

Vegetation Clearing Assessment Report

Cordoring Terminal Construction and Access

September 2026



Western Power

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Document Control

Document version history

Version	Date	Amendment
1	11/09/2026	Initial version
2	18/09/2026	Internal review
3	24/09/2026	Revised version for review
4	29/09/2026	Internal review
5	30/09/2026	Final version for issue

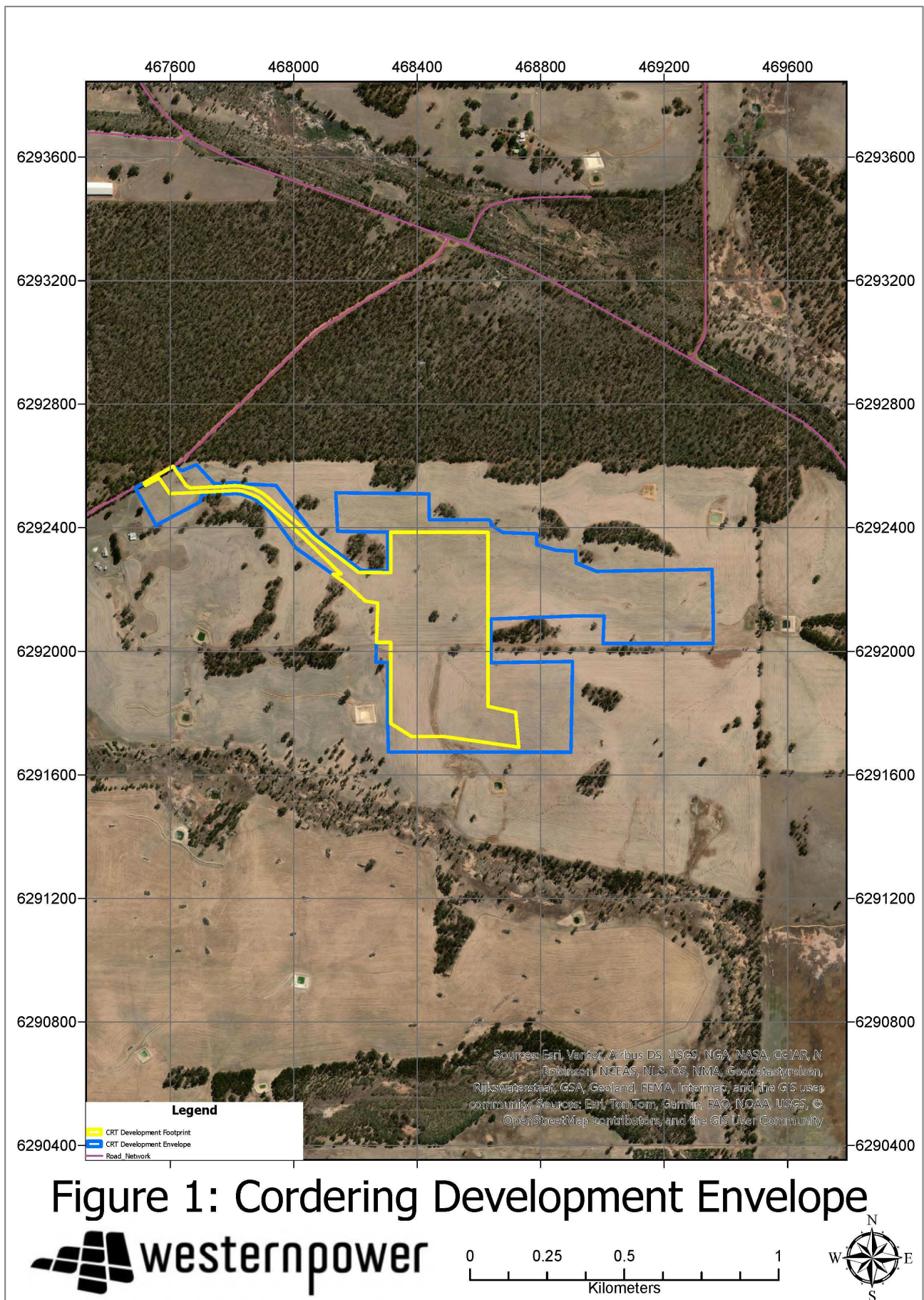
1. Project Information

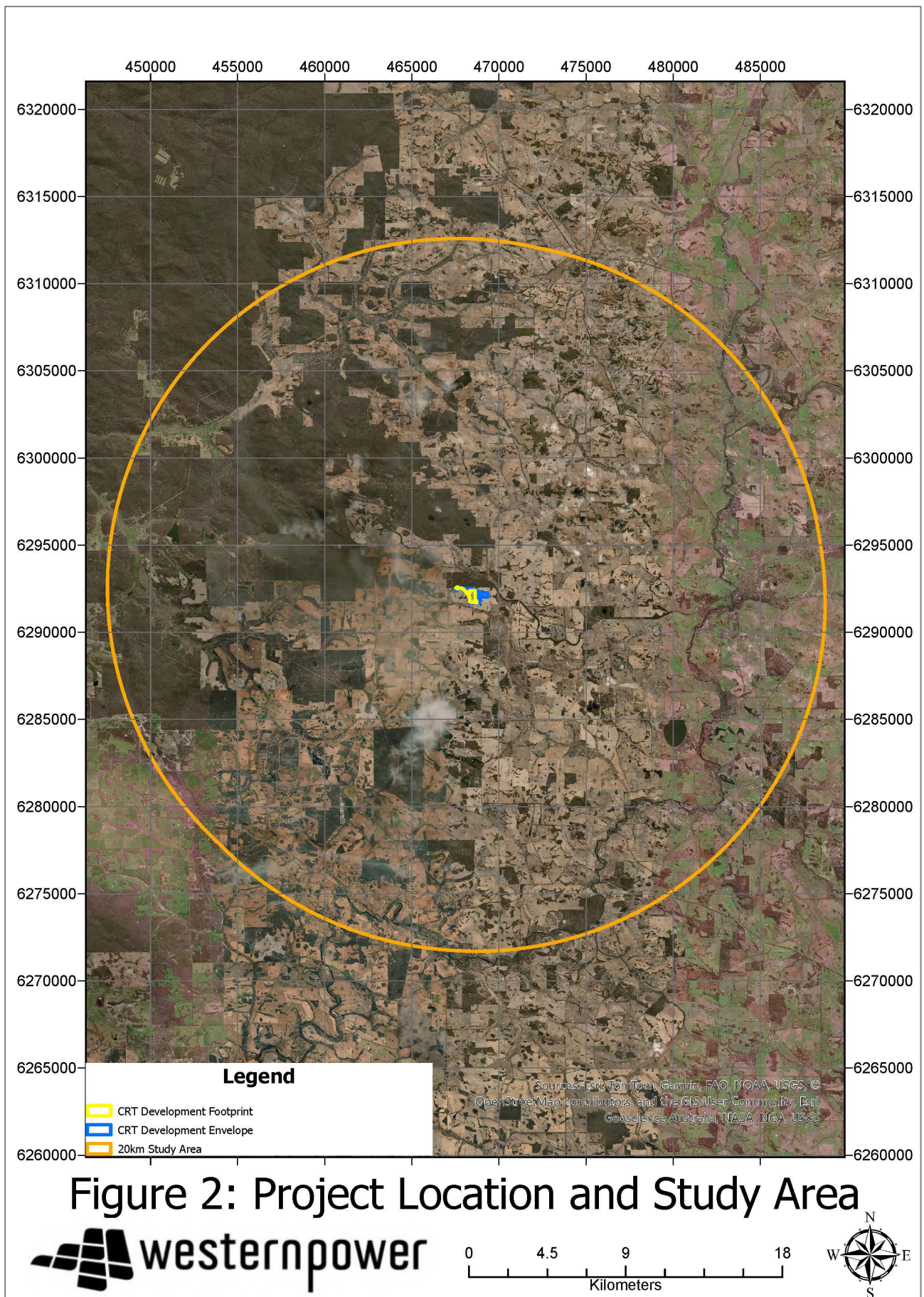
Project Area		
Project name: Cordering Terminal Construction and Access		Contract/Work Order No: TT048969
Main purpose of clearing	Permanent/Temporary	Clearing area (ha)
New terminal substation sites; Access routes for existing and new assets	Permanent ☒	Up to 0.16 ha of native vegetation within a 60.69 ha development envelope.
	Temporary ☐	
Proposed start date: 1/03/2027		Expected completion date: 30/09/2027
Method of clearing: Mechanical		Machinery to be used: Excavator, Bobcat or equivalent
Project details: Clean Energy Link – East (CEL East) Stage 1 is a proposed program of works to expand the transmission network east of Collie, to connect new renewable generation sources to enable industry and the wider community to meet decarbonisation goals. To support WA's commitment to retire state-owned coal generation by 2030, CEL East Stage 1 proposes to expand the network by delivering: - a new terminal near Bowelling (Cordering Terminal), providing a critical network connection point for renewable projects advancing in the area, unlocking significantly more clean energy. - two new double-circuit 330kV transmission lines to connect the proposed new terminal back to the existing Muja and Shotts terminals. These proposed network upgrades are essential due to capacity and location constraints of the existing terminals at Muja and Shotts. Due to substantial temporal and associated contractual separation of delivery, the CEL East Stage 1 program is being delivered through a staged approach, with Cordering Terminal scheduled to commence clearing and construction in March 2027. The works associated with the construction of the new terminal include: - Clearing required for construction and associated asset protection zone for the 12-bay ultimate design - Civil works for 6 bays, including earthworks, drainage and foundations - Installation of new electrical infrastructure including dual relay/control buildings, telecommunications, protection and automation systems and security systems - Interfaces with incoming transmission lines including for future customer connections - Permanent access track for access during construction and ongoing operation - Temporary laydown areas - Fencing. The clearing of up to 0.16 ha of native vegetation is required to enable construction of the new terminal and associated access.		
Guardian Permit ID reference number: PER-0002305		Permit/Exemption number: CPS 1918/11

