fire disturbance observed throughout the site, and lacked diagnostic features required for identification to species level. Due to the disturbed nature of the site and the presence of regenerating vegetation, it is considered possible that additional juvenile individuals may occur within the site.



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Figure 5: Significant Flora Records

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4.5.3 Introduced Flora

Four of the species recorded are listed as a declared pest (C3) pursuant to the BAM Act: **Calotropis procera* (calotrope), **Jatropha gossypifolia*, **Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *indica* and **Azadirachta indica.* Many individuals were recorded on the road reserve and in vegetation in poor condition. **Jatropha gossypifolia* and **Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *indica* are also known as weeds of national significance (WoNS). While not listed as a declared pest or WoNS, *Eragrostis trichophora* was recorded within the southern portion of the site. The species has recently been confirmed by the WA Herbarium as a new weed record for WA and has been identified as having the potential to become a serious environmental weed.

4.5.4 Vegetation Type

Five vegetation types were mapped within the Permit Area. Vegetation types and their relative extents across the Permit Area are presented in Table 3. None of the vegetation types aligned with the description of any Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities.

Mangroves are considered a high value vegetation types because of their ecological function in the environment. Only 0.2 ha has been mapped within the Permit Area however this is because the Permit Area only intersects the outer edge of the much larger community. Regional mangrove mapping of North-western Australia was completed using multi-dimensional space-time remote sensing (iCoAST) in 2022 (Hickey & Radford, 2022). This remote sensing work was completed over the Permit Area and illustrates the vast extent of community. This information is shown in Figure 7.

