Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9435/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	13 June 2026
Application area:	250 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production and Associated Activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 20/55, 20/108, 20/111, 20/176, 20/183, 20/195, 20/247
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Cue
Colloquial name:	Tuckabianna Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,988.614 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

The application is to allow for development of the existing mining operations, new open pit operation and supporting mining infrastructure (Westgold, 2026).

Clearing permit CPS 9435/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 03 February 2022 and was valid from 26 February 2022 to 25 February 2027. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,988.614 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

On 13 June 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 9435/2 to extend the permit duration by five years to 25 February 2032. The application is to allow for clearing to facilitate future mining operations including further development of existing mining operations, new open pit operations and supporting infrastructure for all associated mining activities. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundary remained unchanged.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, received on 29 July 2026), a total of 23.44 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under the permit CPS 9435/1 (Westgold, 2026).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant/Refuse
Decision date:	29 October 2026
Decision area:	250 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit amendment application was made in accordance with section 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) on 13 June 2026. DMPE advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey and fauna survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment. The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will have negligible impact on habitat for flora, fauna and ecological communities and conservation areas.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment being sought (extension of duration) is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The assessment has remained unchanged since the assessment for CPS 9435/1.

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
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

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 Error: Reference source not found), 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)*

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance - *Terrestrial Fauna surveys for environmental impact assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant demonstrating the implementation of avoidance and mitigation measures. The applicant has implemented appropriate weed control measures to minimise risk of the introduction and spread of weeds as outlined in the annual clearing report (2026) (Westgold, 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

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles (Appendix B) remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 9435/1.

The current assessment remains consistent considering the limited impacts from the proposed clearing footprint and the permit boundary has remain unchanged. Additionally, no new environmental values were identified within the application area to warrant new environmental surveys. The amendment application mainly relates to five year extension of existing clearing permit CPS 9435/1 which is due to expire on 25 February 2027 (Westgold, 2026).

The clearing permit application area is located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Murchison Bioregion (GIS Database). The Eastern Murchison subregion is characterised by its internal drainage and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains and minimal dune development (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Tecticornia* shrublands (CALM, 2002).

Two reconnaissance and targeted flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over different parts of the application area by Maia (2020; 2021) during September 2019 and March 2021. The vegetation of the application area is dominated by Acacia woodland/shrubland, *Ptilotus* shrubland, and *Eremophila* shrubland (Maia, 2020; 2021). No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified as potentially occurring within the application area and none of the vegetation types mapped and described are listed as Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Maia, 2020;2021; GIS Database). A total of 110 flora species from 54 genera and 27 families were recorded within part of the application area

during the September 2019 survey (Maia, 2020). A total 97 flora species were recorded from 47 genera and 28 families were recorded within part of the application area during the March 2021 survey (Maia, 2021). A desktop assessment identified 32 flora species of conservation significance have previously been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (Maia, 2020; 2021). Eleven of these conservation significant flora species have previously been recorded during surveys by (Maia 2020; 2021) in the surrounding 50 kilometres. Flora surveys of the application area recorded four conservation significant flora species: *Drummondita miniata* (P3), *Sida picklesiana* (P3), and *Calotis* sp. Perrinvale Station (P3) (Maia, 2020; 2021). These species were recorded as single individuals, with the exception of *Calotis* sp. Perrinvale Station which was recorded as four individuals at one location (Maia, 2020; 2021). Direct impacts through clearing are expected for *Drummondita miniata* and *Sida picklesiana* (Maia, 2021; Westgold, 2026), however the clearing of these individual plants is unlikely to impact their conservation status as there are known populations recorded regionally and locally (Westgold, 2026). Maia (2020; 2021) also recorded small populations of both *Drummondita miniata* and *Sida picklesiana* immediately outside the application area. No species of Threatened flora were identified during either flora survey (Maia, 2020; 2021).