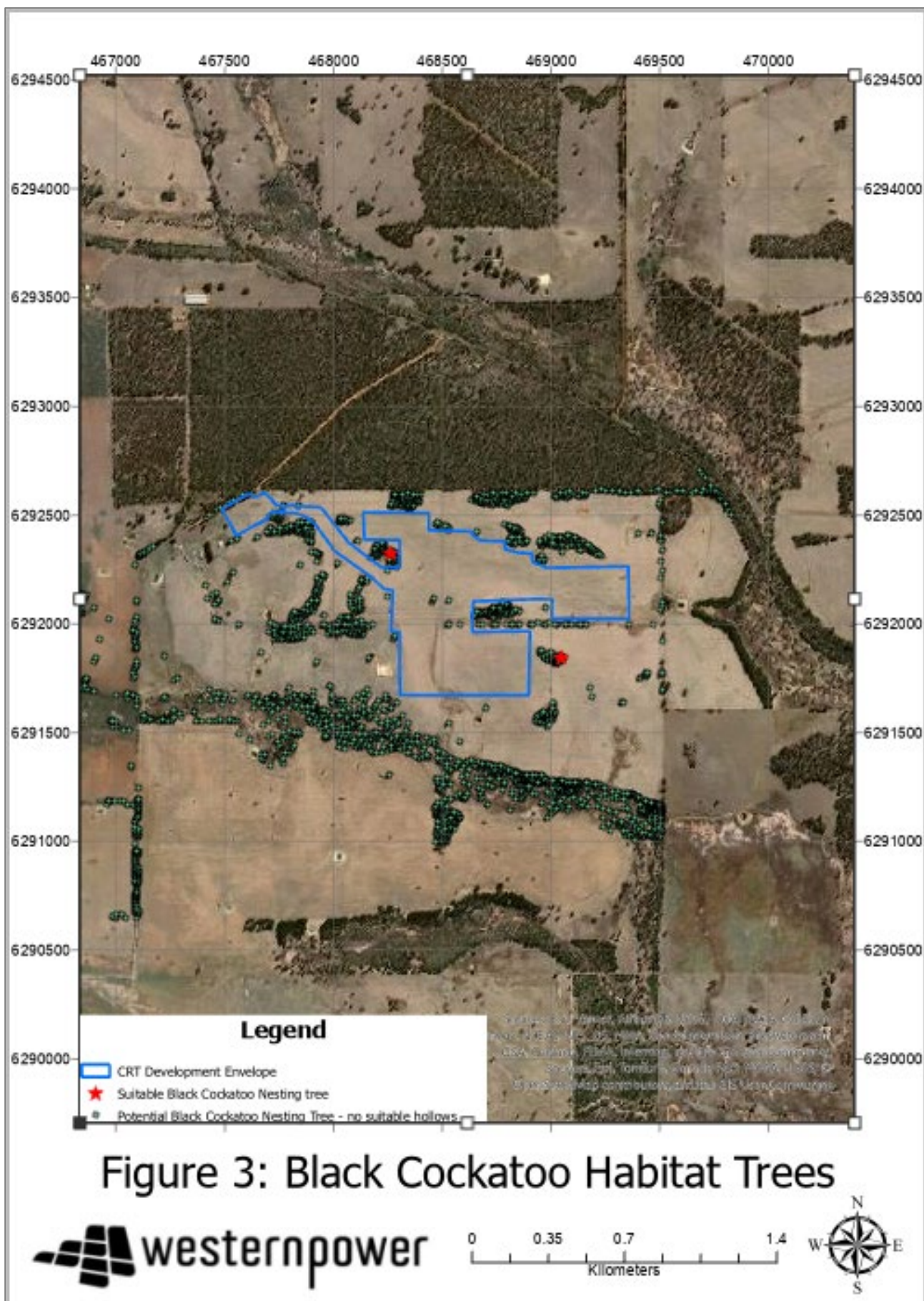
2. Map/photos

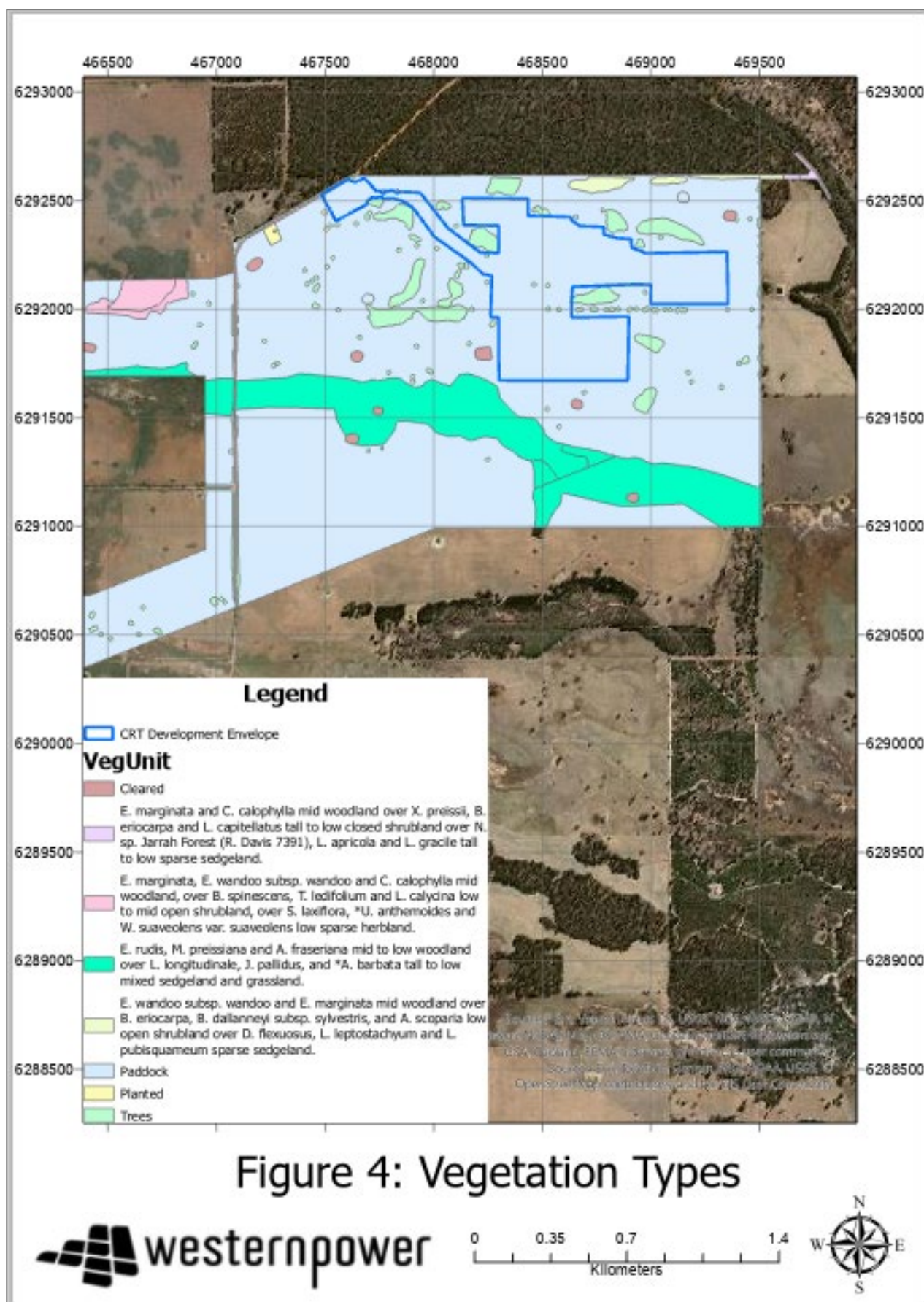
The following figures are presented below:

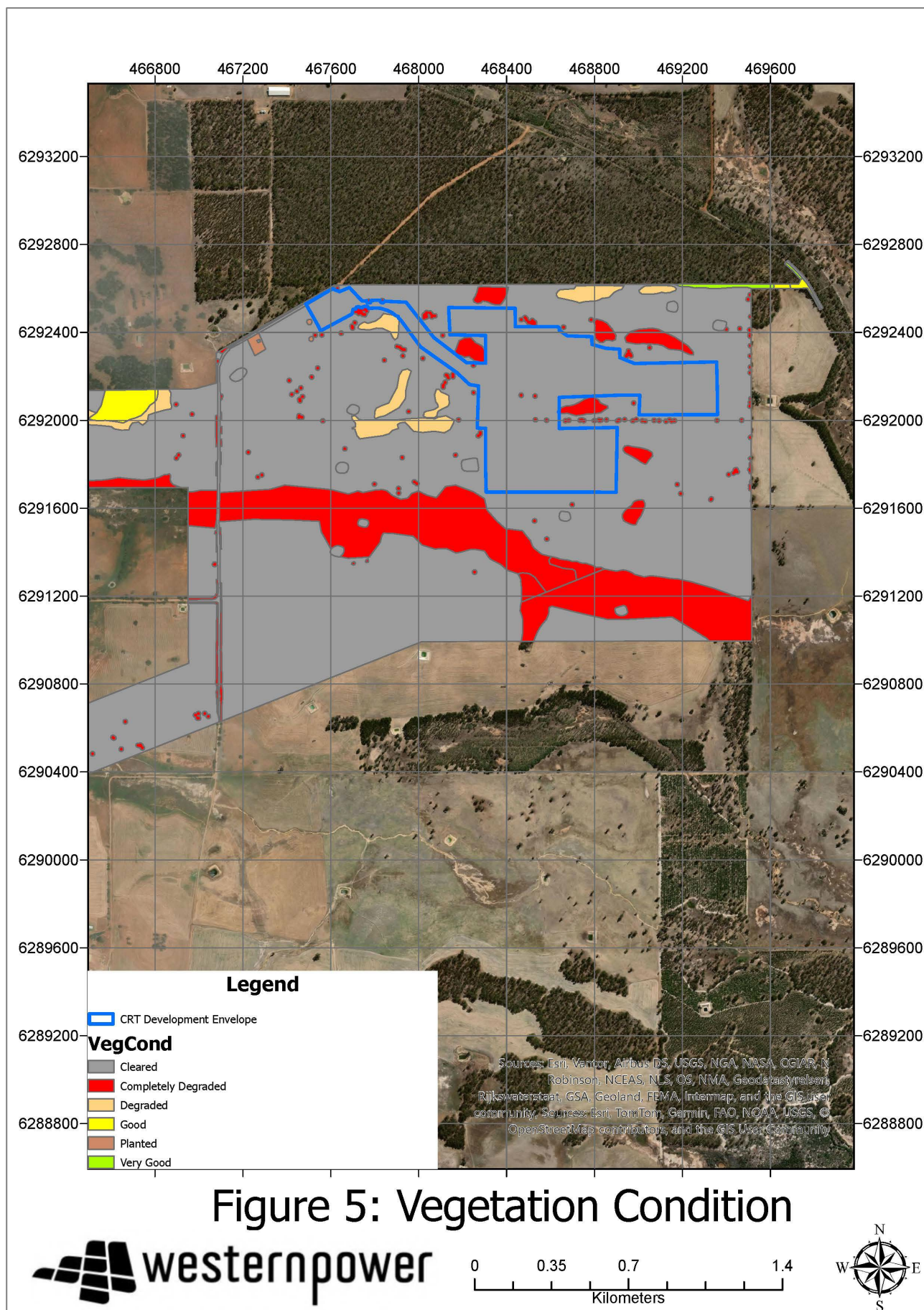
- Figure 1 shows the development footprint and development envelope for the Project. The development footprint represents the indicative footprint for permanent infrastructure and associated clearing within the development envelope. The development envelope is the maximum area within which the proposed clearing activities will be contained. It allows for flexibility in project footprint as detailed design continues to progress and provides for potential opportunities for temporary laydown and other construction activities.
- Figure 2 shows the 20km study area surrounding the development envelope.
- Figure 3 shows the locations of both suitable and potential black cockatoo nesting trees.
- Figure 4 illustrates the vegetation types present within the development envelope and immediate surrounds.
- Figure 5 shows the vegetation condition mapped within the development envelope and its immediate surrounds.











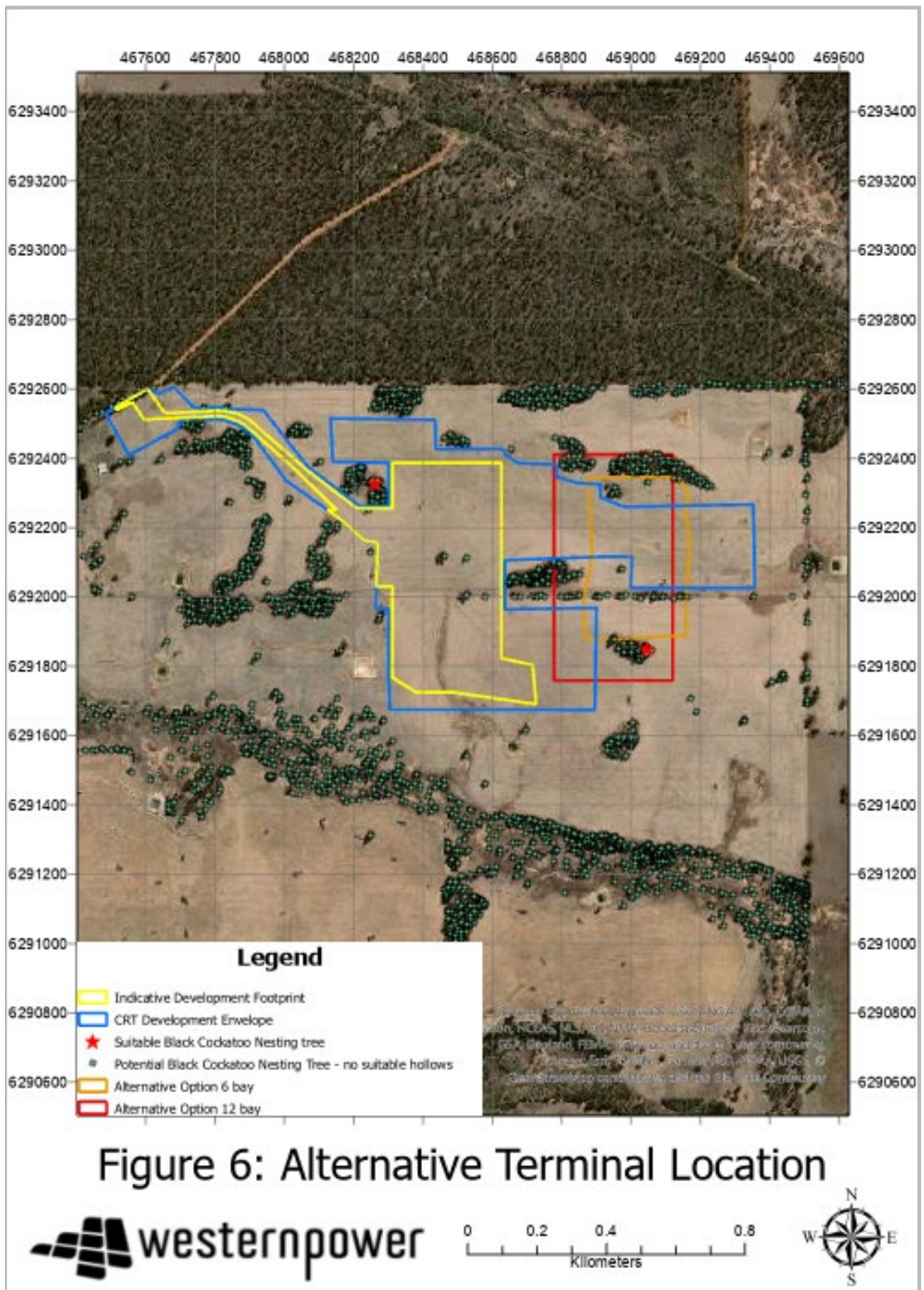
3. Avoid, minimise and reduce extent and impact of clearing

Alternatives to clearing considered during the development of this project are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Alternatives to clearing

Alternative to Clearing	Applicable	Discussion
Directional drilling of underground cables instead of open trenching	No	Not applicable – primary scope does not include installation of underground cables.
Existing tracks are utilised where possible	Yes	Existing local government roads will be utilised to access the project site. A new access road will need to be established within the development envelope to enable access to the new terminal from Cordering Road South. .
Utilising previously cleared areas where possible	Yes	The terminal property was specifically selected due to its predominantly cleared state. The majority of the development envelope is already cleared of native vegetation. The only native vegetation to be cleared are five trees. The development envelope accommodates for the placement of ancillary activities such as laydown, parking, turnaround areas and access within areas that are already cleared and/or contain minimal native vegetation regrowth of negligible habitat value. The terminal and associated development envelope were moved to the west from the initially proposed alternative locations (Figure 6) to avoid the requirement to clear numerous habitat trees. The access road alignment and entry point off Cordering Road South were designed to avoid the need for clearing mature habitat trees.
Consideration of alternative engineering and design options	Yes	The initial proposed site for the Cordering Terminal was located approximately 260 metres east of the Project Disturbance Footprint (PDF). Alternative 6-bay and 12-bay options were considered (Figure 6), noting that an ultimate 12-bay configuration may be required at this location depending on future generation and demand. To reduce the potential impacts to Black Cockatoo habitat trees the terminal was moved to the current proposed location, reducing the number of potential black cockatoo nesting trees to be impacted from 94 to five, and reducing the overall clearing of native vegetation required from approximately 2.94 ha to 0.16 ha. Terminal relocation also resulted in avoidance of a suitable black cockatoo nesting hollow, which would otherwise have needed to be removed for the originally proposed 12-bay terminal option. Although not part of the current scope, terminal relocation has also enabled avoidance of the two suitable black cockatoo nesting trees on the property by transmission line connections currently proposed by Western Power and the two foundation wind farm generators requiring connection by 2030.

