

Vegetation Clearing Assessment Report

Cataby Substation Lines Augmentation and Access

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Rev 0	7/3/2025	Initial version
Rev 1	29/05/2025	Revised version
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1. Project Information

Project Area		
Project name: Cataby Substation Lines Augmentation and Access		Contract/Work Order No: T0621796
Main purpose of clearing	Permanent/Temporary	Clearing area (ha)
Native vegetation clearing for the purposes of upgrading any of the above activities where such activities are not exempt from requiring a clearing permit	Permanent ☒	0.80
	Temporary ☐	0
Decommissioning (removal of redundant infrastructure)		
Proposed start date: 1/06/2026		Expected completion date: 31/08/2027
Method of clearing: Mechanical		Machinery to be used: Excavator Chainsaw
Project details: As part of the Clean Energy Link – North program, Western Power is undertaking augmentation of transmission lines and decommissioning a section of line in and around the Cataby Zone substation. Clearing is required to: • Enable modification of existing overhead structures to facilitate bypass of the 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line route & 132kV transmission line modifications • Establish a 5-metre-wide access track leading to existing poles (where tracks do not currently exist) • Establish a 20 x 20 metre clear area around each pole to be removed to accommodate pole loading equipment, and provide a safe working area • Install one new steel pole within the substation • Allow removal of redundant infrastructure, including poles. The proposed clearing will be confined to a Development Envelope (DE) of 4.14 ha, which generally corresponds with the existing maintenance zone. The Proposed Clearing Area (PCA) is 0.8 ha. Some of the PCA will overlap remnant native vegetation, however, the project will predominantly clear previously cleared vegetation associated with the existing maintenance zone.		
Guardian Permit ID reference number: PER-001546		Permit/Exemption number: CPS 1918/11

2. Maps

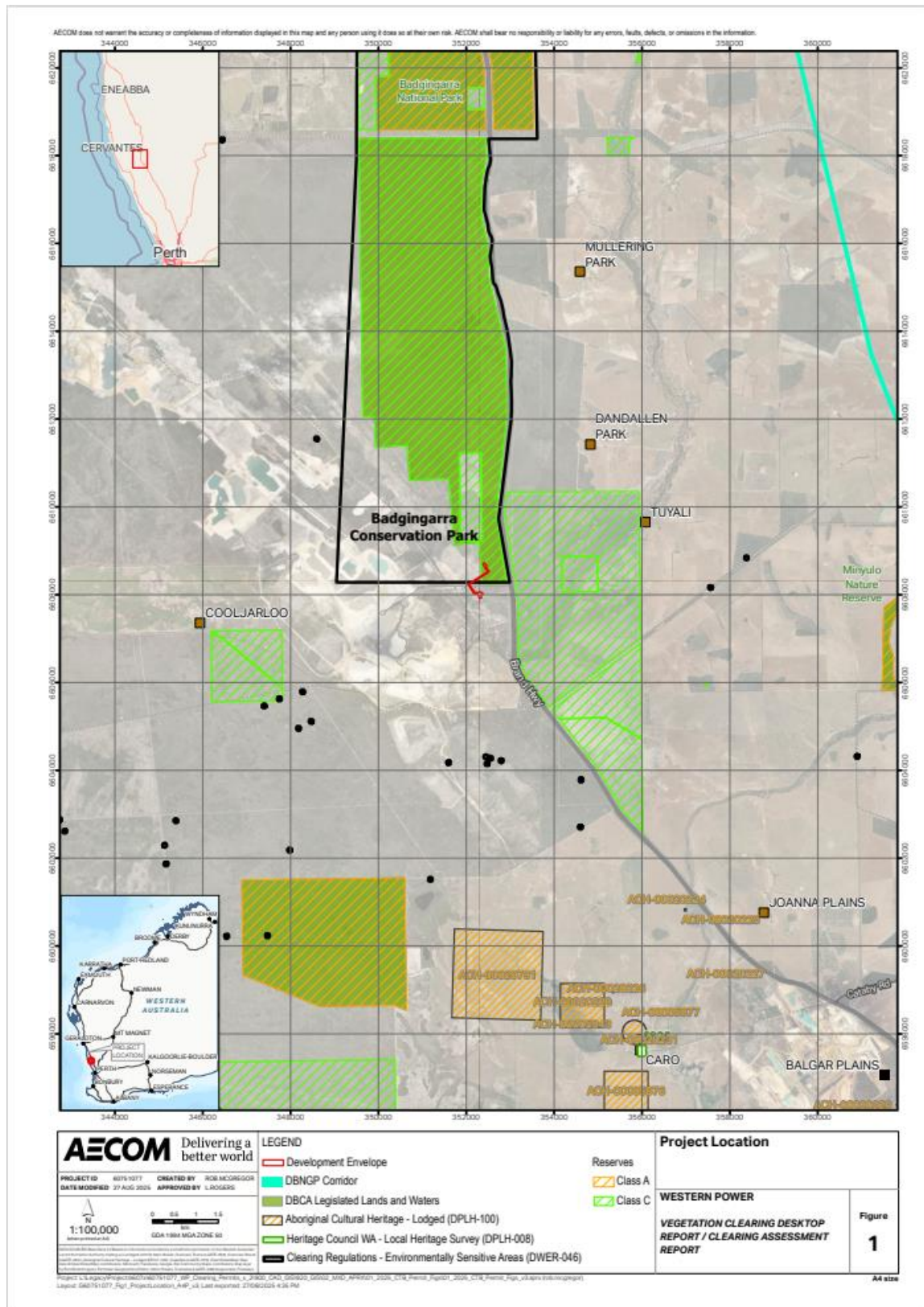


Figure 1: Project location

AECOM does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information displayed in this map and any person using it does so at their own risk. AECOM shall bear no responsibility or liability for any errors, faults, defects, or omissions in the information.