Table 3: Vegetation types

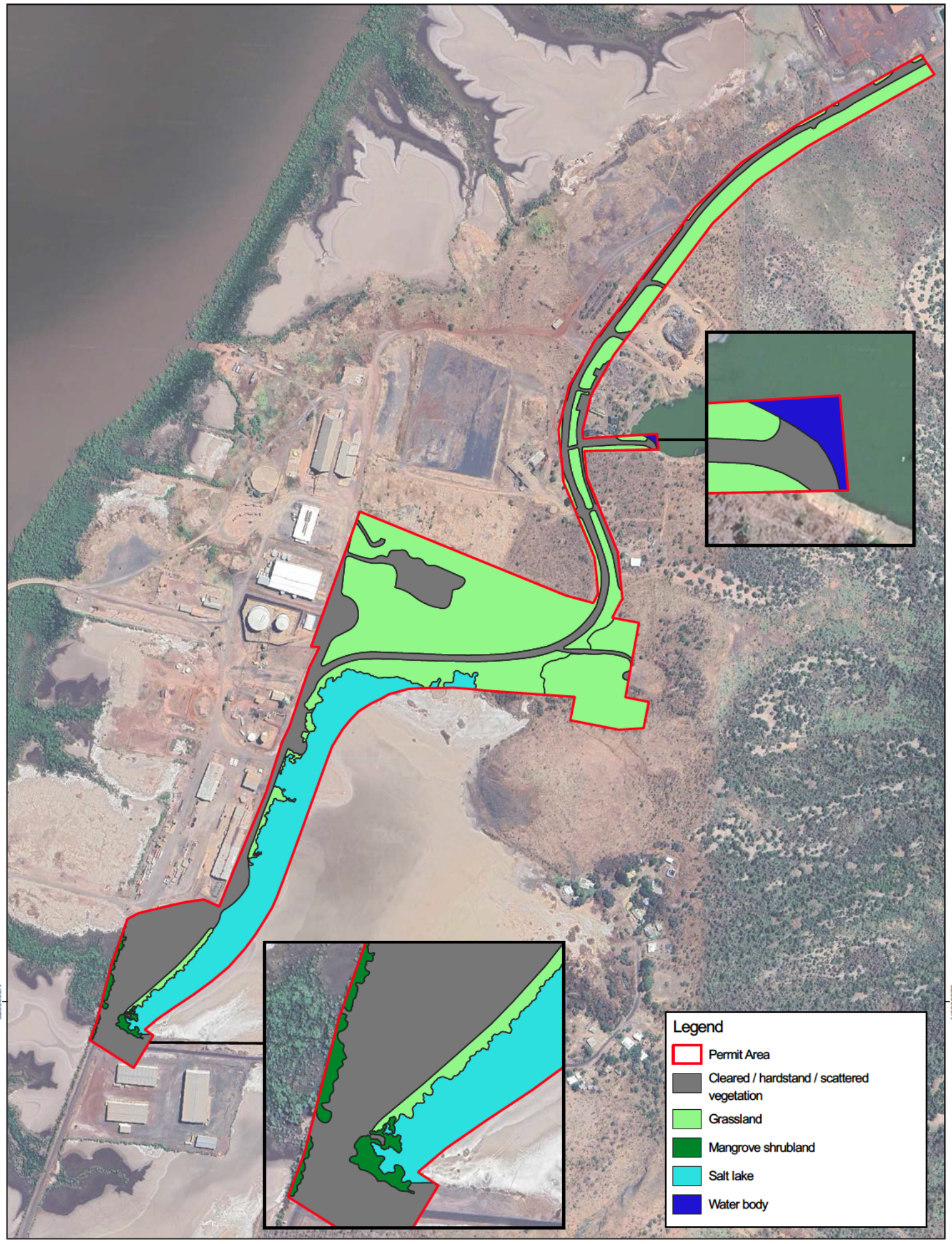
Vegetation Type	Description	Extent in Permit Area	
		Area (ha)	% of Permit Area
Grassland	Sparse shrubland of **Calotropis procera, *Azadirachta indica, Ficus* sp., *Grevillea ?erythroclada, Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* and *Sesbania erubescens* over sparse forbland of *Gomphrena canescens* subsp. *canescens, Ptilotus corymbosus* and *Ptilotus exaltatus* and grassland of **Chloris barbata, *Cenchrus ciliaris, Eragrostis ?tenellula, Eragrostis ?desertorum* and *?Sorghum interjectum.*	12.9	52.6
Samphire	Open grassland of *Eragrostis ?desertorum* and **Chloris barbata* over sparse samphire shrubland of *Tecticornia ?indica* and spare forbland of *Salsola australis* and *Bulbostylis barbata.*	4.3	17.6
Mangrove	Closed woodland of *Ficus* sp. and *Adansonia gregorii* over sparse shrubland of *Serbania erubescens* over a sparse forbland of *Trianthema triquetrum.* It should be noted that the mangrove community only extends marginally into the site only capturing the edge of the mangrove vegetation	0.2	0.8
Cleared / hardstand / scattered vegetation	Heavily disturbed areas comprising non-native, bare ground, roads, scattered native plants and firebreaks.	7.1	28.9
Waterbody	Artificial waterbody	0.03	0.1

4.5.5 Vegetation Condition

The vegetation condition of the Permit Area was mapped based on the appropriate condition scale for the Northern Botanical Province (EPA, 2016b). The vegetation condition of the Permit Area ranged from 'Very Good' to 'Completely Degraded', with the majority ranked as Poor (62%) (Table 4).

Table 4: Vegetation condition recorded within the Permit Area

Condition Rating	Area (ha)	Proportion of Permit Area (%)
Excellent	N/A	N/A
Very Good	2.1	9
Good	N/A	N/A
Poor	15.3	62
Degraded	N/A	N/A
Completely Degraded	7.2	29