Alternative to Clearing	Applicable	Discussion
Other	Potential	A proposed mitigation measure for the potential visual amenity impacts associated with the new terminal will involve an offer of planting of screening vegetation on the property adjacent to the terminal land. Implementation of this planting would further mitigate the proposed loss of black cockatoo habitat, by establishing replacement habitat. It is noted that implementation of this mitigation measure will be at the discretion of the landowner, and accordingly this is conservatively considered a potential mitigation only.



4. Site context

4.1 Land Tenure (Cadastral Information)

Property:

1. (Lot 2) 155 Cordering Road, Bowelling
2. Lot 2878 Robins Road, Bowelling

Conservation Estates:

N/A

Local Government:

Shire of West Arthur

4.2 Vegetation description

The Project is located within the Jarrah Forrest (JAF) bioregion and the Southern Jarrah Forest (JAF02) subregion as described by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA).

Broadscale (1:250,000) pre-European vegetation mapping of the area was completed by Beard (1979) at an association level. The mapping indicates that two vegetation associations are present within the development envelope:

- Bridgetown 3: Mainly jarrah and marri *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla*
- Beaufort 4: Jarrah, marri and wandoo *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *E. wandoo*.

The pre-European mapping has been adapted and digitised by Shepherd et al. (2002). The extent of the vegetation association has been determined by the state-wide vegetation remaining extent calculations maintained by DBCA (latest update March 2019 – Government of Western Australia, 2019a). As shown in Table 2, the current extents remaining of vegetation association no. 3 are greater than 30% at all scales, but less than 30% for vegetation association no. 4.

Table 2: Pre-European Vegetation Representation

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
Vegetation Association No. 3	Statewide WA	2,661,404.62	1,803,437.48	67.76	81.5
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	2,390,591.54	1,604,101.56	67.1	81
	IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	1,482,491.85	880,655.65	59.4	78.5
	LGA Shire of West Arthur	98,993.88	51,072.96	51.59	50.55
Vegetation	Statewide	1,054,279.89	284,102.41	26.95	23.85

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
Association No. 4	WA				
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	1,022,712.69	277,087.18	27.09	23.81
	IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	408,511.88	79,183.37	19.38	6.92
	LGA Shire of West Arthur	142,591.25	24,909.19	17.47	4.75

More refined vegetation complex mapping exists for the development envelope (Mattiske & Havel 1998, as updated by Webb et al. 2016). Four vegetation complexes are mapped across the development envelope. These are described and their pre-European representation provided in Table 3 (Government of Western Australia, 2019b).

Table 3: Vegetation Complexes and representation within the development envelope

Vegetation Complex	Description	Pe-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% Remaining
Darkin 2 (Dk2)	Mixture of open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> - <i>Banksia attenuata</i> and low open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> and stands of <i>Eucalyptus drummondii</i> (northern) and <i>Eucalyptus decipiens</i> (southern) on lower slopes in the arid zone.	18,393.15	2,948.08	16.03
Darkin 3 (Dk3)	Open woodland of <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> - <i>Acacia acuminata</i> with occasional <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> and <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> on variable slopes near granite outcrops and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus astringens</i> - <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> on breakaways in the arid zone.	7,534.75	996.28	13.22
Darkin 4 (Dk4)	Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> - <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> - <i>Acacia acuminata</i> on slopes and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> on lower slopes in the arid zone.	9,401.17	1,399.66	14.89
Dalmore 2 (DM2)	Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> on uplands in semiarid and arid zones.	43,086.12	14,654.48	34.01

A total of up to 0.16 ha of native vegetation will be cleared (clearing area) within a larger development envelope of 60.69 ha (Figure 1). AECOM (2026a) mapped the vegetation within the development envelope as Isolated Trees predominantly over pasture weeds. Vegetation condition of native vegetation within the development envelope was mapped as Completely Degraded (0.16 ha), with the remainder of the development envelope representing cleared paddock.

4.3 Summary of results of surveys`

AECOM and GHD were engaged by Western Power to undertake spring flora, vegetation, fauna, and targeted Black Cockatoo assessments across the development envelope and a wider survey area as part of the Clean Energy Link East Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment including:

- AECOM (2026a): Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Assessment. Five deployments undertaken between 12 August 2025 to 23 January 2026
- AECOM (2026b): Black Cockatoo Assessment. 21 deployments undertaken between 15 November 2023 through to 23 January 2026
- GHD (2026): Targeted Black Cockatoo Hollow Inspections. Two deployments undertaken between 19 January 2026 to 25 February 2026.

The only native vegetation type recorded within the development envelope was 'Trees', representing isolated paddock trees. The remainder of the development envelope was mapped as cleared paddock.' The 'Trees' vegetation type was mapped in a 'Completely Degraded' condition.

The key findings from the surveys relevant to the development envelope have been summarised below:

- The vegetation condition was mapped as being Completely Degraded.
- No conservation significant flora species were recorded within the PDE.
- No significant ecological communities were recorded within the development envelope.
- The three species of Threatened Black Cockatoo have the potential to utilise the development envelope for foraging and roosting. No other significant vertebrate fauna species are likely to utilise the development envelope.
- Five potential black cockatoo breeding trees were recorded within the PDE, however none of the trees to be cleared contain hollows suitable for black cockatoo nesting.
- One fauna habitat type was recorded within the development envelope, this being Isolated Trees. The remainder of the development envelope is mapped as cleared agricultural land.

A copy of the survey executive summaries and conclusions can be found in Appendix C, noting that the survey reports cover substantially larger survey areas extending beyond the PDE.

5. Spatial assessment (SPIDA View)

Western Power's online risk GIS database was analysed, and the following layers are indicated as having the potential for clearing impacts within a local area search radius of 10 m around the development envelope.

DBCA managed tenure	☐	Bush Forever	☐	CAWS Act Area	☐	Native Vegetation Clearing Regs ESAs	☐
Conservation listed fauna	☐	Conservation listed flora	☐	Western Power ESA sites	☐	Native vegetation remaining	☒
Threatened ecological communities	☐	Acid Sulfate Soils	☐	PDWSA	☐	Ramsar or Important Wetlands	☐
Geomorphic or other mapped wetlands	☒	Disease Risk Areas	☐	Erosion risk	☒	Offset areas	☐
Watercourses	☐	Land Degradation	☒		☐		
Other ☒							
Details: Bush Fire Prone Areas							

6. Assessment of vegetation clearing impacts

The proposed clearing has been assessed against each of the clearing principles in accordance with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation guideline “A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation under Part V Division 2 of the Environment Protection Act 1986” (DER, 2014).

Clearing permit principles full assessment	
a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.	Not likely to be at variance
Assessment: The proposed clearing will result in the removal of up to 0.16 ha of native vegetation. The condition of vegetation proposed to be cleared is Completely Degraded, due to historic clearing associated with agricultural purposes. No significant ecological communities were recorded within the development envelope and immediate surrounds, and none are considered likely to occur (AECOM, 2026a). The desktop assessments identified 117 conservation significant flora species with the potential to occur within the wider survey area. Of these, the pre-survey likelihood of occurrence assessment identified: • Six species were known to occur in the survey area including <i>Caladenia leucochila</i> (Threatened), <i>Acacia semitrullata</i> (P4), <i>Banksia</i> sp. Boyup Brook (L.W. Sage LWS 2366) (P1), <i>Loricobbia skinneri</i> (P4), <i>Thysanotus unicipensis</i> (P3) and <i>Netrostylis</i> sp. Blackwood River (A.R. Annels 3043) (P3) • Twenty-five species were considered to have a high likelihood of occurrence • Sixty species were considered to have a moderate likelihood of occurrence • The remaining 26 species were considered to have a low or negligible likelihood of occurrence (AECOM, 2026a). A total of 532 vascular flora species were recorded within the wider survey area during the biological survey (AECOM, 2026a), including 447 native and 85 introduced species. Five conservation significant flora species and three range extensions were recorded during the survey (AECOM, 2026). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the development envelope during the biological survey, and none were considered likely to occur (AECOM, 2026a). The development envelope is cleared agricultural land, with the only native flora species being five isolated paddock trees, representing a mix of Jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>), Marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>), and Wandoo (<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>) (AECOM, 2026a). The desktop assessment completed by AECOM (2026a) identified six Threatened fauna species as having the potential to occur within the survey area. Basic Fauna surveys and Targeted Mammal surveys of the broader survey area confirmed suitable habitat for threatened mammal species to be represented by Eucalypt Forest and Eucalypt Woodland habitat types, generally aligned with areas of Muja State Forest. The development envelope does not intersect either of the identified suitable habitat types for the threatened mammals, with the only fauna habitat type recorded within the development envelope being Isolated Trees (AECOM, 2026a). Targeted Black Cockatoo surveys completed for the development envelope (AECOM, 2026b) confirmed the vegetation present represents suitable foraging, roosting and breeding habitat for the three threatened species of black cockatoo. No evidence of roosting was observed during the targeted black cockatoo assessments. The habitat to be impacted is limited to a small area of low to moderate quality foraging habitat located within a broader landscape that contains extensive areas of similar and higher quality native vegetation. None of the trees to be cleared contain suitable black cockatoo nesting hollows (GHD, 2026). With the development envelope being located within agricultural habitat, it is likely to only provide ephemeral foraging resources and does not provide a long term, reliable food source for black cockatoos, particularly relative to surrounding intact native vegetation (AECOM, 2026b). Based on the predominantly disturbed condition of the vegetation to be cleared and the lack of significant communities, significant flora species and isolated habitat with no connectivity, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to possess a high level of biological diversity. As a result, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.	