Figure 2: Vegetation and Flora



Figure 3: Fauna Habitat

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, as the works entail: a. modification of existing overhead structures to facilitate bypass of the 330kV route & 132kV modifications into Cataby Substation b. decommissioning of existing assets.
Existing tracks are utilised where possible	Yes	Existing maintenance tracks will be utilised for the majority of works. Clearing is focused on areas where the existing tracks are insufficient to perform the required works, including vehicle access, work at heights and structure removal.
Utilising previously cleared areas where possible	Yes	Existing access tracks will be maintained and utilised to minimise areas of new clearing.
Consideration of alternative engineering and design options	No	The majority of works are augmenting existing structures already in place. New structures are limited to the existing Cataby Substation.
Other	Yes	One potential Black Cockatoo breeding tree was identified within the DE (see Figure 3). This tree will be demarcated and retained during the clearing activities. The PCA has been reduced to avoid approximately 44 individuals of the Priority flora species <i>Conostephium magnum</i> (P4) within the maintenance zone. A dieback survey has been recently completed. A Dieback Hygiene Management Plan (DHMP) will outline hygiene management requirements for vehicles accessing the DE, including the designation of clean on entry/exit points and wash down areas (if required).

4. Site context

4.1 Land Tenure (Cadastral Information)

The project is located west of Brand Highway, in the Shire of Dandaragan, 23.33 km west of the Township of Dandaragan and 149.69 km north of Perth Central Business District (CBD).

The DE is spread across several cadastral boundaries, including:

- Lot 4134 (P240347)
- Lot 3 (P408189)
- Lot 10 (P42563)

- Lot 9 (P42563)
- Lot 2 (P408189)
- Lot 11 (P42563)

Conservation Estates:

Almost half (1.94 ha, 46%) of the DE is situated within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), associated with land listed under the former Register of the National Estate. Additionally, 1.35 ha (32%) of the DE is situated within Badgingarra Conservation Park (R 41986), listed under Section 5(1)(ca) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

Local Government Area:

The DE is situated within the Shire of Dandaragan.

4.2 Vegetation description

Beard *et al.* (2013) mapping is used to compare the current extent of remnant vegetation to the pre-European vegetation extent.

There are two pre-European vegetation associations mapped across the DE;

- Vegetation association 1030; low woodland or open low woodland
- Vegetation association 1031; scrub-heath / heath.

The relevant statistics for these two associations are detailed in Table 2 below with data abstracted from the 'Statewide Vegetation Statistics' (DBCA, 2019).

Table 2 Statewide vegetation statistics (DBCA, 2019)

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. 1030	Statewide	139,012.86	88,949.55	63.99%	19.24%
	IBRA Bioregion Swan Coastal Plain (SWA)	134,788.56	86,013.90	63.81%	17.42%
	IBRA Bioregion Geraldton Sandplains (GES)	3,848.52	2,790.59	72.51%	74.80%
	IBRA Sub-region Perth (SWA-02)	114,215.61	79,563.09	69.66%	16.87%
	IBRA Sub-region Lesueur Sandplains (GES-02)	3,848.52	2,790.59	72.51%	74.80%

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Percent remaining	% Current Extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
	Local Government Authority Shire of Dandaragan	121,005.02	80,779.18	66.76%	20.88%
Vegetation Association No. 1031	Statewide	269,490.91	88,668.30	32.90%	42.66%
	IBRA Bioregion Swan Coastal Plain (SWA)	27,729.97	5,352.64	19.30%	14.56%
	IBRA Bioregion Geraldton Sandplains (GES)	241,349.97	83,217.27	34.48%	44.52%
	IBRA Sub-region Perth (SWA-02)	4,740.90	439.52	9.27%	1.11%
	IBRA Sub-region Lesueur Sandplains (GES-02)	241,349.97	83,217.27	34.48%	44.52%
	Local Government Authority Shire of Dandaragan	230,488.23	68,040.83	29.52%	52.60%

*IBRA = Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia

Vegetation community and condition mapping was undertaken within the DE and wider survey area in spring 2023 (AECOM, 2024). There is 3.57 ha (86.2%) of native vegetation that occurs within the DE, with the remaining 0.56 ha (13.5%) of the DE comprising already cleared areas or non-native vegetation. The cleared areas are associated with a small portion of Cooljarloo Access Road, existing maintenance tracks and the Substation area. The following native vegetation communities occur in the DE (see Table 3):

Table 3 Vegetation Communities of the Development Envelope

Vegetation Community	Description	Area ha (% in DE)	Area ha (% of Proposed Clearing Area)
BaAcPo	Banksia Woodland dominated by <i>Banksia attenuata</i>	2.70 ha (65%)	0.50 (62.5%)
BaMsCa	Banksia Woodland dominated by <i>Banksia prionotes</i>	0.87 (21%)	0.30 (37.5%)
Total Native Vegetation		3.57 (86.2%)	0.80 (19.5%)
Cleared (or non-native vegetation)		0.56 (13.5%)	0 (0%)

Vegetation condition of the DE ranged from ‘Degraded’ to ‘Excellent’, as summarised below in Table 4. The ‘Excellent’ vegetation condition makes up almost half of the DE (45%). The ‘Degraded’ portions are due to historical clearing within the existing transmission line maintenance corridor and/or Substation area. Areas in ‘Excellent’ to ‘Good’ condition are also associated with the existing transmission line maintenance corridor and have therefore been historically cleared. Aerial photos show historical clearing along the existing maintenance corridor and access tracks surrounding the substation (Landgate, 2023).