A desktop assessment identified a total of 234 vertebrate fauna species which have previously been recorded or have the potential to occur within 80 kilometres of the application area (Western Ecological, 2021). This includes 17 mammals, 169 birds, 46 reptiles and two amphibians (Western Ecological, 2021). Of the 234 fauna species, 31 are of conservation significance, including three mammal, 25 bird and three reptile species (Western Ecological, 2021). One of the 31 conservation significant fauna species were considered possibly occurring within the application due to suitable habitat present: West Coast Mulga Slider (*Lerista eupoda*, P1) (Western Ecological, 2021). A total of 37 vertebrate species, comprising of four mammals (one native and four introduced), 27 birds, five reptiles and unidentifiable tadpoles were recorded during the field assessment of the application area (Western Ecological, 2021). No conservation significant fauna species were identified during the fauna assessment (Western Ecological, 2021). The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the fauna biodiversity within a local or regional context.

The vegetation types, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (Maia, 2020; 2021; Western Ecological, 2021; Westgold, 2026; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 24 July 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2021/008 – Yugunga-Nya) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The project is located approximately 67 kilometres northwest of Mount Magnet, within the Shire of Cue in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. The application area is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion. The predominant land use in the region is extensive pastoralism and mining. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on the aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological images (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record of a conservation area is the DBCA managed former Lakeside Pastoral Lease land which is located approximately 28 kilometres away from the application area, and a legislated Lakeside Conservation Park land located approximately 37 kilometres west south-west from the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area during flora and vegetation surveys conducted by Maia Environmental Consultancy (Maia, 2020; 2021): **AaTSSL – Acacia aptaneura Tall Sparse Shrubland** Tall sparse shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* with a sparse shrubland of *Thryptomene decussata* and a low sparse shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Ptilotus schwartzii.* **ATOSL – Acacia Tall Open Shrubland to Low Open Woodland** Mixed tall open shrubland to low open woodland mainly of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pteraneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* with an open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia craspedocarpa* (hybrid) and a low sparse mixed shrubland mainly of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, Eremophila simulans* subsp. *simulans* and *Eremophila punicea*. **ATSSL (1) – Acacia Tall Sparse Shrubland** Mixed tall sparse Acacia shrubland mainly of *Acacia aptaneura, Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* and *Acacia caesaneura* x *incurvaneura* with a mixed isolated shrubs mainly of *Ptilotus schwartzii, Eremophila simulans* subsp. *simulans* and *Eremophila lachnocalyx* with +/- low isolated trees of *Acacia pruinocarpa.* **ATSSL (2) – Acacia Tall Sparse Shrubland** Tall sparse shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura, Acacia ramulosa* var. linophylla and Acacia incurvaneura with a mixed sparse shrubland mainly of *Eremophila* galeata, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Eremophila simulans* subsp. *simulans* and a mixed low sparse shrubland mainly of *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Ptilotus schwartzii* and *Solanum lasiophyllum.* **ATSSL (3) – Acacia Tall Sparse Shrubland** Tall sparse shrubland of *Acacia craspedocarpa* (hybrid), *Acacia caesaneura* (narrow phyllode variant) and *Acacia tetragonophylla* with a sparse shrubland mainly of *Eremophila galeata* and *Eremophila clarkei* and a low sparse shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* and or *Eremophila lachnocalyx*. **MLSSL – Mixed Low Sparse Shrubland** Mixed low sparse shrubland mainly of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei, Drummondita miniata* (P3) and *Hemigenia* sp. Yalgoo (A.M. Ashby 2624) with isolated tall shrubs of *Acacia aulacophylla* and / or *Acacia pteraneura* and isolated tussock grasses of *Eriachne mucronata.*
Vegetation condition	The vegetation surveys (Maia, 2020; 2021) indicate that vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from very good to completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area falls within the arid zone of Western Australia with an average rainfall of 232.3 millimetres (BoM, 2026).