b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

Is at variance

Assessment:

Searches of DBCA datasets and the PMST identified a number of State and/or Commonwealth protected species with the potential to occur in a 20km radius of the development envelope, including:

- **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo** (*Zanda latirostris*) - Endangered
- **Baudin's Black-Cockatoo** (*Zanda baudinii*) - Endangered
- **Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) - Vulnerable
- **Chuditch** (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) - Vulnerable
- **Numbat** (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) - Endangered
- **Red-tailed Phascogale** (*Phascogale calura*) - Vulnerable
- **Western Brush Wallaby** (*Notamacropus Irma*) - Priority 4
- **Blue-billed Duck** (*Oxyura australis*) - Priority 4
- **Malleefowl** (*Leipoa ocellata*) - Vulnerable.

The habitat within the development envelope comprises small, scattered patches of remnant isolated trees that are unlikely to provide critical habitat for threatened mammal species with distributions overlapping the development envelope (AECOM, 2026a). Due to the fragmented nature, limited extent, and lack of habitat connectivity, the area is considered to have low value for these species. Although Blue-billed Duck and Malleefowl were identified as potentially occurring within the development envelope and surrounds, AECOM (2026a) identified no suitable habitat for either species within the development envelope. No historic records of the Malleefowl exist within 20km of the development envelope and the development envelope is located outside the accepted range for this species. Due to a lack of suitable habitat, these species are considered unlikely to occur within the development envelope.

The vegetation present within the development envelope provides potentially suitable foraging, breeding and roosting habitat for the three threatened species of Black Cockatoo (AECOM, 2026b). DBCA records indicate 25 occurrences of threatened Black Cockatoo species within a 15 km radius of the development envelope. The closest known record of a known roosting tree occurs approximately 9.7 km to the south of the development envelope. The nearest confirmed Black Cockatoo breeding site (buffered; DBCA-054) is located more than 40 km to the west of the wider survey area (AECOM, 2026b).

Targeted Black Cockatoo surveys confirmed the presence of all three Black Cockatoo species within the immediate surrounding area through visual observations and evidence of foraging activity. The surveys also included habitat assessments to determine the value of the habitat present for the three threatened Black Cockatoo species. The five trees within the clearing area possess a diameter at breast height (DBH) sufficient to meet the potential breeding tree size thresholds outlined in the *Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species* (AECOM, 2026b). However, hollow assessment confirmed that none of these trees contain suitable nesting hollows (AECOM, 2026b; GHD, 2026). While the trees do not currently provide active breeding habitat, they have the potential to develop hollows over time and are therefore considered to retain conservation value as future breeding habitat. There is no evidence of the trees being utilised for foraging or roosting, and higher quality breeding habitat is located adjacent to the development envelope (AECOM, 2026b).

The five trees proposed to be cleared provide suitable foraging resources for Black Cockatoos. Removal of the five trees would result in the loss of approximately 0.16 ha of low to moderate quality foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. However, the affected habitat represents a very small proportion of the foraging resources available within the local and regional landscape, where substantially larger areas of suitable habitat remain. The proposed clearing represents approximately 0.0014% of the potential foraging, nesting and roosting habitat remaining within 10km of the development envelope. Furthermore, the Project has been designed to avoid direct impacts to high-quality Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. Consequently, the loss of these foraging resources is not expected to materially affect the availability of foraging habitat for Black Cockatoos at either the local or regional scale.

The proposed clearing of up to 0.16 ha will impact on native fauna habitat. However, significant fauna species such as Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo are unlikely to be solely reliant on the native habitats within the development envelope.

The development envelope has no direct connectivity to remnant vegetation within reserves. As the proposed clearing is proposed to be limited to an almost entirely previously cleared area within a paddock, it is considered unlikely to further fragment fauna habitat in the local area.

While the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle due to its potential to provide foraging, roosting and breeding habitat, due to the minor scale of clearing (0.16 ha of permanent native vegetation clearing) within a highly modified agricultural area and the considerable extent of similar and better quality habitat in the local area, the clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on Black Cockatoo habitat.

Western Power will be seeking an exemption for the requirement of an offset for the proposed clearing, due to the proposal involving the removal of five isolated habitat trees within a completely degraded agricultural area. None of the trees contain suitable nesting hollows and therefore do not currently provide suitable breeding habitat for Black Cockatoos. Substantial suitable nesting, foraging and roosting habitat, including hollow-bearing trees, is available within the surrounding landscape, with the proposed clearing area representing 0.0014% of suitable habitat within a 10km buffer of the development envelope. Given the absence of breeding habitat within the trees to be removed and the availability of alternative habitat in the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on Black Cockatoos. Therefore, an offset is considered not to be required.

A proposed mitigation measure for the proposed impact will involve the planting of screening trees in the property adjacent to the development envelope, although it is noted that implementation of this mitigation measure will be at the discretion of the landowner.

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

Not likely to be at variance

Assessment:

The majority of the development envelope is devoid of native vegetation with the clearing area in Completely Degraded condition, comprising five isolated trees over paddock weeds.

A search of the PMST and DBCA databases indicated that the development envelope may contain suitable habitat for seven Threatened flora species protected under the EPBC Act and/or BC Act:

- *Caladenia dorrienii* (EN)
- *Caladenia leucochila* (EN)
- *Commersonia erythrogyna* (CR BC Act; EN EPBC Act)
- *Diuris micrantha* (VU)
- *Drakaea confluens* (CR BC Act; EN EPBC Act)
- *Eleocharis keigheryi* (VU)
- *Jacksonia velveta* (EN).

The closest known Threatened flora species based on DBCA data is a record of *Commersonia erythrogyna* (Threatened) located approximately 7.6 km south of the development envelope.

Flora and vegetation surveys have been completed over multiple spring seasons for the development envelope and surrounds, including targeted flora surveys within areas of potentially suitable habitat. No conservation significant flora species were identified within, or in close proximity to the development envelope during the Detailed Flora and Vegetation surveys completed by AECOM in 2023, 2024 and 2025. No suitable habitat for Threatened and Priority flora species was identified within the development envelope.

Following the field assessment, the likelihood of occurrence assessment determined the potential for any Threatened flora to occur within the development envelope as being unlikely or highly unlikely. On this basis, no impacts on Threatened flora are anticipated and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this 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.

Not likely to be at variance

Assessment:

The desktop assessment identified the potential for the following Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) to occur within the development envelope and surrounds:

Ecological Community				WA Status	Commonwealth Status
Seasonal rainfall filled wetlands with impeding substrate of the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest in transitional rainfall zones (synonymous with sub-types of the Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain EPBC Act listed TEC)				Priority 1	Critically Endangered
Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt				Priority 3	Critically Endangered
No occurrences of these or any other TECs were recorded in the development envelope during the biological survey and all TECs with potential to occur were considered unlikely to occur post-survey. The nearest known occurrence of a TEC is the Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC, located approximately 10 km south-west from the development envelope at its closest point. The development envelope predominantly comprises previously cleared and highly modified agricultural land (cleared paddocks) with isolated remnant trees, and lacks the vegetation composition, structure, condition and landform characteristics typically associated with the nearby listed ecological communities. The proposed clearing will not impacted any TECs and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this 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.					May be at variance
Assessment: The EPA has an objective of retaining more than 30 percent of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community. The representation data for the vegetation associations 3 and 4 mapped within the development envelope is presented below.					
Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
Vegetation Association No. 3	Statewide WA	2,661,404.62	1,803,437.48	67.76	81.5
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	2,390,591.54	1,604,101.56	67.1	81
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Vegetation Association No. 4	Statewide WA	1,054,279.89	284,102.41	26.95	23.85
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	1,022,712.69	277,087.18	27.09	23.81
	IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	408,511.88	79,183.37	19.38	6.92
	LGA Shire of West Arthur	142,591.25	24,909.19	17.47	4.75
(Government of Western Australia, 2019a)					

The National Objective for the Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Vegetation association 3 has more than the 30% threshold remaining at all scales, whereas vegetation association 4 has less than 30% remaining at all scales. Based on DPIRD remnant vegetation mapping (DPIRD-005), there is an estimated 11,219.68 ha (36%) of native vegetation remaining in the local area (10 km radius) of the development envelope. Accordingly, native vegetation is considered to remain adequately represented at a local scale. A reduction of up to 0.16 ha in native vegetation will lead to only a 0.0014% reduction of native vegetation within 10 km of the development envelope. This will not reduce the pre-European vegetation representation below 30% at any scale for vegetation association 3, and will not significantly further reduce the native vegetation extent of vegetation association 4.