Table 4 Vegetation Condition of the Development Envelope

Vegetation Condition (EPA, 2016)	Area ha (% of native vegetation in DE)
Excellent	1.86 (45%)
Very Good	0.55 (13.3%)
Good	0.56 (13.5%)
Degraded	0.6 (14.5%)
Cleared	0.56 (13.5%)
Total	4.14 (100%)

4.3 Summary of results of surveys

AECOM (2024) undertook a detailed in-season vegetation, targeted flora, basic fauna and targeted Black Cockatoo survey on behalf of Western Power during September 2023. The Cataby survey area covered 7.69 ha, which encompasses the 4.14 ha DE (as shown in Figure 1: Project location). The study area and DE are shown on Figure 4: Study Area.

4.3.1 Vegetation

AECOM (2024) recorded two native vegetation types within the DE, both comprising Banksia Woodland communities:

- The Banksia Woodlands dominated by *Banksia attenuata* (2.7 ha) in 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' condition.
- Banksia Woodlands dominated by *Banksia prionotes* (0.87 ha) in 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition.

The communities are differentiated by the different dominant overstorey species. Both communities were recorded on undulating terrain with grey sandy soils typical of the Swan Coastal Plain. Cleared areas, devoid of any vegetation, was mapped for 0.56 ha within the DE.

Through the pre-survey desktop assessment, AECOM (2024) identified one Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), 'The Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain' as being known to occur within the survey area. This community is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Priority 3 by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The Banksia Woodlands TEC occurrence was verified during the field survey, with 5.19 ha mapped across the survey area. Within the DE, the TEC is represented in Patch 1 and mapped across 2.44 ha (Figure 2). The patch meets the key diagnostic characteristics condition and size thresholds outlined in the conservation advice (DDE, 2016).

4.3.2 Flora

The pre-survey desktop assessment identified 133 significant flora species as potentially occurring within the survey area, based on known records from the broader study area. Of these records, one significant flora species is known to occur within the survey area (*Hypolaena robusta* (Priority 4)), 13 were assessed as 'high' likelihood and 68 were assessed as having a 'moderate' likelihood of occurrence within the survey area. The remaining species have a 'low' or negligible likelihood.

During the survey, no Threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) were recorded within the DE. No weed species listed as Declared Pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) were recorded.

AECOM (2024) recorded two Priority flora species, comprising of 233 individuals within the wider survey area. The breakdown of Priority flora species situated across the DE is listed below:

- *Conostephium magnum* – Priority 4 – 27 records (63 individuals).
- *Hypolaena robusta* – Priority 4 – one record (six individuals).

One other patch of Priority species, *Stylidium hymenocraspedum* (Priority 3), occurs approximately 30 metres outside of the DE within the wider survey area (eight records, 26 individuals). As these records are outside of the DE and well clear of the PCA this species will not be impacted. Other Priority flora species that were identified in the pre-survey desktop assessment as having the potential to occur in the DE were not detected during the survey.

4.3.3 Fauna

A total of 28 Threatened, Priority and Migratory fauna species were identified in the desktop assessment undertaken prior to the survey. Of the significant fauna species potentially occurring within the survey area, seven species were assessed as 'high', four were assessed as having a 'moderate' likelihood of occurrence and the remaining 17 species had a 'low' or 'negligible' likelihood of occurrence.

Of these significant fauna species potentially occurring, one species was recorded during the survey; three Carnaby's Black Cockatoo were seen flying over the survey area. EPBC Act Marine listed fauna species that were recorded during the survey such as the Black faced Cuckoo shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) are excluded from consideration as significant species in this clearing assessment as the survey area does not include Commonwealth areas.

During the field survey, AECOM (2024) recorded 15 fauna species, including 11 birds, three mammals and one reptile.

AECOM (2024) mapped one native fauna habitat within the DE, Banksia Woodland (3.57 ha, 86%). This habitat is considered potential foraging habitat for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Land Snail, Quenda and Western Brush Wallaby. Cleared areas (0.56 ha, 13.5%) were also mapped within the DE but were not considered suitable fauna habitat, due to their lack of vegetation. Cleared areas were associated with existing tracks and roads, highly modified areas or degraded vegetation with no biological benefit.

AECOM (2024) conducted a Black Cockatoo assessment using a combination of the DAWE (2022) foraging scoring tool and the Bamford (2020) foraging scoring methodology. The DAWE foraging habitat assessment resulted in a score of 7 and is considered 'high quality' native foraging for the fauna habitat within the DE (3.57 ha). Bamford (2020) scoring refined the foraging quality habitat value as 'moderate' (score of 5).

Four potential breeding trees, all comprising of Coastal Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus tottiana*) were identified within the survey area. Of these, one occurs within the DE. No suitable hollows were identified and no evidence of breeding, foraging or roosting was observed.

A summary of the ecological survey results (AECOM, 2024) for the survey area is provided in the combined Executive Summary and Conclusion which can be found in Appendix B.