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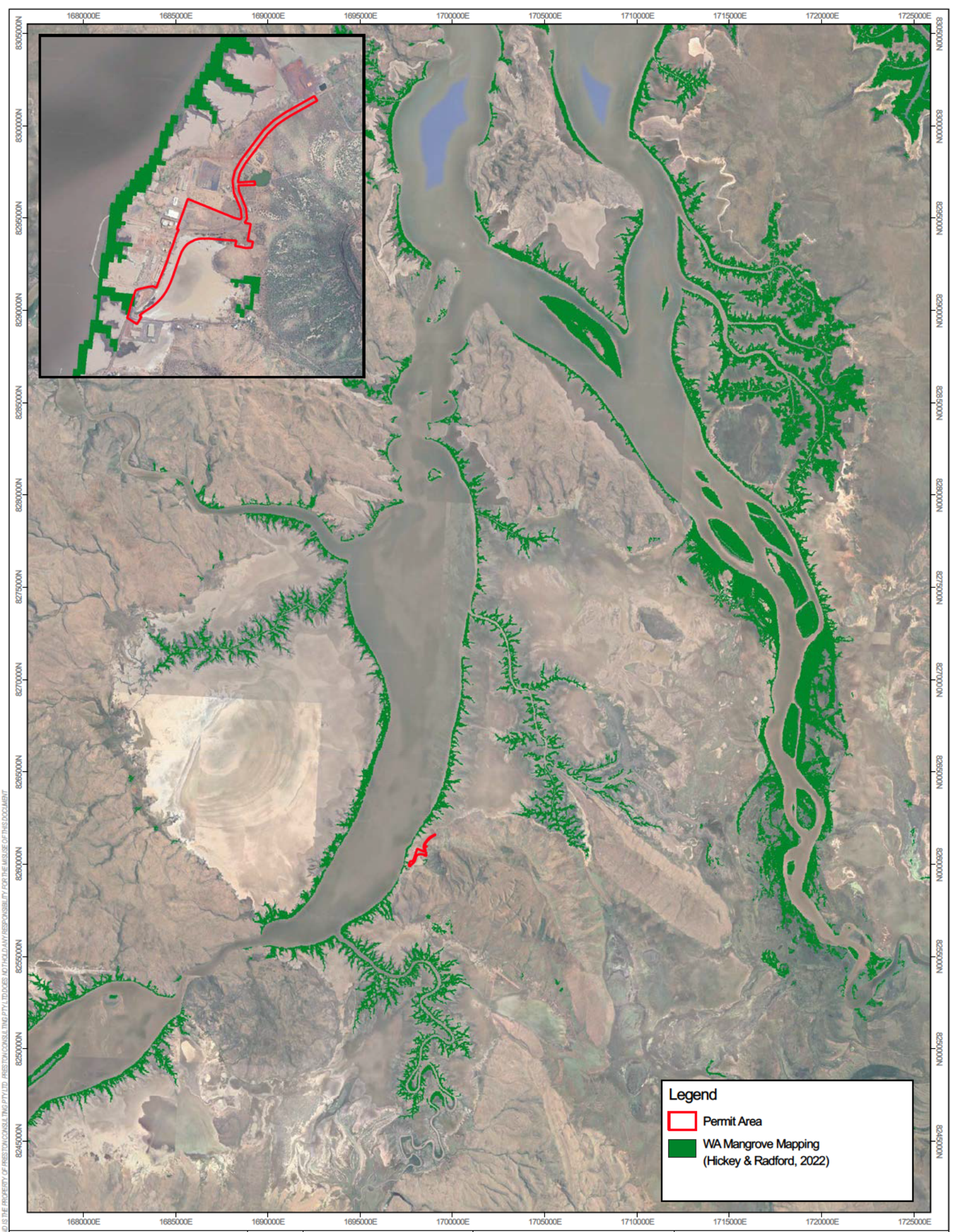
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Figure 6: Vegetation Types