The vegetation condition is considered Completely Degraded as the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact. The vegetation represents relatively low habitat value for native flora and fauna, and lacks direct connectivity to adjacent patches of remnant vegetation. Accordingly, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to form part of a significant native vegetation remnant. Nonetheless, given that vegetation association 4 has less than 30% remaining at State, IBRA and local government area scales, the proposed clearing may be at variance with this principle. Due to the relatively minor area and Completely Degraded condition of clearing proposed, the adequate vegetation representation in the local area and the substantial area of higher quality vegetation protected in nearby conservation reserves, the impact of the proposed clearing is not considered significant such that an offset is required. Accordingly, Western Power will seek an exemption from the requirement to prepare an offset proposal for the proposed clearing.

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

Not likely to be at variance

Assessment:

There are no major river systems or wetlands within the development envelope. Two minor non-perennial watercourses and an area mapped in the geomorphic wetlands Darkan Duranillin dataset intersect the development envelope. However, given the historical and current agricultural land use and the presence of artificial dams, the water course is considered to be already highly modified and disturbed. Impacts to riparian vegetation have the potential to impact the natural flow of the watercourse, the quality of water and consequently, the health of native vegetation downstream. None of the vegetation proposed to be cleared intersects with the above watercourses or geomorphic wetland.

As the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance																
Assessment: The development envelope is located within the Darkan System and the Eulin Uplands System (DPIRD-064). The Darkan System is described as ‘Undulating rises and rolling low hills, in the south of the Eastern Darling Range (Blackwood Catchment). Gravels (mostly sandy) and grey sandy duplex (mostly deep). Wandoo-jarrah-marri woodland (DPIRD-064).’ The Eulin Sytem is described as ‘Plateau remnants, in the south of the Eastern Darling Range (Blackwood Catchment). Gravel, sandy duplex soil and wet soil. Jarrah-marri-wandoo forest and woodland (DPIRD-064).’ Natural Resource Management Soil Systems mapping (DPIRD, 2026) indicates that there is generally a low to moderate risk of land degradation in the area (refer to table below), except in the case of wind erosion where a high level of risk is mapped. This is likely due to the deep sandy gravels and pale deep sands present within the area. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Aspect</th><th>Risk</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Flooding</td><td><3% moderate to high risk</td></tr> <tr> <td>Waterlogging</td><td>3-10% moderate to very high risk</td></tr> <tr> <td>Salinity</td><td><3% moderate to extreme risk</td></tr> <tr> <td>Acidity at surface 0-10 cm</td><td><3% has pHCa <4.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Acidity at 50-80cm</td><td><3% has pHCa <4.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Water Erosion</td><td><3% very high to extreme risk</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wind Erosion</td><td><70% high to extreme risk</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Aspect	Risk	Flooding	<3% moderate to high risk	Waterlogging	3-10% moderate to very high risk	Salinity	<3% moderate to extreme risk	Acidity at surface 0-10 cm	<3% has pHCa <4.5	Acidity at 50-80cm	<3% has pHCa <4.5	Water Erosion	<3% very high to extreme risk	Wind Erosion	<70% high to extreme risk
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Wind Erosion	<70% high to extreme risk																
Given the clearing of 0.16 ha is proposed within and adjacent to a cleared agricultural area, there is not likely to be an appreciable increase in land degradation due to the proposed clearing. Standard erosion and dust management control measures will be implemented during clearing activities to reduce the incidence of land degradation. Clearing of the native vegetation within the clearing area is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this 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.	Not likely to be at variance																
Assessment: There are no Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Bush Forever Sites, DBCA-managed lands, A-Class reserves, conservation covenants or other conservation areas within the development envelope or immediate surrounds. The nearest conservation area is the Capercup Road North Nature Reserve (DBCA-011), located approximately 6 km to the east of the development envelope. Given the distance to the nearest conservation reserve, the proposed clearing is not anticipated to result in any impacts on the environmental values of any conservation areas. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this 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.	Not likely to be at variance
Assessment: The development envelope does not intersect with a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) or any of the six <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1946</i> (CAWS Act) controlled catchment areas. The salinity of the groundwater within the development envelope ranges between TDS 3,000 - 7,000 mg/L (DWER-026). It is considered unlikely that the small scale of proposed clearing, in an area that is already predominantly cleared for agricultural purposes, will disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface water run-off patterns and is unlikely to alter ground water quality patterns in the local area. The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause further deterioration in local salinity levels or the quality of surface or underground water. As the vegetation is not representative of wetland surface water habitat, along with the Completely Degraded condition of the vegetation, and the small scale of the proposal (0.16 ha), the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.	
j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not at variance
Assessment: The recorded mean annual rainfall in the area of the proposed clearing is 683.4 mm (BoM, 2026). The soil within the development envelope is mapped as having a low risk of flooding or waterlogging (DPIRD-007). The closest area to the proposed clearing area with a moderate risk of flooding, is 200m south from the proposed clearing area (DPIRD-007). There is no watercourse with a flooding risk within the proposed clearing area. An ephemeral drainage line begins through the southern portion of the development envelope, however this waterbody is not identified with a risk of flooding (DPIRD-007). Given the relatively minor scale of the clearing (0.16 ha), and the proximity to flooding areas, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Hence, the proposed clearing is not at variance with this principle.	

7. Planning instrument or other relevant matters

The clearing assessment has been undertaken in accordance with *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (Government of Western Australia, 2014). There are no Environmental Protection Policies over the area and the land is not subject to an agreement under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*.

The development envelope is covered by the South West Native Title Settlement. There are no known registered or Lodged Aboriginal Sites of Significance within or adjacent to the development envelope (DPLH, 2026), and no other Heritage places within the area.

An Activity Notice has been issued to the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with Western Power's Noongar Alternative Heritage Agreement with the corporation, and discussions are ongoing.

Works are located outside of a Region Scheme. Although Western Power is exempt from the need to comply with the provisions of a local planning scheme under s.60 of the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005*, there is a requirement under s.60(4) to carry out the works in keeping with the design and intent of the scheme, and to consult with the local authority when a proposal is being formulated. Consultation with the Shire of West Arthur has been ongoing in relation to the Clean Energy Link – East program, including regarding Cordering terminal. The process is underway to formally subdivide the land required for the new terminal. The terminal is located within a Bush Fire Prone Area. A Bushfire Attack Level assessment will be undertaken during detailed design.

No noisy assets (i.e. large-scale transformers or reactors) will be installed as part of the terminal development. Nonetheless the detailed design process involves the requirement for noise studies to be undertaken as required to ensure that the proposed terminal will be compliant with the Western Australian Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.

The selection of the Cordering Terminal location has considered potential visual impacts to nearby receptors. The landowner to the south will be offered to have screening planting undertaken on their property to mitigate visual impacts. Views of the Cordering Terminal are obscured from the west by topography and from the north and the east by remnant vegetation.

8. Clearing Permit Details

Western Power manages impacts of clearing through the implementation of an internal Vegetation Clearing Permit. The Western Power Vegetation Clearing Permit outlining the relevant clearing conditions will be generated following DWER approval and issued prior to construction.

In accordance with Western Power Clearing Intervention thresholds, this Project has been assessed as High Risk given that clearing will be undertaken under CPS1918/11 and is at variance with clearing principle (b). Given that the five trees proposed to be cleared represent the only vegetation within the development envelope, Western Power will utilise standard management measures and demarcation to manage clearing activities, and consider that it is adequate for clearing to be supervised by the contractor's environmental specialist.

9. Offset Proposal

Western Power will be seeking an exemption from the requirement for an offset. The proposed clearing involves the removal of five remnant trees located within a highly disturbed agricultural landscape. Site assessments confirmed that none of the trees contain hollows or other features that provide current nesting or roosting habitat for Black Cockatoo species. As such, the trees do not currently provide critical breeding or shelter resources for Black Cockatoo species.

Furthermore, the surrounding area contains an abundance of native vegetation, including trees that provide comparable or superior black cockatoo nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat. These habitat resources are readily available within the local landscape and will continue to support fauna species that may utilise the area.

Given the highly modified nature of the site, the absence of habitat hollows, and the availability of equivalent and higher quality habitat resources in the surrounding environment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant loss of habitat values or have a measurable impact on Black Cockatoo populations. Accordingly, the removal of the five habitat trees does not warrant the requirement for an offset as the impacts are minor, localised, and adequately mitigated by the retention of suitable habitat within the broader landscape.

To mitigate the permanent clearing of the five black cockatoo habitat trees, Western Power proposes to plant screening trees adjacent to the terminal site within a neighbouring property (at the discretion of the directly-affected landowner).