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 5 m buffer of the DE.

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

Clearing of native vegetation is regulated by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) that administers the clearing provision under Part V Division 2 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Clearing of native vegetation requires a clearing permit under Part V of the EP Act, except when a proposal is assessed under Part IV of the EP Act, subject to Schedule 6 of the Act (i.e. Clearing for which a clearing permit is not required) or is prescribed by regulation in the Environmental Protection (Clearing Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.

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 *Environmental Protection Act 1986*” (DER, 2014).

The assessment is detailed in **Table 5**.

Table 5 - Clearing permit principles assessment

Clearing permit principles full assessment	
a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.	Is at variance
Assessment: The project requires the clearing of up to 0.80 ha of native vegetation within a 4.14 ha DE. Clearing activities will predominantly impact on vegetation within the existing transmission line maintenance zone and existing tracks. This vegetation has historically been subject to clearing and routine maintenance activities, consequently vegetation condition ranges from ‘Excellent’ to ‘Degraded’ (AECOM, 2024). Vegetation: Two (Beard <i>et al.</i> 2013) pre-European vegetation associations are mapped within the DE: • Vegetation association 1030 - low woodland or open low woodland • Vegetation association 1031 - scrub-heath / heath. AECOM (2024) mapped two native vegetation communities (Figure 2) within the DE during the field survey, including: • Banksia Woodland dominated by <i>Banksia attenuata</i> (BaAcPo) (2.7 ha) in ‘Degraded’ to ‘Excellent’ condition. • Banksia Woodland dominated by <i>Banksia prionotes</i> (BaMsCa) (0.87 ha) in ‘Good’ to ‘Excellent’ condition. The two vegetation communities are not restricted to the DE with 6,542 ha of vegetation association 1031 and 9,346 ha of vegetation association 1030 remaining within a 10km radius of the DE. The majority (2.44 ha) of native vegetation recorded within the DE was considered representative of the Banksia Woodlands Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), synonymous with the State listed Priority Ecological Community (PEC) of the same name. This comprises 1.61 ha of the <i>Banksia attenuata</i> vegetation community and 0.84 ha of the <i>Banksia prionotes</i> vegetation community. The remainder (1.7 ha) of the native vegetation was mapped as Banksia Woodlands of the Geraldton Sandplains and ‘Cleared’ (0.56 ha). Conservation advice (DEE, 2016) does not include the Geraldton Sandplains as supporting the TEC, therefore the Banksia Woodlands situated across the Geraldton Sandplains is not representative of this TEC. Within the PCA, the area that represents the TEC was calculated to be 0.51 ha comprising 0.33 ha of the <i>Banksia attenuata</i> vegetation community and 0.18 ha of the <i>Banksia prionotes</i> vegetation community. AECOM (2024) mapped 5.19 ha of Banksia Woodlands TEC within the total survey area (7.69 ha), 2.75 ha extending outside of the DE. AECOM’s mapping of the Banksia Woodland TEC generally aligned with the Beard <i>et al.</i> (2013) pre-European vegetation mapping of vegetation association 1030 (low woodland; <i>Banksia attenuate</i> and <i>B. menziesii</i>). The broader areas of vegetation association 1030 within the local area have the potential to be representative of the Banksia Woodland TEC, of which there is 80,779 ha within the Shire of Dandaragan (Govt. of WA, 2019). Interrogation of aerial imagery and native vegetation extent mapping (DBCA. 2023) indicates extensive	

intact patches of the vegetation association within 20km west of the DE. This suggests that there is a high likelihood that the Banksia Woodland TEC is well represented within the local area.

No other TECs or PECs were recorded in the DE.

Flora:

Flora diversity recorded during the survey (AECOM, 2024) was considered average, with a total of 55 flora species confidently identified to species level within the survey area.

No Threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded.

Two Priority flora species (*Conostephium magnum* and *Hypolaena robusta*) were recorded in the DE, comprising 69 individuals. Of these, up to 19 individuals of *Conostephium magnum* and six individuals of *Hypolaena robusta*, will be impacted by the proposed clearing activities.

The Priority 4 flora species, *Conostephium magnum* occurs on white-grey sands, sometimes associated with laterite gravels, sand dunes, swampland, disturbed roadside, drainage channels and open woodland. It is mostly known from the Lesueur sandplains, spanning a range of approximately 200 km (WAH, 2025).

Two hundred and twenty-seven individuals of *C. magnum* were recorded within the wider survey area, with 63 individuals occurring within the DE. To minimise impacts to this species the PCA has been reduced to avoid at least 44 individuals within the DE, with a maximum of 19 individuals of this species to be impacted, representing 8.3% of the local population extending into the wider survey area.

The nearest historical record of *C. magnum* is approximately 2.29km from the DE. *C. magnum* occurs mainly to the east of the Cataby substation area with some isolated records in the northern portions of the DE and southern portion of the wider survey area. Given this species is more abundant beyond the DE, and comparable, higher-quality habitat extends beyond the DE, the proposed removal of up to 19 *C. magnum* individuals is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species. Nonetheless, the species will be demarcated, and efforts will be made to retain the species where feasible.