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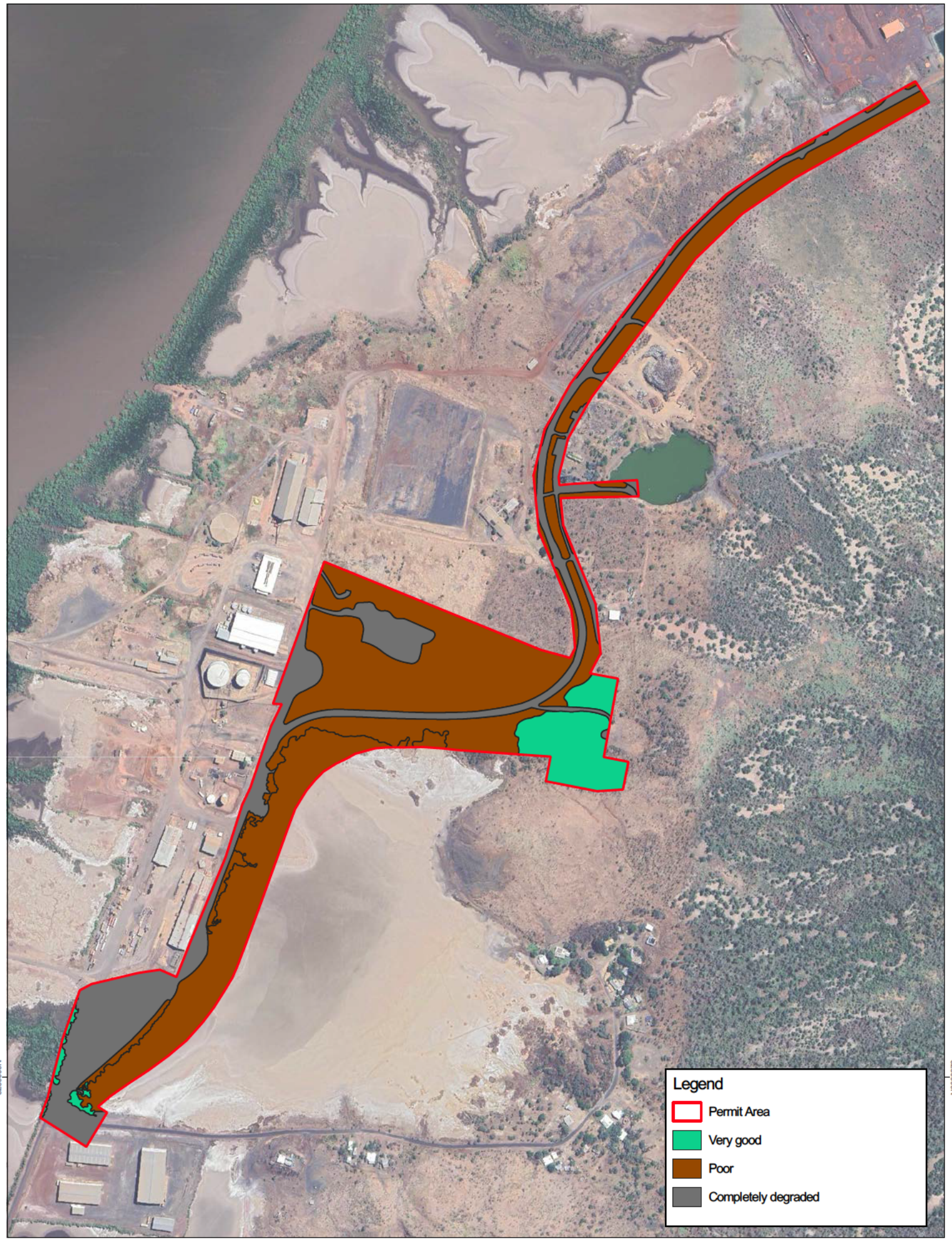
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Figure 7: Regional Extent of Mangroves



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Figure 8: Vegetation Condition

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4.6 Fauna

4.6.1 Fauna Habitat

Five fauna habitats were recorded within the Permit Area (Emerge, 2026). The fauna habitats are outlined in Table 5 and shown in Figure 9. The majority of the Permit Area (52.6%) is represented by Grassland. The fauna habitat types that occur within the Permit Area are mostly widespread in the region and extend outside the Permit Area.