10. Post assessment requirements

Post assessment	Outcome	Justification / Further Action Required
Are submissions required?	Yes	Submissions will be sought from the public and interested parties in accordance with condition 7 of CPS 1918/11.
Could the area be affected by dieback?	Yes	The development envelope is located south of the 26th parallel and receives over 400 mm annual rainfall.
Has advice been received from DWER or an environmental specialist that the area may be susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback?	No	Biological and dieback survey has not identified any other pathogens affecting the site.
Are weeds likely to spread / result in environmental harm?	No	The development envelope is within a highly disturbed landscape that has been used for agricultural purposes and is unlikely to further exacerbate weed impacts.
Is a Vegetation Management Plan required?	Yes	Refer to Appendix B
Is rehabilitation/revegetation required?	No	There will be no temporary clearing of native vegetation.
Is a Dieback Management Plan required?	No	Managed as per Western Power standard dieback hygiene practices. Clearing not proposed in the vicinity of Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions land.
Is an offset required?	Yes	As the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (b) and may be at variance with principle (e), an offset proposal is typically required under condition 10(a) of CPS 1918/11. Offsets are considered unlikely to be required for the clearing given the minor scale of clearing and extent of higher value native vegetation in the surrounding area. Accordingly, Western Power will seek an exemption from DWER from the requirement for an offset.
What is the clearing risk rating?	High risk	At variance to principle (b). In accordance with Western Power's clearing risk assessment process, the proposed clearing is high risk and a clearing intervention is required.

11. References

- AECOM (2026a) *Clean Energy Link – East Stage 1 2025, Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Assessment*. Unpublished report prepared by AECOM on behalf of Western Power.
- AECOM (2026b) *Clean Energy Link – East Stage 1 2025, Black Cockatoo Assessment*. Unpublished report prepared by AECOM on behalf of Western Power.
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- Government of Western Australia. (2019a). *2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report)*. Current as of March 2019. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, Western Australia. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Government of Western Australia. (2019b) *2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics*. Current as of March 2019. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>
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- Shepherd, D. P., Beeston, G. R., & Hopkins, A. J. M. (2002). *Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status*. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Perth, Western Australia
- Webb, A., Kinloch, J., Keighery, G. and Pitt, G. 2016. *The Extension of Vegetation Complex Mapping to Landform boundaries within the Swan Coastal Plain Landform and Forested Region of South West Western Australia*. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Bunbury, WA.

Appendix A Stakeholder consultation

In accordance with Condition 7 of CPS 1918/11, Western Power will publish the Clearing Assessment Report on its website and invite submissions from the public. Responses to public submissions will be published on the website.

Western Power has identified the following parties as having an interest in aspects of the proposed clearing that are at variance or may be at variance to the clearing principles.

Stakeholders	Invited to make submissions?	Date sent	Submission received?	Date received
Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation within Department of Primary Industries and Regional Department (DPIRD)	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Drainage and Waterways Branch	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Conservation Council of WA	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Local Government where the clearing is proposed	Yes ☒ Not required ☐	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Owner or occupier of the land on which clearing is proposed	Yes ☒ Not required ☐	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.
Any other party that may have an interest	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Click here to enter a date.	Yes ☐ No ☐	Click here to enter a date.

Responses to all submissions will be published on the Western Power website.

Appendix B Vegetation Management Plan

1.1 Introduction

The Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) has been prepared in accordance with condition 6 of CPS 1918/11.

1.2 Scope of the Project Activities

Clean Energy Link – East (CEL East) is a proposed project to expand the transmission network east of Collie, to connect new renewable generation sources to enable industry and the wider community to meet decarbonisation goals.

To support WA's commitment to retire state-owned coal generation by 2030, Stage 1 proposes to expand the network by delivering:

- a new terminal near Bowelling, providing a critical network connection point for renewable projects advancing in the area, unlocking significantly more clean energy.
- two new double-circuit 330kV transmission lines to connect the proposed new terminal back to the existing Muja and Shotts terminals.

These proposed network upgrades are essential due to capacity and location constraints of the existing terminals at Muja and Shotts. Due to substantial temporal and associated contractual separation of delivery, the CEL East Stage 1 program is being delivered through a staged approach, with Cordering Terminal scheduled to commence clearing and construction in March 2027.

The works associated with the construction of the new terminal include:

- Clearing required for construction and associated asset protection zone for the 12-bay ultimate design
- Civil works for 6 bays, including earthworks, drainage and foundations
- Installation of new electrical infrastructure including dual relay/control buildings, telecommunications, protection and automation systems and security systems
- Interfaces with incoming transmission lines including for future customer connections
- Permanent access track for access during construction and ongoing operation
- Temporary laydown areas
- Fencing.

The clearing of up to 0.16 ha of native vegetation is required to enable construction of the new terminal and associated access.

1.3 Scope of the Vegetation Management Plan

The VMP highlights the project management issues and provides actions required to be undertaken before, during and following project completion. The aim of the VMP is to provide management actions to avoid, mitigate and/or manage the clearing impacts, to allocate areas of responsibility required for the implementation of management actions identified and to provide timeframes for completion and monitoring actions.

1.4 Non-Compliance

All non-compliances related to this VMP will follow Western Power's incident management procedure and will be logged in Guardian.

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe	Completion Status/Evidence <i>(to be completed by permit holder)</i>
Standard Actions					
Clearing	At the pre-start meeting provide clear maps indicating the areas approved to be cleared to the crew undertaking the works	Record sheet to be signed at pre-start meeting by all personnel.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing	
	All access and laydown areas will be clearly delineated on plans	Plans to be captured in the Volt.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing	
	Have a copy (electronic or hard copy) of the VMP on site during the clearing activities	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing.	Site Supervisor	Once clearing has been completed	
	Clearing of vegetation shall not exceed the approved limits of clearing. All vegetation to be cleared will be demarcated on site prior to the commencement of project activities	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing	
	Any vegetation cleared beyond the extent of approvals shall be rehabilitated to the pre-clearing condition	Clearing incident reported	Site Supervisor	Within 24 months	
	Cleared vegetation will be removed from site and disposed of appropriately once activities are completed	One compliance inspection will occur after clearing.	Site Supervisor	Once clearing has been completed	

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe	Completion Status/Evidence <i>(to be completed by permit holder)</i>
Specific Actions					
Principle b	Clearing will progress slowly in one direction to ensure fauna has opportunity to move on	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing.	Site Supervisor	Prior to and during clearing activities.	
	In the event that sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife are located on the project site, the WILDCARE Helpline ((08) 9474 9055) will be contacted for assistance and an incident will be lodged in Guardian.				
	Feeding, disturbance, harassing of fauna or the presence of firearms or pets is prohibited on site.				
Principle e	Where possible avoid and limit the amount of clearing on site.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.	

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe	Completion Status/Evidence <i>(to be completed by permit holder)</i>
Standard Record Keeping					
Record Keeping- Clearing	Maintain the following records for the cleared area: - Location of clearing area as a shapefile - Size of clearing (ha) - Date(s) on which clearing was done	Clearing data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 12a submitted to Environment team.	WP Project Owner	Data to be submitted within 30 days of project clearing activities being completed	
Record Keeping - Clearing	Copies of all Vehicle and equipment environmental inspection registers used to check that clearing machinery is free of soil and vegetative material must be maintained	Copies of completed registers submitted to WP Project Owner	Site Supervisor	Copies of completed registers are to be submitted within 30 days of project clearing activities being completed	
Record Keeping- Other	Maintain the other records in accordance with Condition 12b (VMP) and 12d (dieback/pathogen/weeds).	Data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 12b and 12d managed by Environment team.	SP&A Team	Data to be submitted within 30 days of project activities being completed	

Appendix C – Surveys

AECOM (2026a) Clean Energy Link – East Stage 1 2025, Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report prepared by AECOM on behalf of Western Power

Executive Summary

AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) was engaged by Western Power to complete biological surveys for a 6,448.8 ha survey area corridor between Collie and Cordering in south-west Western Australia. This survey work builds on the biological assessment undertaken as part of the broader Clean Energy Link – East (CEL-E) survey program. This report should be read in conjunction with the CEL-E Biological Assessment (AECOM 2026a), which provides the baseline context and findings.

Thirty vegetation communities were defined and mapped including 27 native vegetation communities and three non-native communities. Three occurrences of the Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community were mapped, extending across 2.9 ha of the survey area. Nine riparian/wetland vegetation types were mapped, all representing important refuge for fauna species and for supporting hydrological function.

The survey area extends from State Forest across prime agricultural landscape, intersecting with paddocks, remnant native vegetation, and fragmented patches of trees. The predominant land use of agriculture is reflected in the high level of disturbance recorded, including clearing, soil compaction, logging, grazing and weed invasion. Good or better condition vegetation was predominantly restricted to edges of larger patches of remnant native vegetation in the Muja and Collie State Forests, mapped for 941.8 ha.

One new population of the Threatened orchid *Diuris micrantha* was recorded, representing 359 individuals. Four priority flora species *Caladenia validinerva* (Priority 1), *Tetradlea exasperata* (Priority 3), *Banksia porrecta* (Priority 4) and *Loricobbia skinneri* (Priority 4) were recorded.

