Clearing Assessment Report

Synergy King Rocks – Karlgarin Telecommunications Tower

December 2025

Western Power

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Document Control

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0	24/04/2025	Initial version
1	10/07/2025	Updated version following comments
2	22/07/2025	Final version
3	12/12/2025	Published version – Minor edits for publishing

1. Project Information

Project Area		
Project name: Synergy King Rocks Project - Karlgarin Telecommunications Tower		**Contract/Work Order No:**
Main purpose of clearing	**Permanent/Temporary**	**Clearing area (ha)**
Fire protection/hazard reduction around new and existing infrastructure	Permanent ☒	0.07 ha native vegetation
	Temporary ☐	
Proposed start date: 1/01/2026	**Expected completion date: 1/07/2026**	
Method of clearing: Mechanical	**Machinery to be used:** TBD	

Project details:

As part of Synergy's King Rocks wind farm project, located within the eastern Wheatbelt region of WA, Western Power are required to install a telecommunications asset at the Karlgarin site within the Shire of Kondinin (Figure 1).

The Project is located within a 0.57 ha Development Envelope (DE) which correlates to the 40m Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and requires thinning of 0.07 ha of native vegetation (clearing area) (Figure 1) to comply with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) specifications. A site visit was conducted in March 2025, photos shown in Plate 1.

The following clearing activities are required within the APZ to comply with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan:

Trees (over 5 m in height):

- Prune lower branches to a height of at least 2 m above ground level.
- Ensure tree canopies at maturity are at least 10 m from the communication tower.
- Maintain canopy cover at less than 15%, with trees spaced at least 5 m apart to avoid continuous canopy formation.

Shrubs (0.5 m to 5 m in height):

- Remove any shrubs located under trees.
- Ensure shrub clumps are spaced at least 10 m apart.
- Remove all shrubs within 10 m of the communication infrastructure.

Groundcovers (less than 0.5 m in height):

- Remove all groundcover within 3 m of the structure.
- Grass must be maintained at a maximum height of 10 cm.

Site Perimeter:

- Maintain a 3 m cleared border around the outside of the site fence.

Guardian Permit ID reference number:	**Permit/Exemption number:**
PER-0001599	CPS 1918/11