The Priority 4 flora species *Hypolaena robusta* occurs on white sand and sandplains. *Hypolaena robusta* was recorded at one location in the far northern portion of the DE, comprising six individuals. It was recorded approximately 54 metres south of the known WA Herbarium record, likely indicating the same population (AECOM, 2024). These plants occur within an existing maintenance pole pad area which is proposed to be entirely cleared, therefore, impacts to this species is unlikely to be avoidable. There are six records of the species within a 20km radius of the DE according to WA Herbarium and DBCA databases. Atlas of Living Australia and Florabase databases indicate the species has been recorded across three IBRA regions, the Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest and Swan Coastal Plain. Given the broad extent of the species range, its habitat is unlikely to be restricted to the local area. The population identified within the project DE occurred within the BaAcPo vegetation community mapped by AECOM (2024) which is well represented outside of the DE and likely in the broader region based on the presence of vegetation association 1030 (Beard *et al.* 2013) and the general alignment of this vegetation association with BaAcPo. This suggests that there is additional suitable available habitat for the species in the local area. Further, the WA Herbarium record of the species within the DE (from 2021) notes that the population was identified within the previously disturbed powerline maintenance corridor, suggesting that the species has some tolerance to disturbance and is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing activities.

Given both of these Priority species are known to exist beyond the DE, and comparable, higher-quality habitat exists outside of the DE, the potential removal of up to 25 Priority flora individuals is unlikely to have a significant impact on the *Conostephium magnum* and *Hypolaena robusta* species.

Fauna:

A total of 15 fauna species were recorded during the field survey, including 11 birds, three mammals, and one reptile (AECOM, 2024). One conservation significant species was recorded during the field survey (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo). No other significant fauna identified within the pre-survey desktop assessment were recorded within the DE during the survey, however the Banksia Woodland may provide foraging and resting habitat for the Western Brush Wallaby, the Land Snail and the Quenda. The Banksia Woodland habitat was assessed as being 'moderate' foraging habitat quality for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (Bamford, 2020). Four potential breeding trees (*Eucalyptus todtiana* with no suitable hollows) were recorded during the survey, with one potential breeding tree recorded within the DE. This tree does not fall within the PCA, however; it will be demarcated to ensure avoidance during the clearing activities.

Summary of impacts and proposed mitigation:

- Up to 0.80 ha of native vegetation will be removed within a 4.14 ha DE.
- A total of 2.44 ha of vegetation within the DE is representative of the Banksia Woodlands TEC/PEC, of which up to 0.51 ha (12.3%) may be cleared.
- Vegetation condition ranged from 'Degraded' to 'Excellent'.
- Two Priority flora species were recorded within the DE and the PCA. The nearby contiguous landscapes adjacent to the DE are expected to provide suitable habitat to support these species.
- No Threatened flora was recorded or considered likely to occur.
- One conservation significant fauna species, the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo was recorded flying over the DE.
- No other significant fauna species identified in the pre-survey desktop assessment were recorded during the survey.
- The Banksia Woodland is expected to provide 'moderate' quality suitable foraging habitat for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. It is also likely to provide suitable foraging and resting habitat for the Western Brush Wallaby, Quenda and the Land Snail. The potential breeding tree (no suitable hollows) recorded within the DE will be demarcated and avoided during the proposed clearing activities.

The vegetation within the PCA has been previously altered through ongoing maintenance and clearing activities related to the existing transmission line. As a result, it no longer supports the same biodiversity levels as the surrounding undisturbed native vegetation. The DE lies at the southern boundary of a DBCA managed nature reserve and is part of a broader expanse of connected vegetation extending north, south, and west within a 20 km radius (Figure 4). This broader area is likely to share similar vegetation characteristics with the DE.

Based on regional TEC mapping and the consistent vegetation types across the area, the Banksia Woodlands TEC/PEC is expected to occur towards the west of the DE. As such, the proposed clearing of 0.51 hectares of this ecological community is unlikely to affect the ecological integrity or conservation significance of the Banksia Woodlands TEC at either a local or regional level.

As the DE contains conservation significant fauna habitat, Priority flora species and the Banksia Woodland TEC/PEC, the proposed clearing is considered to be at variance to this principle. However, given the history of disturbance associated with existing infrastructure, the presence of comparable intact vegetation nearby, the predominantly linear nature of the proposed clearing, and the planned avoidance of certain Priority flora individuals and fauna habitat, the activity is not expected to result in any significant residual environmental impact.

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:

AECOM (2024) mapped one fauna habitat within the DE, Banksia Woodland (3.57 ha, 86%), of which up to 0.8 ha will be cleared.

The Banksia Woodland habitat in the DE provides suitable habitat for the following significant fauna species:

- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) – Endangered (EPBC Act, BC Act),
- Land Snail (*Bothriembryon perobesus*) – Priority 1,
- Quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*) – Priority 4; and
- Western Brush Wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*) – Priority 4.

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

The proposed clearing is located within the mapped distribution of the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, most commonly found in semi-arid parts of the south-west and occurs in uncleared and remnant areas of woodland, shrubland and Kwongan heath dominated by proteaceous species (DBCA, 2017). AECOM (2024) conducted a targeted Black Cockatoo assessment during Spring 2023. Three individuals of the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo were seen flying over the DE. There was no other evidence of the species recorded within the DE or wider survey area. No roosting or breeding was observed at the time of the survey, however the PCA falls within a known Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Breeding area. The nearest confirmed DBCA roosting site is approximately 23.96 km west of the DE (DBCA, 2025).