Table 5: Fauna habitat

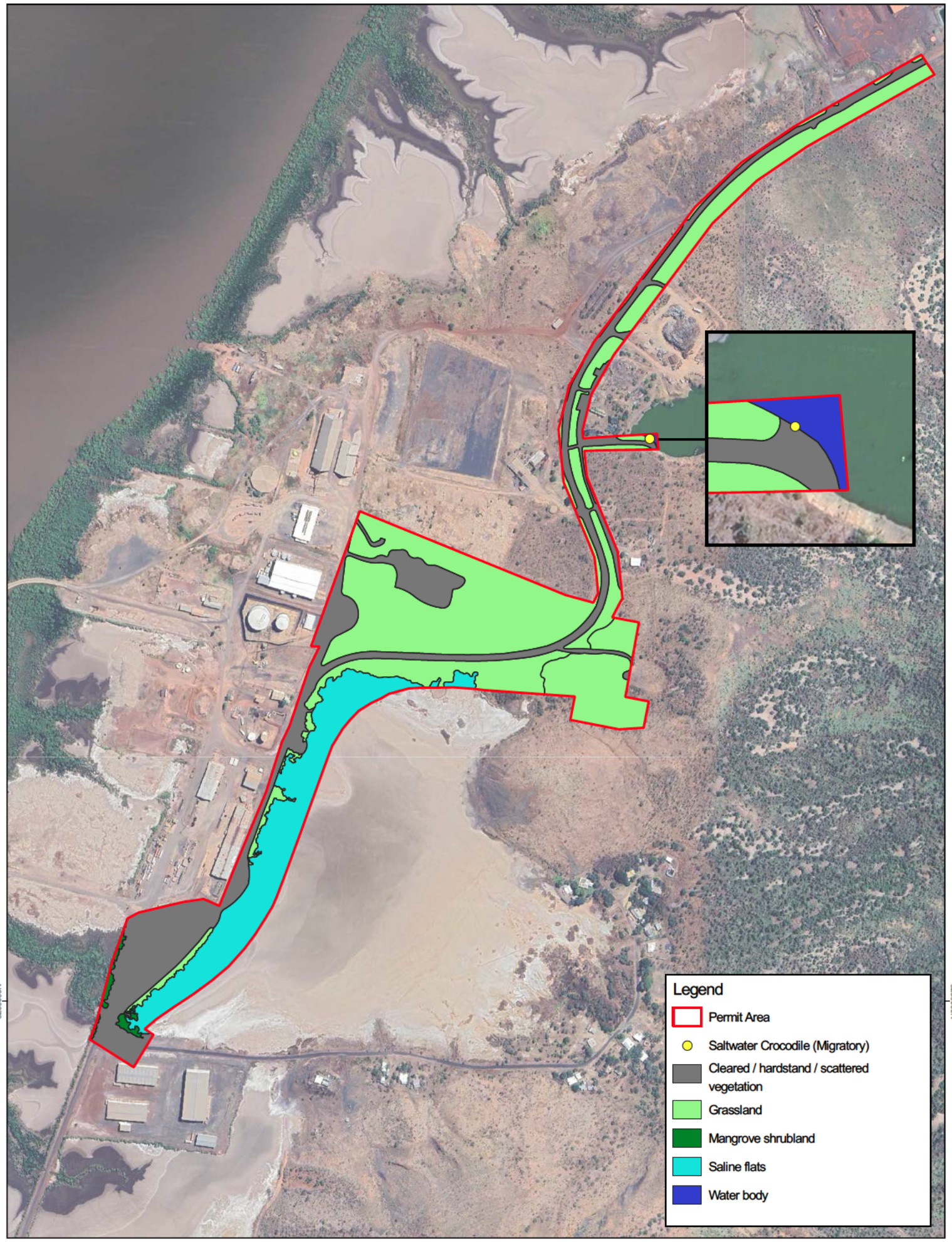
Habitat Type	Description	Extent in Permit Area	
		Area (ha)	Proportion of Permit Area (%)
Grassland	Areas of varying density of grasses. Often coincides with disturbance and subsequently weeds.	12.9	52.6
Cleared / hardstand / scattered vegetation	Cleared areas around infrastructure, mainly consisting of planted trees.	7.1	28.9
Mangrove low woodland	Seasonally inundated woodland of Ficus sp. and *Adansonia gregorii* over scattered shrubs and forbs	0.19	0.8
Saline flats	Estuarine salt flats consisting of little to no vegetation or microhabitat features. May become inundated during wet season.	4.3	17.6
Waterbody	Man-made pit currently holding water. Highly disturbed by machinery excavation on peripheries and roadworks around and up to edge of body. May become further inundated during wet season, providing connectivity to nearby river.	0.03	0.1

4.6.2 Listed Fauna

The desktop assessment identified 103 Threatened, two specially protected and 12 Priority fauna species as potentially occurring within 60 km of the Permit Area. Of these, 41 were considered likely or possible to occur. The list of these species can be found in Appendix E of the survey report (Attachment 3).

4.6.3 Recorded Significant Fauna

One significant fauna species, Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) was recorded within the Permit Area in the Waterbody fauna habitat (Figure 9). This species is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts.