2. Map/photos

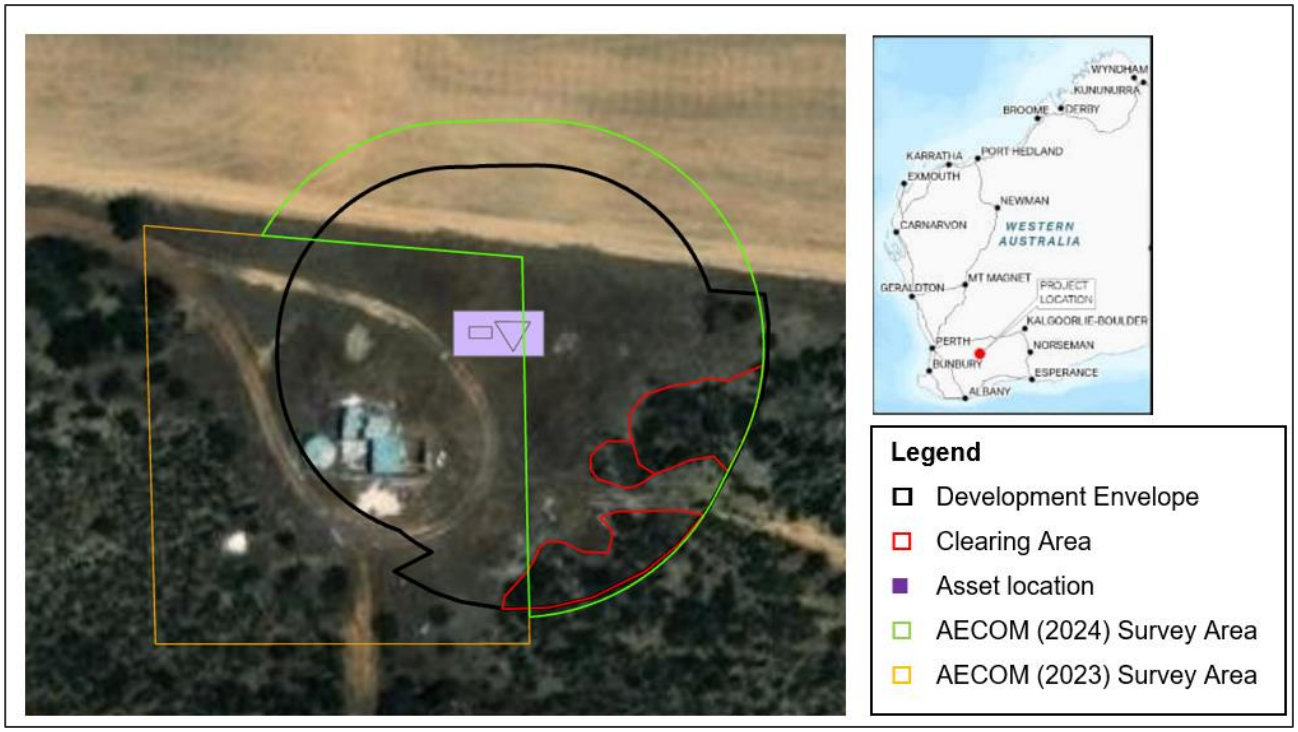

Figure 1 Clearing area map

Plate 1 Site photos

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:

Alternative to Clearing	Applicable	Discussion
Directional drilling of underground cables instead of open trenching	No	Installation of new cables is not part of the proposed works.
Existing tracks are utilised where possible	Yes	Five sites were considered for the telecommunications asset location: Options 2, 3, 4A, 4B and 4C. The final location (option 4C) and the associated clearing area were refined through a series of surveys, desktop assessments, reviews and adjustments conducted during the planning and scoping phases of the Project. For further details of these surveys, please see Table 1. This process aimed to avoid, minimise and reduce the environmental impact associated with the clearing. Actions undertaken to avoid, minimise and reduce the extent and impact of clearing include: • Prioritising the use of areas that have already been cleared where possible • Final option was selected to avoid native vegetation where feasible • Final option minimises the significant impacts associated with clearing • Despite these efforts, thinning of approximately 0.07 ha of native vegetation could not be avoided due to existing site constraints.
Utilising previously cleared areas where possible	Yes	
Consideration of alternative engineering and design options	Yes	
Other	No	

4. Site context

4.1 Land Tenure (Cadastral Information)

The Project is situated within the Shire of Kondinin, in Western Australia's Wheatbelt region. The designated clearing area is located on Crown Land, as defined under the Land Act, at 3903 Billericay Road East, Karlgarin 6358.

Property:

1.Crown Land, Lot on Plan: P209621 2537, Land ID Number: 1999673, Area: 1785.4472 ha.

Conservation Estates:

1. N/A

Local Government:

1. Shire of Kondinin
2. Shire of Narembeen

Other:

1. N/A

4.2 Vegetation description

The Karlgarin project location lies within the Mallee Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region and the Western Mallee subregion. The pre-European vegetation association (Beard et al., 2013), is vegetation association Hyden 960. This vegetation type is characterised as "Eucalypt shrubland *Eucalyptus eremophila, E. redunca,* and other unspecified *Eucalyptus* species (*E. spp*.)".

Of note is that the initial flora, vegetation and fauna survey of the Karlgarin site (originally called option 4C) was undertaken on 10 October 2023 (AECOM 2024). This was followed by a second survey in an expanded survey area on 7 November 2024. The summary of the results from the second survey is presented in AECOM (2025). This biological survey was undertaken over 0.94 ha (the survey area) (Figure 1), which includes the 0.57 ha Development Envelope. One type of native vegetation was recorded within the survey area: 0.17 ha of Allocasuarina Heath (AaEc). Of this, 0.07 ha (the clearing area) is within the Development Envelope (DE) and will be thinned to meet the requirements of the BRMP. The rest of the DE area (0.50 ha) has is already cleared (AECOM 2025) but may contain sporadic non-native grasses and re-growth. Any non-native grasses and regrowth vegetation within the 40 m APZ will be cleared in accordance with Western Power's BRMP.