Of the 3.57 ha of Banksia Woodland habitat mapped within the DE, up to 0.80 ha will be cleared. The Banksia Woodland fauna habitat provides suitable foraging habitat for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (DAWE, 2022), however no foraging evidence was recorded during the survey. The foraging habitat to be removed was assessed as being of 'moderate' quality (Bamford, 2020). Of the four potential breeding trees recorded within the survey area, one *Eucalyptus tottiana* falls within the DE. This tree does not contain any suitable nesting hollows and is unlikely to develop hollows based on the growth habit of the tree species. AECOM (2024) also noted that the *E. tottiana* species are unlikely to provide roosting habitat due to the trees only being up to 3.5m in height, however, as this is a foraging species for Black Cockatoos this tree will be demarcated and retained during clearing. Remnant vegetation surrounding the DE offers large, continuous amounts of suitable foraging habitat for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, encompassing approximately 9,346 ha and 6,542 ha mapped as pre-European vegetation associations 1030 and 1031 respectively within a 10-kilometre radius.

The Land Snail

The Land Snail prefers habitats of rocky terrain, woodlands, gorges and gullies, and coastal scrub/heath (Whisson and Ryan, 2019), which are contained in the Banksia Woodland habitat recorded within the DE. AECOM's (2024) post-survey likelihood of occurrence (LOO) assessment considered the species to be highly likely to occur due to the DE being located in the known range of the species, a record 6km from the survey area, suitable habitat present and the DE being within the same continuous patch of vegetation that the record was identified. However, given there are no historic records of the species within the DE, the species was not recorded during the field survey and the presence of substantial areas of equivalent contiguous vegetation in the surrounding area that would also provide suitable habitat, it is not considered likely that the clearing will have a significant impact on the species.

The Quenda

The Quenda prefers habitats of forest, woodland, heath and scrub communities, with sandy soils and dense heathy vegetation (Van Dyck & Strahan, 2008) which aligns with the Banksia Woodland found within the DE. The nearest known record of the species is from a translocated population, located 31 km away from the survey area. Given this, and that no evidence of the species was recorded within the survey area during the field survey, AECOM (2024) determined the post-survey likelihood of occurrence for this species to be Moderate. Despite the presence of suitable habitat within the DE, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to significantly impact the species due to its broad distribution, the availability of extensive intact patches of suitable habitat outside of the DE within the local area and the closest records of the species being of a translocated population.

The Western Brush Wallaby

The Western Brush Wallaby prefers habitats of open forest or woodland, particularly favouring open, seasonally wet flats with low grasses and open scrubby thickets (DCCEEW, 2023). The species' preferred habitat aligns with the Banksia Woodland community identified within the DE. The species was observed outside the designated survey area, with recent DBCA records (2017) indicating its presence as close as 1.5 km from the site. While the Banksia Woodland within the DE may provide occasional foraging opportunities and temporary resting habitat, the surrounding native remnant vegetation is likely to offer extensive and continuous areas of suitable habitat for the species.

Although the Land Snail, Quenda and Western Brush Wallaby's preferred habitat does exist within the DE, these species utilise a wide range of habitat types and have large habitat ranges. As no evidence of the Land Snail, Quenda and Western Brush Wallaby was recorded during the survey it is likely that the species do not directly rely on the vegetation specifically present within the DE, given the surrounding area also contains similar or better quality habitat values. Additionally, the PCA is representative of previously disturbed vegetation associated with transmission line maintenance activities.

Summary:

- The proposed clearing will result in removal of up to 0.80 ha of Banksia Woodland native vegetation ranging from 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' condition, of which some areas have undergone regrowth from historical maintenance activities associated with the existing transmission line.
- Four conservation significant fauna species have been recorded or have the potential to occur in the DE, including three Priority listed species and one Endangered species (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo). It is expected that the extensive areas of intact native vegetation adjacent to the DE provide similar and better-quality habitat and ecological linkages for these fauna species.

- The Bamford (2020) refined scoring tool assessed the Banksia Woodland habitat as representative of 'moderate' quality (score of 5) foraging habitat FOR Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. One potential breeding tree (*Eucalyptus tottiana*) for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo was recorded within the DE however this tree will be avoided from any impacts.

EPA (2019) specifies that foraging habitat within 7 km of a Carnaby's Black Cockatoo breeding site is important to adequately support breeding cockatoos. The vegetation proposed to be cleared ranges from 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' condition and represents 'moderate' value foraging habitat for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Nonetheless, it is understood to have an elevated level of importance for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo due to the DE being located within a known breeding site. For this reason, the clearing is considered to be at variance to this principle and an offset proposal will be developed to compensate for the residual impacts on this habitat.

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
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Assessment:

The desktop assessment identified 22 Threatened flora species with the potential to occur in the survey area.

During the survey (AECOM, 2024) no Threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded and none were considered likely to occur post survey. The survey was undertaken during the 'ideal survey' season in accordance with the EPA (2016) Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment for the bioregion.

The closest historic DBCA Threatened flora record is *Thelymitra stellata* (Endangered (Cwlth & WA)), located 2km northeast of the PCA. Given that the nearest record of Threatened flora is located 2 km from the PCA, the proposed clearing activities are unlikely to result in any direct or indirect impact on any Threatened flora species. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is considered 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.	Is at variance
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Assessment:

AECOM (2024) conducted a pre-survey desktop assessment of the TECs that could potentially occur within the survey area. One TEC, the Banksia Woodlands of the SCP, was considered known to occur.