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Figure 9: Fauna Habitat and Significant Fauna Records

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4.7 WATER AND DRAINAGE

The Permit Area is located within the West Arm Estuary Catchment which is approximately 30,000 ha. No drainage lines intersect the Permit Area, the West Arm estuary is located immediately west of the Permit Area.

4.8 LAND USE

The Permit Area is located on a public road, the surrounding area is primarily used for port and industrial activities. The Permit Area intersects Crown Reserve for harbour purposes managed by the Kimberley Ports Authority.

5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

SWEK identified the following potential stakeholders for the Project:

- Kununurra and Wyndham communities;
- Pastoral lessees;
- Department of Transport;
- Main Roads Western Australia;
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation;
- Registered Native Title holders;
- Local tourism operators;
- Tourists;
- Cambridge Gulf Limited;
- Kimberley Ports Authority;
- Landowners;
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- Department of the Environment and Energy; and
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Shire road maintenance is subject to annual funding submissions and the scale and nature of activities may vary from year to year. SWEK have taken the opportunity to review the potential activities over the next ten years and have consulted with key stakeholders during the planning and funding stages, and will continue to consult with key stakeholders during the implementation stages for the Project.

Consultation will be conducted as part of SWEK's normal information and consultation processes. SWEK notifies key stakeholders of road work activities and road status via their website (available at http://www.swek.wa.gov.au/).

6 ASSESSMENT OF CLEARING AGAINST THE TEN CLEARING PRINCIPLES

The proposed vegetation disturbance has been assessed against the ten clearing principles described within *A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation* (Department of Environmental Regulation (DER), 2014; Table 6).

Table 6: Assessment of proposed vegetation disturbance against the ten clearing principles