The AaEc community is defined by a mid-open heathland dominated by *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis*, *Gastrolobium spinosum* and *Melaleuca cordata*. This is underlain by a tall to low mixed tussock grassland and forbland comprising species such as *Ehrharta calycina*, *Bromus rubens* and *Ursinia anthemoides*. This community was recorded as an isolated occurrence on a lateritic hill slope on yellow sand with laterite. The species richness included 43 native species and nine weed species.

Native vegetation condition was mapped over an area of 0.17 ha, with the majority classified as being in Very Good (0.06 ha) and Good (0.10 ha) condition, the remainder being mapped as Degraded. The vegetation within the survey area represents the edge of a larger patch of native vegetation. Altered

environmental conditions, including past clearing and weed invasion, have contributed to a decline in vegetation condition.

4.3 Summary of results of surveys

Three surveys were conducted across five sites. Out of the five options considered for the project location, a second survey was conducted for the final option (originally option 4C) to verify significant environmental values present and to inform site selection and environmental approvals for the Karlgarin telecommunication site. A comprehensive summary of the survey data is shown in the table below.

Table 1 Summary of surveys

Survey	Survey timing	Summary results
Karlgarin Option 4C - Flora and Fauna Assessment AECOM, April 2025	7 November 2024	The survey area comprises 0.94 ha, of which 0.17 ha represents native vegetation. One vegetation community -*Allocasuarina* Heath on a lateritic hill was mapped for 0.17 ha, rated as Very Good (0.06 ha), Good (0.10 ha) and Degraded (0.01 ha) conditions. Three Priority 3 flora species were recorded: *Anticoryne melanosperma, Banksia rufa* subsp. *flavescens* and *Styphelia subglauca.* Twelve fauna species were recorded, however none are considered to be conservation significant fauna species. One fauna habitat was identified and mapped as Heathland, but was not considered suitable for any conservation-significant fauna species.
Karlgarin Option 2 and 3 - Flora and Fauna Assessment AECOM, April 2024	14 October 2023	The survey area represents 6.25 ha which includes 1.79 ha of native vegetation. One Allocasuarina Woodland (0.81 ha) and one Eucalypt Mallee Woodland (0.97 ha) were mapped in the survey area, mostly in Very Good (1.03 ha) condition. Priority 3 Eucalyptus ornata was recorded. Thirteen fauna species were recorded Three native fauna habitats were mapped including a Eucalypt Woodland (0.49 ha), Allocasuarina Woodland (0.33 ha) and a Mallee Woodland (0.98 ha). These habitats were considered suitable for: Malleefowl *(Leipoa ocellata)* listed under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) and *Biodiversity Conservation Act* (BC) as Vulnerable. Carnaby's Cockatoo *(Zanda latirostris)* listed under EPBC and DBCA Endangered. Western Rosella *(Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys)* classified as Priority 4 by DBCA.

Kalgarin Option 4A, 4B and 4C - Flora and Fauna Assessment AECOM, March 2024	10 October 2023	The survey area comprises 9.27 ha, of which 1.79 ha represents native vegetation. The Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) was recorded within the Karlgarin 4A and 4B survey area and was mapped for 0.49 ha. Four vegetation communities were mapped including one Allocasuarina Heath on a lateritic hill (within Karlgarin 4C). Vegetation condition was largely Very Good (1.40 ha), with the remaining 7.48 ha cleared. Two Priority 3 flora species were recorded including *Anticoryne melanosperma* and *Styphelia subglauca.* Eleven fauna species were recorded. Three native fauna habitats were mapped, including Eucalypt Woodland, Allocasuarina Woodland and Mallee Woodland. These habitats were considered suitable for Malleefowl *(Leipoa ocellata),* Carnaby's Cockatoo *(Zanda latirostris)* and Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*).