Characteristic	Details
Soil description	The soil within the application area is mapped as red shallow loam, red deep sand with shallow sandy gravel and red shallow sandy duplex (DPIRD, 2026).
Land degradation risk	The majority of the application area is located within the Violet Land System, with small areas along the northern and southern boundaries intersecting the Wiluna, Sherwood and Yanganoo Land Systems (DPIRD, 2026). The violet land system is described as gentle undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises, minor saline plains supporting mulga, bowgada dominated shrublands dense mulga groves and patchy halophytic shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). Generally, this land system is resistant to erosion however it is moderately susceptible to water erosion if the vegetation is degraded or soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared and approximately 50 kilometres southwest of the application area lies the non-perennial Lake Austin (GIS database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the East Murchison Ground Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*. The mapped groundwater salinity is 500-1000 milligrams per litre which is described as drinking to irrigation water quality (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 6 priority flora species within 20 kilometres radius of the application area. No records of Threatened or Priority Flora species and conservation significant flora species are recorded within the application area (GIS Database). The previous results of combined vegetation and flora surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021 by Maia Environmental Consultancy (Maia) indicated records of one Priority flora species: *Calotis* sp. Perrinvale Station (P3) (Maia, 2020) and two Priority flora species within the application area: *Drummondita miniata* (P3) and *Sida picklesiana* (P3) (Maia, 2021). An additional two Priority flora species were recorded however these species were found outside the application area: *Acacia speckii* (P4) and *Dodonaea amplisemina* (P4) (Maia, 2021).
Ecological communities	Based on aerial imagery, no Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities occur within the application area. A small section approximately 0.07 hectares of the purpose permit envelope overlaps with the mapped buffer of Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) (P1) in the south-eastern corner (Maia, 2020; GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no records of Threatened and Priority fauna species within 20 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS, Database). A desktop assessment identified 14 conservation significant fauna within and 80 kilometres radius of the application area (Western Ecological, 2021). No conservation significant fauna was identified during the field assessment (Western Ecological, 2021). One conservation significant fauna species was considered possibly occurring within the application area: West Coast Mulga Slider (*Lerista eupoda*) (P1) (Western Ecological, 2021).
Fauna habitat	A total of 18 habitat assessments were undertaken during the fauna field survey in early 2021 and a total of three broad fauna habitat types were described as follows; • Mulga Shrubland • Drainage Area • Scattered *Acacia* on Stony Plains

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally significant flora,	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants. Impacts to two priority flora species is expected from the proposed clearing, however one individual of two different species will be impacted. It is unlikely that the clearing of these two individuals will adversely impact their conservation status as populations of these species are recorded locally and regionally (Westgold, 2026). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.	(as per CPS 9435/1)	
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 fauna survey of the application area did not identify any conservation significant fauna species (Western Ecological, 2021). The area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora, and the vegetation is not expected to support any species of Threatened flora (Maia, 2020; 2021). The vegetation types recorded within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Maia, 2020; 2021; GIS Database). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened flora. The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) within or near the application area (GIS Database). A Part of the south-eastern corner of the Survey Area (0.07 hectares) intersects the Lake Austin vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation (BIF)) Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) buffer. The vegetation in the area intersecting the PEC buffer is mapped as ATSSL(3) (Maia, 2020). The intersected buffer does not contain vegetation comprising of a whole or a part of Threatened and Priority Ecological Community.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	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 the Murchison bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Murchison bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 18 (GIS Database). Approximately 99 per cent of the pre-European extent of the vegetation association remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	Not at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	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:	Not at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given the distance of the nearest conservation area mapped approximately 37 kilometres away from the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation area.		
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared. There are several non-perennial watercourses that intersect the application area which are all ephemeral watercourses draining after rainfall events. The vegetation assessment did not identify vegetation within these drainage lines as riparian (Maia, 2020; 2021).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to water erosion if the vegetation is degraded or soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994). Noting there are several drainage lines intersecting the application area and predominantly pre-disturbed vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. A staged clearing condition is recommended to help mitigate potential water erosion.	May be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	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: The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or groundwater quality. There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas, permanent watercourses, or wetlands within or near the application area (GIS Database). Regional drainage lines are ephemeral and only flow briefly following significant rainfall events (Westgold, 2026). Given the absence of sensitive water receptors and limited surface water connectivity, the proposed clearing is not expected to adversely affect water quality.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	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: There are no permanent watercourses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines intersect the application area, and temporary localised flooding may occur in the event of heavy rainfall. Thus, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 9435/1)	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.

Condition	Description
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Zones (DPIRD-017)
- 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)

D.2. References

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Maia (2020) Holcim Turner River Quarry application for clearing permit within Mining Lease M45/666. Holcim Australia Pty Ltd, May 2021.

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Westgold (2026) Annual Clearing Report CPS9435 – Tuckabianna Project. Westgold Resources Limited, July 2026.

Westgold (2026) Cue Gold Operations Tuckabianna Project. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. Westgold Resources Limited, June 2026.

4. 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.