Vegetation recorded during the field survey was considered representative of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (Endangered under the EPBC Act, Priority 3 under the BC Act), as it meets the key diagnostic characteristics, condition and size thresholds outlined within the conservation advice (DEE, 2016). It is also synonymous with the State listed Priority Ecological Community (PEC) of the same name. The Banksia Woodlands TEC extent incorporated all woodlands present on the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA region. As the conservation advice does not include Geraldton Sandplains as potentially supporting the TEC, woodlands present in the DE situated across the Geraldton Sandplains were excluded from the TEC calculations.

Of the 3.57 ha of native vegetation within the DE, 2.44 ha was considered to represent the TEC, comprising 0.51 ha within the PCA. A breakdown of each vegetation community of the TEC within the PCA is provided below:

- *Banksia attenuata* (BaAcPo) (0.33 ha) in 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' condition
- *Banksia prionotes* (BaMsCa) (0.18 ha) in 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition.

Ecological community mapping data which maps likely extent of EPBC Act listed TECs (DEE, 2018) indicates that the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC extends west of the DE. This was confirmed by the field survey findings where AECOM (2024) noted the Banksia Woodlands TEC patch assessed to be >100ha in size, extending to the south, east and north-west of the DE.

The estimated patch size of the TEC recorded within the DE is >100ha (AECOM, 2024), the proposed clearing of 0.51ha represents removal of less than 0.5% of the vegetation within the patch and as such is unlikely to result in a significant residual impact on the integrity and value of the TEC at the local level. Additionally, AECOM's mapping of the Banksia Woodland TEC generally aligned with the Beard *et al.* (2013) pre-European vegetation mapping of vegetation association 1030 (low woodland; *Banksia attenuate* and *B. menziesii*). The broader areas of vegetation association 1030 within the local area have the potential to be representative of the Banksia Woodland TEC, of which there is 80,779 ha within the Shire of Dandaragan (Govt. of WA, 2019). Interrogation of aerial imagery and native vegetation extent mapping (DBCA, 2023) indicates extensive intact patches of the vegetation association

within 20km west of the DE. This suggests that there is a high likelihood that the Banksia Woodland TEC is well represented within the regional area

The proposed clearing will impact up to 0.51 ha of 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' native vegetation associated with a TEC, therefore the proposal is at variance with this principle and an offset proposal will be developed to compensate for the residual impacts on this TEC.

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
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Assessment:

The proposed clearing falls within both the Swan Coastal Plain (SWA) and Geraldton Sandplains (GES) IBRA bioregions.

There are two pre-European vegetation associations mapped across the DE:

- Vegetation association 1030; low woodland or open low woodland; *Banksia attenuata* and *B. menziesii*, and
- Vegetation association 1031; mosaic: shrublands; hakea scrub-heath / Shrublands; Dryandra heath.

Table 2 (DBCA, 2019) provides a breakdown of the vegetation representation statistics for the above two vegetation associations. The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation set the threshold for biological diversity to be protected as 30% of the pre-European extent (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Vegetation association 1030 has more than the 30% threshold remaining across the State (63.99%), IBRA bioregion scales (SWA 63.81%, GES 72.51%), IBRA Sub-region scales (SWA-02 69.66%, GES02 72.51%), and LGA scales (66.76%).

Vegetation association 1031 has been subjected to historical clearing, with 32.96% remaining across the State and 34.48% remaining across the IBRA bioregion scale (DBCA, 2019). At the local level, 19.3% remains in the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA bioregion and 9.27% in the IBRA Sub-region scales, which is less than the 30% threshold.

However, analysis of the native vegetation extent dataset (DPIRD, 2023) determined that approximately 15,888 ha (50%) of native vegetation remains within a 10km local buffer surrounding the DE (Figure 4). A breakdown of native vegetation remaining within each vegetation association within a 10km local buffer is outlined below:

- Vegetation association 1030 – 9,346 ha remaining out of 14,330 ha original extent (65%)
- Vegetation Association 1031 – 6,542 ha remaining out 16,363 ha original extent (40%).

These two vegetation associations therefore remain adequately represented at the local level.

With this in consideration the proposed clearing of up to 0.80 ha of native vegetation (<0.002% of remaining native vegetation extent within the Shire of Dandaragan) will not bring the pre-European vegetation representation below 30% at any of the scales for vegetation association 1030 and will not significantly further reduce the native vegetation extent at any of the scales for vegetation association 1031. Additionally, it is expected that the adjacent Badgingarra Conservation Park and the Badgingarra National Park that extends further north would provide similar or better quality vegetation, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to affect remnant vegetation within the broader local extent.

Summary:

The project requires clearing of native vegetation predominantly within vegetation association 1030 and a small section within vegetation association 1031 that has been subject to historical clearing. The proportion of remnant vegetation proposed for clearing within these vegetation associations is minimal, constituting only 0.00026% and 0.00012% of the remaining native vegetation extent.

Furthermore, 50% of local remnant native vegetation remains within a 10km buffer of the DE and both vegetation associations retain representation above the 30% threshold for remaining extent at the state level, indicating sufficient native vegetation coverage at State and local scales. However, as vegetation association 1031 has less than 30% remaining across the IBRA bioregion (SWA, 19.3%) and IBRA Sub-region scales (SWA-02, 9.27%) this portion of the proposed clearing is at variance with this principle, and an offset proposal will be developed to compensate for the residual impacts on the native remnant vegetation.