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 5 km.

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:							

6. Assessment of vegetation clearing impacts

Western Power is proposing to clear by thinning 0.07 ha of native vegetation in Kings Rocks, within the eastern Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. The clearing also involves thinning of non-native vegetation within the 0.57 ha DE, which consists of sporadic non-native grasses (Plate 1).

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).

Table 2 Clearing permit principles assessment

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:

Western Power engaged AECOM to conduct a biological survey of the Karlgarin (originally Karlgarin 4C) clearing area, covering approximately 0.94 ha, of which 0.17 ha was native vegetation. The survey included a comprehensive desktop assessment, detailed flora and fauna assessment, a single-phase detailed flora and vegetation assessment and a basic fauna assessment.

Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC)

AECOM (2025) identified three significant ecological communities in the desktop assessment as having the potential to occur in the survey area:

- Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC – listed as Critically Endangered (CE) under the EPBC Act and classifies as Priority 3 (P3) by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Priority Ecological Communities List.
- Salmon gum woodlands of the Wheatbelt (part of the Eucalypt woodlands TEC) – listed as CE under the EPBC Act and classified as P3 by DBCA.
- Assemblages of Gypsum dunes of the central and southern Wheatbelt PEC – listed as P3 under the DBCA.

During the field survey, AECOM (2025) recorded 0.17 ha of Allocasuarina Heath (AaEc) in predominantly Good condition. Within this community, 0.07 ha intersects with the clearing area. This vegetation community does not represent a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community.

Flora

AECOM identified 48 significant flora species that could potentially occur within the survey area. Three species were 'known' from a survey AECOM conducted in 2023, 11 species had a 'moderate' likelihood of occurrence, seven had a 'low' likelihood of occurrence, and 27 had a 'negligible' likelihood of occurrence.

AECOM (2025) recorded 43 native flora species within the survey area, however, no threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded during the field survey.

Three Priority 3 flora species, classified by DBCA were recorded:

- *Anticoryne melanosperma* (P3)
- *Banksia rufa* subsp. *flavescens* (P3)
- *Styphelia subglauca* (P3)

None of these flora species occurs within the clearing area.

Fauna

AECOM (2025) identified 20 Threatened, Priority and Migratory fauna species with potential to occur in the survey area through the desktop assessment. Two species had a 'high' likelihood of occurrence within the survey area, with the remaining 18 species considered to have a 'low' or 'negligible' likelihood of occurrence.

The following are conservation-significant fauna species that had a 'high' likelihood of occurring:

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) - listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and the BC Act.

- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) – classified as P4 by DBCA

During the field survey, AECOM (2025) recorded 12 fauna species; however, none listed under the EPBC Act and BC Act or classified as Priority by DBCA. Additionally, while the survey area is unlikely to serve as core habitat for conservation listed fauna species, it may function as a transient corridor, potentially used by the following species to move between fragmented habitat patches:

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*)
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) - listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act.

AECOM (2025) recorded one fauna habitat, Heathland, within the clearing area (0.07 ha), considered to have Moderate - High fauna habitat value. Due to its size and limited ecological features, this habitat is unlikely to be suitable for any conservation significant species.

The native vegetation clearing area (0.07 ha) does not comprise a high level of biodiversity. Additionally, no TEC/PEC vegetation or habitat for significant flora or fauna were identified within the DE. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with 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.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

Through the desktop assessment, AECOM (2025) identified 20 Threatened, Priority and Migratory fauna species with the potential to occur within the survey area. This included 12 bird and eight mammal species. Marine species were excluded from the desktop assessment as the DE does not include marine waters. Additionally, in the desktop assessment, two species were considered to have a 'high' likelihood of occurrence in the survey area, four species were considered to have a 'low' likelihood of occurrence, and the remaining 14 species were considered to have a 'negligible' likelihood of occurrence due to lack of suitable habitat or old records.

The following conservation significant fauna species were identified as having a high likelihood of occurring in the area prior to the survey. Following the survey, both species were assessed as having a negligible likelihood within the survey area.