Relevant Information	Assessment of potential impacts	Proposed control measures	Outcome – Assessment of variance with clearing principle
1. Native Vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity			
Surveys of the Permit Area were undertaken by Emerge (2026). The majority of the Permit Area (91%) was classified as being in Poor or Completely Degraded condition. No Threatened flora were recorded within the Permit Area. Three Priority flora were identified within the Permit Area: • *Dolichandrone filiformis* (P2); • *Brachychiton incanus* (P3); and • *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3). A further eight Priority species were considered to potentially occur. The vegetation in the Permit Area is identified as Vegetation Association 127 and 911. Vegetation Association 216 and 117 have over 96% of statewide pre-European extent remaining and over 99% pre-European extent in the Victoria Bonaparte bioregion. No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded. Only one significant fauna was recorded during the survey, the Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) which is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts. A further 41 species were considered likely or possible to occur.	The proposed clearing will result in the removal of up to 10 ha of native vegetation. Clearing of 10 ha within the Permit Area represents 0.001% and 0.02% of the remaining extent of Vegetation Association 127 and 911 respectively. Disturbance to one record of *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3) is unavoidable. Due to the existing road alignment being located too close to adjoining lots, disturbance of the record is unavoidable in order to achieve the required road safety, functionality and legal outcomes. There are two additional records of this species that will not be disturbed. No impacts to the Waterbody habitat where the Saltwater Crocodile was recorded. SWEK is committed to avoiding all other significant flora identified by Emerge (2026).	To minimise the impact of clearing on the environment, SWEK proposes the following control measures: • All clearing will be managed under a Ground Disturbance Permit process (or similar); • The total extent of vegetation clearing is limited to 10 ha; • Limit clearing of mangroves to 0.08 ha; • Disturbance to no more than one record of *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3). All other significant flora records will be avoided; • Clearing areas will be identified prior using GPS coordinates and boundaries visually identified with pegs; • All clearing restricted to only what is required for each activity within the proposed Permit Area and undertaken only when required; and • All vegetation clearing and earthmoving equipment will be inspected and cleaned prior to conducting clearing activities, vehicles will be inspected and cleaned as required to prevent the incidental spread of weeds.	The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.
2. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole, or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA			
Only one significant fauna was recorded during the survey, the Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) which is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts.	Waterbody and Mangrove habitat are considered highest value habitats. Waterbody habitat will not be disturbed as a result of the clearing. Clearing of up to 0.08 ha Mangroves is unavoidable. Clearing is required to enable the	Implement control measures described above and: • Limit clearing of Mangrove habitat to 0.08 ha; • No disturbance to Waterbody habitat;	The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Relevant Information	Assessment of potential impacts	Proposed control measures	Outcome – Assessment of variance with clearing principle
A further 41 species were considered likely or possible to occur. Five fauna habitats were mapped within the Permit Area with Mangroves and Waterbody fauna habitats considered to have the highest fauna value. The saline flats habitat may hold some value for fauna with specialist foraging habits, but this may be impacted by the high level of disturbance and presence of weed species within the site. The grassland habitat is also subject to disturbance and presence of weeds, but where growth is dense it may provide suitable cover and shelter for small mammal species, or potentially a food source for small, seed eating birds.	existing culvert to be extended and the road to be safely realigned away from the port entrance. Clearing will be limited to the minimum area necessary to construct the culvert extension and associated roadworks. The area of mangroves to be cleared are the upper (landward) extent of the mangroves, meaning they are rarely inundated and have low connectivity to the marine environment. Given this, and the regional extent of more productive mangroves in the area (Figure 7), clearing of 0.08 ha is unlikely to result in a significant impact to this habitat. Disturbance will also occur within Grassland and Saline Flats habitat. The required native vegetation disturbance is unlikely to prevent access to an area necessary for maintaining a significant fauna habitat. No barriers to fauna movement, surface water or other natural processes will be installed.	• Clearing will be conducted progressively to enable most fauna to escape to surrounding areas; • Any fauna interactions will be reported; and • Implement speed limits within the Permit Area during construction.	
3. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora			
No Threatened Flora were recorded within the Permit Area. Three Priority flora were identified within the Permit Area: • *Dolichandrone filiformis* (P2); • *Brachychiton incanus* (P3); and • *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3). A further eight Priority species were considered to potentially occur.	No Threatened Flora will be impacted by the proposed clearing. As above, disturbance to one record of *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3) is unavoidable. Three records were identified during the survey, one to the north and two to the south. Only the record to the north will be disturbed as a result of the clearing. This species is widespread with multiple records across four IBRA regions. Clearing of this record will not affect the continued existence of this species. Any disturbance of native vegetation will occur over a narrow area.	Implement control measures described above.	The proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle.
4. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a Threatened Ecological Community			
Surveys of the Permit Area were undertaken by Emerge (2026). None of the vegetation recorded within the Permit Area was considered to represent a TEC.	Not applicable	Not applicable	The proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle.

Relevant Information	Assessment of potential impacts	Proposed control measures	Outcome – Assessment of variance with clearing principle
5. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared			
The Permit Area lies entirely within the Vicotria Bonaparte Bioregion, specifically located on the Keep IBRA Subregion. The vegetation in the Permit Area is identified as Vegetation Association 127 and 911 Vegetation Association 127 and 911 have over 94% of statewide pre-European extent remaining and over 99% pre-European extent in the Victoria Bonaparte bioregion.	The Permit Area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared area. The proposed clearing will result in the removal of up to 10 ha of native vegetation. Clearing of 10 ha within the Permit Area represents only 0.001% and 0.02% of the remaining extent of Vegetation Association 127 and 911 respectively.	Implement control measures described above.	The proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle.
6. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland			
Up to 0.2 ha of Mangrove habitat was recorded within the Permit Area however this vegetation extends well beyond this area as illustrated in Figure 7.	Up to 0.08 ha of mangroves is proposed to be disturbed. This clearing is unavoidable as it is required to enable the existing culvert to be extended and the road to be safely realigned away from the port entrance. Clearing will be limited to the minimum area necessary to construct the culvert extension and associated roadworks. The area of mangroves to be cleared are the upper (landward) extent of the mangroves, meaning they are rarely inundated and have low connectivity to the marine environment. Given the regional extent of mangroves in the local area, disturbance of up to 0.08 ha is unlikely to have a significant impact on the adjacent water body (West Arm).	Implement control measures described above.	The proposed clearing may be at variance with this principle.
7. Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation			
Four Declared Pests were recorded within the Permit Area, two of which are also WoNS. Many individuals were recorded on the road reserve and in vegetation in poor condition. These species include: • **Calotropis procera* (calotrope); • **Jatropha gossypifolia*; • **Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *indica*; and • **Azadirachta indica.*	Land degradation will be limited to the 10 ha of proposed land clearing. The works are associated with upgrades to an existing road, and therefore does not present new potential land degradation impacts.	Implement control measures described above.	The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Relevant Information	Assessment of potential impacts	Proposed control measures	Outcome – Assessment of variance with clearing principle
The majority of the Permit Area (62%) was mapped as Poor condition, and 29% was mapped as Completely Degraded (including cleared areas).			
8. 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			
The Permit Area does not occur within or adjacent to any conservation areas.	Not applicable	Not applicable	The proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle.
9. Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water			
Up 0.03 ha of Waterbody habitat was mapped within the Permit Area. No clearing will be undertaken within this area. There are no clearing activities which would affect groundwater.	The proposed clearing is not expected to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. Potential impacts to surface or groundwater quality as a result of the clearing include sediment loss from disturbed areas and minor hydrocarbon spills. No works will occur within the Waterbody habitat that could contaminate the surface water.	Implement the control measures described above.	The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.
10. Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding			
The region is generally dry, with occasional significant rainfall events often associated with cyclones.	Clearing of 10 ha of native vegetation to realign and upgrade the existing road is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Surface water flow during flood conditions would be able to easily maintain its existing regimes. Surface water flow during flood conditions will have negligible impacts and be able to continue its existing flow regimes. Any sheet flow will be able to flow with negligible disruption.	Implement the control measures described above.	The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this NVCP Application is to allow the clearing of up to 10 ha of native vegetation.