Sixteen fauna habitat types (excluding cleared areas) were delineated across the survey area, comprising six Eucalypt habitats (2,145.8 ha; 33.3%), four Shrubland habitats (182.4 ha; 2.8%), two Aquatic habitats (222.5 ha; 3.5%), and four Modified habitats (3,720.8 ha; 57.7%). Eucalypt Forest represents the highest value habitat and is suitable for 16 of the conservation-significant fauna species known or likely to occur within the survey area. Intact Eucalypt and Sheoak Eucalypt Forests provide structurally complex habitat supporting foraging, refuge and breeding requirements.

Twelve conservation-significant fauna species are confirmed to occur within the survey area; the Western Ringtail Possum, Woylie, Chuditch, Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale, Baudin's Cockatoo, Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Quenda, Rakali, Western Brush Wallaby, Western Rosella and Peregrine Falcon. A review of significant fauna ecology, fauna habitat complexity and connectivity determined that overall 18 conservation-significant fauna species have the potential to utilise habitats within the survey area. This includes nine species recorded during the survey effort undertaken to date, six species considered to have a 'moderate' or 'high' post-survey likelihood of occurrence within the survey area and three species of black cockatoo, which are further discussed in a standalone report (AECOM 2026b).

The landscape is largely modified with remnant high-value native vegetation and aquatic systems that retain important ecological function. Riverine systems and Eucalypt Wetlands represent the most ecologically significant aquatic habitats due to structural diversity and connectivity, while highly modified drainage lines and farm dams provide comparatively limited habitat value. Overall, habitat condition and structural complexity are the primary determinants of flora and fauna values within the survey area.

All assessments were undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) *Technical Guidance for Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* and the EPA (2016) *Technical Guidance for Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*. Any minor limitations encountered did not materially affect the scope, coverage or reliability of the assessment outcomes.

Conclusion

A detailed and reconnaissance flora and vegetation assessment and basic fauna assessment survey was undertaken for a linear corridor in the vicinity of Collie. Targeted fauna assessments were also undertaken as part of the survey suite, with detailed findings discussed in corresponding reports. The survey area includes 6,448.8 ha, of which 1,952.3 ha (30.3%) represents native vegetation. Survey effort has cumulatively occurred across 2023 to 2026 within parts of the CEL-25 survey area and adjacent survey areas.

Thirty vegetation communities were defined and mapped within the survey area, including 27 native vegetation communities and three non-native communities: Most of the survey area has been subject to disturbance with 4,482.0 ha (69.5%) representing non-native vegetation or cleared areas.

Three occurrences of the Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community were recorded in the survey area, extending across 2.9 ha of the survey area.

Wetland/riparian vegetation was mapped for 224.7 ha (3.5%) and was usually severely impacted from altered hydrology, weed invasion and grazing. A total of 25.8 ha of wetlands were mapped in 'Good' or better condition and was usually buffered by native vegetation

One new population of the Threatened orchid *Diuris micrantha* was recorded, representing 359 individuals. Four additional Priority flora species: *Caladenia validinervia* (Priority 1), *Tetratheca exasperata* (Priority 3), *Banksia porrecta* (Priority 4) and *Loricobbia skinneri* (Priority 4) were recorded.

Twelve significant fauna species are known to occur and utilise habitats in the survey area:

- Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) - Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Woylie (*Bettongia ogilbyi sylvatica*) – Endangered under the EPBC Act; Critically Endangered under the BC Act
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii fortis*) – Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger*) – Conservation Dependant under the BC Act
- Baudin's Cockatoo (*Zanda baudinii*) Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Quenda (*Isodon fusciventer*), DBCA Priority 4
- Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), DBCA Priority 4
- Western Brush Wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*), DBCA Priority 4
- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*), DBCA Priority 4
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) listed Other Specially Protected Fauna under the. BC Act.

Sixteen fauna habitat types (excluding cleared areas) were delineated and mapped incorporating six Eucalypt habitats, four Shrubland habitats, two Aquatic habitats, and four Modified habitats. The Eucalypt Forest represents the highest value habitat type and is suitable for 16 conservation-significant fauna species considered likely to utilise habitat in the survey area.

High value habitats include the Eucalypt Forest and Sheoak Eucalypt Forest, representing intact, structurally complex, and provide critical foraging, refuge, and breeding resources. Riverine systems and Eucalypt Wetlands are ecologically significant due to their structural diversity, water availability, and connectivity. In contrast, highly modified drainage lines and farm dams are substantially degraded and contribute minimal habitat value relative to intact aquatic systems.

The assessment was completed in accordance relevant state and federal guidelines, and the results are considered robust and fit for purpose. Minor survey limitations did not materially influence the interpretation of environmental values or the reliability of the conclusions presented.

AECOM (2026b) Clean Energy Link – East Stage 1 2025, Black Cockatoo Assessment. Unpublished report prepared by AECOM on behalf of Western Power.

Executive Summary

AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) was engaged by Western Power to undertake a targeted black cockatoo assessment in support of infrastructure development for the Clean Energy Link – East (CEL-E) Stage 1 program of works. The CEL-E Stage 1 2025 survey program (CEL-25) builds upon previous black cockatoo assessments completed for CEL-E.

The CEL-25 black cockatoo survey area comprises land parcels and a series of corridors within the Southwest region encompassing 5,472.5 ha, subject to a breeding, roosting and foraging assessment. The survey area is in the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion, approximately 190 km southeast of Perth, and extends southwest toward Muja.

The survey program comprised 24 mobilisation events representing 124 days of survey effort. These surveys were undertaken to identify, delineate and map black cockatoo habitat values, including foraging habitat, potential breeding trees and suitable roosting areas.

All three black cockatoo species, Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*), Baudin's Cockatoo (*Zanda baudinii*) and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) were observed during the survey, totalling to 668 opportunistic records of individuals or evidence.

The survey identified the following:

High quality foraging habitat receiving a score of 8 to 10 on the Bamford Consulting Ecologists Scoring Tool (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020) was identified for 967.8 ha for the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, 976.7 ha for Carnaby's Cockatoo and 967.8 ha for Baudin's Cockatoo.

A total of 1,069.1 ha of Moderate quality foraging habitat (with a foraging score of 3 to 7) was recorded for the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, 1,216.8 ha was recorded for the Baudins Cockatoo, and 1,641.0 ha was identified for the Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Low to Negligible (foraging score of 1 to 2) foraging habitat was recorded for 2,687.8 ha for the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, 2,540.1 ha for the Baudin's Cockatoo and 2,609.1 ha for the Carnaby's Cockatoo.

a total of 72,903 potential breeding trees were recorded including 3,588 trees with one or more potentially suitable breeding hollows.

all 72,903 potential breeding trees are considered suitable roosting trees owing to their proximity to water sources. No potential roost sites were recorded during the survey.

The survey was successfully undertaken by a team of experienced zoologists and survey effort was considered rigorous to inform the results. No limitations were identified that would impact the results presented.

Conclusion

A detailed targeted black cockatoo survey was undertaken for a linear corridor in the vicinity of Collie. The survey area encompasses 5,472.5 ha, of which approximately 1,773.5 ha (35.6%) represents native vegetation.

The survey area contains high quality native foraging habitat for all three threatened black cockatoo species, with 967.8 ha attributed a score of 8 to 10, high quality foraging for Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, 976.7 ha for Carnaby's Cockatoo and 967.8 ha for Baudin's Cockatoo. A total of 72,903 potential breeding trees were recorded including 3,588 trees with one or more potential suitable breeding hollows.

Twelve fauna habitats were considered to support suitable black cockatoo foraging habitat, with a score of low or above. Many of the Eucalypt habitats represent high roosting, foraging and breeding values, particularly Eucalypt Forest and Eucalypt Woodland. They remain largely intact and support a wide range of conservation-significant species. They play an important role, often with high connectivity, longevity and diversity to support all three species of black cockatoo for roosting, breeding and foraging habitat. Moderately valued habitats show some disturbance but retain ecological function, while low-value areas, including Plantations and cleared land, offer limited habitat potential. Among aquatic environments, Eucalypt Wetlands are the most ecologically valuable, whereas severely degraded drainage areas contribute little to no biodiversity.

No limitations were identified that would impact the results presented.

GHD (2026) Clean Energy Link East Stage 1 – Targeted Black Cockatoo Hollow Inspections.
Unpublished report prepared by GHD on behalf of Western Power.
Executive Summary

NA

Conclusion

During the Phase 1 assessment, a total of 1,433 potential Black Cockatoo trees were assessed within the survey area. The outcomes of this assessment identified 204 potential Black Cockatoo trees to be targeted for the Phase 2 assessment. The Phase 2 assessment identified 65 trees as either suitable nesting trees (40 trees) or known nesting trees (25 trees). None of the identified trees showed signs of current Black Cockatoo use (e.g. eggs, chicks or observed nesting activity).

The absence of observed breeding activity is most likely attributable to the timing of the survey, which was undertaken outside the typical breeding season for Black Cockatoos. Despite the lack of current breeding activity within the survey area, the survey area provides significant breeding habitat for the three Black Cockatoo species and has potential to support breeding during the appropriate season. During the field surveys the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo was recorded within the survey area as fly overs.