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) - listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and the BC Act
- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) – classified as P4 by DBCA

AECOM (2025) recorded 12 fauna species during the survey, however, none are listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act. Following the survey, all Threatened, Priority and Migratory fauna species were assessed as having a negligible likelihood of occurrence. This was due to the size of intact vegetation and the large percentage of bare ground (with limited leaf litter or other habitat features).

AECOM (2025) mapped one fauna habitat within the clearing area – 0.07 ha of Heathland. The Heathland habitat is described as Allocasuarina dominated open heathland over low sparse mixed tussock grasses. A high percentage of bare ground has limited leaf litter on rocky sand substrate. The vegetation is highly modified and adjacent to agricultural structures. This habitat value is rated as Moderate – High, but is unlikely to suit any conservation-significant fauna species, due to its size and limited ecological features.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

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:

AECOM (2025) identified 14 threatened flora species listed under the BC Act with the potential to occur within the survey area. All species were assessed as having a low to negligible likelihood of occurring before and after the field survey, this was largely due to lack of recent records and land of suitable habitat recorded in AECOM 2024 survey. AECOM (2025) recorded 43 native flora species during the field survey, of which none are listed as threatened under the BC Act.

As no threatened flora was recorded within the DE and none were considered likely to occur following the survey, the proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance with 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:

No TECs listed under the BC Act were identified during the desktop assessment (AECOM, 2025). However, the EPBC Act listed TEC, the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, was identified in the desktop assessment. This TEC is classified as a Priority 3 PEC in Western Australia.

AECOM recorded one vegetation type within the DE, 0.07 ha of Allocasuarina Heath, which is not representative of any TEC/PEC vegetation.

No TEC vegetation was recorded within the DE, and no TECs were considered likely to occur following the survey. The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance with 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.	Is at variance

Assessment:

The survey area (AECOM, 2025) lies within the Mallee IBRA region. One pre-European vegetation association was mapped across the survey area - vegetation association Hyden 960, 'Eucalypt shrubland *Eucalyptus eremophila, E. redunca, E.* spp.', described as shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood and black marlock. The status of the remaining pre-European vegetation is shown in the Table below.

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Percent remaining	% Current Extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
Vegetation Association No. 960	**Statewide**	220,441	30,376	13.78%	36.04%
	IBRA Bioregion Mallee	211,734	29,259	13.82%	37.41%
	IBRA Sub-region Western Mallee	211,734	29,259	13.82%	37.41%
	Local Government Authority Kondinin	98,911	18,027	18.23%	50.43%

According to the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) guidelines, at least 30% of the original (pre-clearing) extent of each ecological community should be retained to ensure the protection of Australia's biodiversity. Vegetation association 960 has 13.78% remaining in WA, 13.82% remaining in the Mallee IBRA region, and 18.23% remaining in the Kondinin Local Government Area. Therefore, the extent of this vegetation remaining is below the 30% threshold. While the proposed clearing represents only 0.001% of the total statewide extent and is unlikely to result in a significant reduction, the proposal is still considered to be at variance with this Principle, in accordance with the DER guideline.

Exemptions to the requirement to provide an offset and relevant submissions will be sought, as the clearing required is minimal (only thinning of native vegetation to comply with the BRMP) and the vegetation to be cleared is highly modified due to its proximity to farming buildings.

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:

No mapped DBCA wetlands, Ramsar wetlands or nationally important wetlands occur within or adjacent to the proposed clearing area.

The DE intersects with the Woolocutty System. This land system is described as “Gently undulating plain. Deeply weathered granite. Duplex sandy and loamy gravels with Yellow sandy earths predominate plus sandy and loamy duplexes often red.”

The DE overlaps with the Northern Zone of Ancient Drainage. This is an ancient, low-relief plain formed on weathered granite. The region lacks integrated drainage networks, with chains of salt lakes remaining as relics of ancient systems that now flow only during exceptionally wet years. Lateritic uplands and yellow sandplains primarily shape the landscape.