The following key points are noted:

- Clearing of 10 ha within the Permit Area represents only 0.001% and 0.02% of the remaining extent of Vegetation Association 127 and 911 respectively;
- The only environmental values that may be impacted are mangroves (0.08 ha) and one record of *Goodenia byrnesii* (Priority 3);
- The proposed clearing will not impact the following;
    - High value Waterbody habitat;
    - TECs or PECs;
    - Conservation areas; or
    - Threatened Flora;
    - Threatened and Priority Fauna;
    - Two of the three Priority Flora species recorded within the Permit Area.

SWEK has also identified a number of control measures to minimise the impacts to native vegetation and other environmental and heritage values. These measures include the following:

- All clearing will be managed under a Ground Disturbance Permit process;
- The total extent of vegetation clearing is limited to 10 ha which includes the following sub-limits:
    - 0.08 ha of Mangrove habitat; and
    - One record of *Goodenia byrnesii* (Priority 3);
- Clearing areas will be identified prior using GPS coordinates, and boundaries visually identified with pegs;
- All clearing restricted to only what is required for each activity within the proposed Permit Area and undertaken only when required; and
- All vegetation clearing and earth moving equipment will be inspected and cleaned prior to conducting clearing activities, vehicles will be inspected as cleaned as required to prevent the incidental spread of weeds.

This NVCP application assessed the proposed vegetation clearing against the ten clearing principles described in *A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation* (DER, 2014). As described in Section 6 and summarised in Table 6, the Project may be at variance with one clearing principle:

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

The potential variance above is in relation to the clearing of Mangrove habitat. Mangroves occur extensively throughout the local region as evident through regional mapping completed in 2022 (Figure 7), and the mangroves to be cleared are located on the upper gradient of the habitat extent, meaning they are rarely inundated and provide a lower contribution to the marine and intertidal system. Clearing of up to 0.08 ha is unlikely to result in a significant impact to fauna utilising the habitat given the continuous and more productive mangrove habitat that will remain.

Based on the above, the potential variance with one clearing principle is unlikely to result in significant impacts to fauna or vegetation associated with watercourses or wetlands.

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
Cth	Commonwealth
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DER	Department of Environmental Regulation
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Emerge	Emerge Associates
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*
ha	Hectares
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
km	kilometres
NVCP	Native Vegetation Clearing Permit
SWEK	Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
WA	Western Australia
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance

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CONTACT

+61 488 737 273
Level 1, 226 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA 6000
reception@prestonconsulting.com.au
https://prestonconsulting.com.au/