The DE is not associated with a watercourse or wetland. Hence, the proposed clearing is not at variance with 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 clearing area is within vegetation association Hyden 960 - Eucalypt shrubland *Eucalyptus eremophila*, *E. redunca*, *E. s*pp. AECOM (2025) mapped one vegetation community within the clearing area - Allocasuarina Heath (AaEc), characterised as *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis*, *Gastrolobium spinosum* and *Melaleuca cordata* mid open heathland over *Ehrharta calycina*, *Bromus rubens* and *Ursinia anthemoides* tall to low mixed tussock grassland and forbland.

The soil type associated with the vegetation above is 258Wo, described as “weakly etched and weakly indurated reticulate yellow loamy gravelly laterites”.

The proposed clearing is relatively minor (0.07 ha) and is on the edge of a large patch of remnant vegetation and is on flat ground, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with 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:

The DE does not intersect with any known conservation areas. The nearest conservation area is Roe Nature Reserve, approximately 4.27 km south of the DE.

The proposed clearing is not anticipated to impact the environmental values of the Roe Nature Reserve given it is 4.3km to the south-west of the proposed clearing.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with 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 DE does not intersect with Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA).

The DE intersects with the Kondinin-Ravensthorpe Groundwater Area. This area is protected under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act).

The proposed clearing is not anticipated to impact the quality of surface or underground water as the clearing required is thinning of a small patch (0.07ha) of native vegetation.

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 likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

The DE is located in the Southwest Province, which has a Mediterranean climate characterised by wet winters and dry summer months. Rainfall for the 12 months preceding the survey was 419.3 mm, with very high rainfall received in February, March and August (BOM, 2025).

The Geological Survey of Western Australia (dataset DMIRS 095) mapped the DE as Czl, described as “Pisolitic, nodular or vuggy ferruginous laterite; some lateritic soils; ferricrete; magnesite; ferruginous and siliceous duricrusts and reworked products, calcrete, kaolinised rock, gossan; residual ferruginous saprolite”.

Considering the climate, geological characteristics and the 258Wo soil type AECOM (2025) mapped within the DE, the clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

7. Planning instrument or other relevant matters

The project is located within the Shire of Kondinin and zoned for rural use. There are no approved planning strategies in place for the region and no further approvals or licences are required for the works. There are no Environmental Protection Policies over the area, and the land is not subject to any agreements under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*.

Due to the small scale of the work, the proposed clearing of 0.07 ha is unlikely to cause a significant environmental impact or attract significant public interest. Thus, referral to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) or the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is not required.

There are no heritage sites, Aboriginal heritage areas, or land under native title within the DE. Therefore, no further approvals are required.

The clearing assessment has been conducted following the guidelines outlined in *A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation* (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

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 is available in CPS 1918-11 - Purpose Permit and Decision Report.pdf

9. Post assessment requirements

Post assessment	Outcome	Justification / Further Action Required
Are submissions required?	Yes	Project clearing is required to be advertised on the Western Power website for comment, Submissions will also be sought from interested parties as per Condition 7 of CPS 1918/11.
Could the area be affected by dieback?	No	Annual rainfall <400mm.
Has advice been received from DWER or an environmental specialist that the area may be susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback?	No	
Is a Vegetation Management Plan required?	Yes	Appendix B
Is rehabilitation/revegetation required?	No	Permanent clearing required.
Is a Dieback Management Plan required?	No	
Is an offset required?	No	The project is at variance with Principal ‘e’, as such an offset is required. Exemption from DWER was sought and granted.
What is the clearing risk rating?	Medium	As the project is at variance with Principal ‘e’, the project is a medium risk and requires clearing intervention by Contract Compliance Specialist (CCS)

10. References

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Appendix A Stakeholder consultation

In accordance with Condition 7 of CPS 1918/11, Western Power has published the Clearing Assessment Report on its website and invited 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
Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation within Department of Primary Industries and Regional Department (DPIRD)	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	N/A
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Drainage and Waterways Branch	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	N/A
Conservation Council of WA	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	N/A
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	N/A
Local Government where the clearing is proposed	Yes ☒ Not required ☐	TBC
Owner or occupier of the land on which clearing is proposed	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	Landowner permission has been granted.
Any other party that may have an interest	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	N/A

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

As part of Synergy's King Rocks wind farm project at King Rocks, located within the eastern Wheatbelt region of WA, Western Power is required to install a telecommunications tower at the Karlgarin site.

The project involves thinning of 0.07 ha of native vegetation within the 40 m Asset Protection Zone to align with the requirements of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

The following clearing activities are required:

Trees (over 5 m in height):

- Prune lower branches to a height of at least 2 m above ground level.
- Ensure tree canopies at maturity are at least 10 m from the communication tower.
- Maintain canopy cover at less than 15%, with trees spaced at least 5 m apart to avoid continuous canopy formation.

Shrubs (0.5 m to 5 m in height):

- Remove any shrubs located under trees.
- Ensure shrub clumps are spaced at least 10 m apart.
- Remove all shrubs within 10 m of the communication infrastructure.

Groundcovers (less than 0.5 m in height):

- Remove all groundcover within 3 m of the structure.
- Grass must be maintained at a maximum height of 10 cm.

Site Perimeter:

- Maintain a 3 m cleared border around the outside of the site fence.

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
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
Specific Actions				
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.
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 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 12c (revegetation), 12d (dieback/pathogen/weeds) and 12e (offsets) where relevant.	Data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 12c, 12d and 12e managed by Environment team.	SHE	Data to be submitted within 30 days of project activities being completed

Appendix C Biological Survey

Executive Summary

AECOM was engaged by Western Power to undertake investigations to support an impact assessment and clearing permit application of the expanded survey area for telecommunication site option Karlgarin 4C. The survey area comprises 0.94 ha of which 0.17 ha represents native vegetation.

The initial flora, vegetation and fauna survey of Karlgarin 4C was undertaken on 10 October 2023. This was followed by a second survey in an expanded survey area on a private property on 7 November 2024. A summary of the results from the second survey is presented below:

- The pre-European vegetation association is below the 30% threshold. Based on the Government of WA (2019) vegetation statistics, association, 960 has 13.78% remaining in the State, 13.82% in the Mallee region and 18.23% in the Kondinin Shire.
- One Allocasuarina Heath on a lateritic hill was mapped for 0.17 ha including Very Good (0.06 ha), Good (0.10 ha) and Degraded (0.01 ha) condition.
- Three Priority 3 flora species were recorded including *Anticoryne melanosperma, Banksia rufa* subsp. *flavescens* and *Styphelia subglauca*.
- Twelve fauna species were recorded during the field survey. This included eleven birds and one mammal.
- One fauna habitat was identified and mapped as Heathland and was not considered suitable or core habitat for any conservation significant fauna species.
- No conservation significant fauna species were observed during the survey.

The flora, vegetation and fauna assessment were successfully undertaken. There were no significant limitations that may have influenced the ability to detect significant environmental values.

Conclusions

AECOM was engaged by Western Power to undertake a flora, vegetation and fauna survey for the Karlgarin Option 4C expanded survey area located 44 km northwest of the Hyden townsite. The survey area comprised 0.94 ha, of which 0.17 ha was native vegetation.

Floristic data was collected from one relevé and one quadrat. One Allocasuarina Heath vegetation community was described and mapped. Three Priority flora species were recorded in 2023 and individuals counted in 2024 listed below:

- *Anticoryne melanosperma* (P3) – three individuals.
- *Banksia rufa* subsp. *flavescens* (P3) – one individual.
- *Styphelia subglauca* (P3) – two individuals.

One fauna habitat was identified and mapped as Heathland and was not considered suitable or core habitat for any conservation significant fauna species.

No conservation significant fauna species were observed during the survey.

The flora, vegetation and fauna assessment was successfully undertaken. There were no significant limitations that may have influenced the ability to detect significant environmental values.