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 at variance
Assessment: No mapped surface water bodies or watercourses occur within or nearby the PCA or DE. The closest watercourse to the DE is located approximately 900m south, identified as Mullering Brook. The Cervantes south Geomorphic wetland dataset identifies the closest wetland as a small dampland (UFI 758) located approximately 920m to the south-east of the DE. The proposed clearing will not have any direct or indirect impacts to these water bodies. The vegetation types recorded within the DE are not representative of wetland or riparian vegetation. The vegetation within the clearing area or DE is not growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not considered to be 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 DPIRD Soil Landscape Mapping (DPIRD, 2022) dataset indicates that the DE is mapped as the following: • Bassendean (212Bs) 2 subsystem- characterised by Undulating sandplains (similar to Bs1, but with ironstone and occasionally poorly drained depressions). • Yerramullah (224Ye) 4 subsystem - characterised by subdued dissected lateritic plateau, undulating low hills and rises on laterised weathered sandstone. It has pale deep sand, sandy gravels and yellow deep sand. It comprises of Banksia woodlands on lower slopes/depressions, with heathlands elsewhere. Both of these subsystems occur within the Arrowsmith Zone (224) of the Greenough Province (22). The zone is characterised by dissected lateritic sandplain on Cretaceous and Jurassic sediments. It is bounded in the east by the Dandaragan Scarp and in the south, and in the west by the Gingin Scarp. Soils are sandy and gravelly formed in colluvium and rock weathered <i>in-situ</i> (DPIRD, 2022). The climate of the DE is Mediterranean to semi-arid defined as wet winters and dry summer months (BoM, 2023). The mean annual rainfall in the area is 476 mm, taken from the Chelsea station (009006) (BoM, 2025). The topography of the DE ranges from 120m above sea-level Australian Height Datum (mAHD) at the northern end to 104mAHD at the southern end of the DE across a distance of close to 700m. This equates to a relatively gentle 2% grade over the extent of the DE. The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) mapping indicates that the DE is in an area with an 'extremely low probability of occurrence of ASS' (CSIRO, 2025). DPIRD land quality mapping indicates the area being cleared has a 'low to moderate' risk of waterlogging (DPIRD-015), 'low' risk of water erosion (DPIRD-013), salinity (DPIRD-009), and flooding (DPIRD-007) with a 'high to extreme' risk of wind erosion (DPIRD-016). Due to these risk factors primarily being 'low' risk, land degradation potential as a result of clearing is reduced. The DE's flat terrain, the relatively small area of clearing proposed in a mostly linear nature and the presence of surrounding contiguous vegetation are expected to help mitigate any erosion, thereby reducing the likelihood of significant land degradation. Additionally, standard erosion, sedimentation and dust management control measures will be implemented during clearing and construction works. For the reasons outlined above, 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.	Is at variance
Assessment: The study area (20km) intersects nine conservation reserves comprising 8360 ha of protected area. Of these nature reserves, 1.35 ha of the DE intersects with Badgingarra Conservation Park (R 41986) (C Class reserve) and a DWER Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) (Figure 1). The DE also lies within a Western Power designated ESA (Site Number D474). Badgingarra Conservation Park is approximately 2,400 ha in size and extends south from Badgingarra	

National Park (R 31809) (10km north of the DE) forming part of a larger network of conservation estate inclusive of the ESA (17,000 ha) (Figure 1).

The proposed clearing is limited to 0.2 ha of 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' Banksia Woodland within the Badgingarra Conservation Park, amounting to approximately 0.008% of the total area of the park. Additionally, the clearing will impact on approximately 0.06 ha of the Banksia Woodlands TEC/PEC within the Conservation Park, amounting to 4.4% of the conservation area that intersects the DE and 0.0025% of the total area of the park.

Aside from direct clearing impacts, the proposed clearing has the potential to indirectly impact the environmental values of Badgingarra Conservation Park by causing the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent native vegetation. Western Power has existing strict protocols in place associated with ESA D474 whereby the following measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of spreading weeds and dieback:

- Clean on entry/exit points - all machinery, vehicles and footwear will be inspected and verified free of vegetation and soil materials prior to entering and exiting the site.
- No weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other materials will be brought into the site.
- Access to be under dry soil conditions.
- Adherence to a Dieback Hygiene Management Plan (DHMP) and the use of a mobile wash down unit required if works are required during wet soil conditions.
- Minimise all soil and root disturbance when undertaking the clearing activities.
- All vehicle movement will be restricted to the PCA.

The Vegetation Management Plan (VMP; Appendix C) will also be implemented in parallel to the DHMP.

Given the proposed clearing is limited to 0.008% of the Conservation Park, and there is minimal impact on the Banksia Woodlands Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), it is unlikely that the clearing activities will significantly affect the park's ecological integrity or connectivity, especially given its large size and links to the broader conservation estate. Furthermore, the removal of existing Western Power infrastructure is expected to reduce fragmentation within the Conservation Park over time.

The proposed clearing is considered to be at variance to this clearing principle due to direct vegetation impact within Badgingarra Conservation Park. However, proposed clearing within the Conservation Park is limited to 0.2 hectares of previously disturbed vegetation, will not affect under-represented habitats or vegetation that are not already protected within the adjacent Conservation Park and wider surrounds, and will not increase fragmentation of ecological linkages. As a result, the environmental values of the park are not expected to be significantly impacted, therefore associated impacts will not form part of the offset proposal.

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 is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (DWER, 2025) or *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* area (DWER, 2018). No watercourses or wetlands have been mapped as intersecting the DE or PCA and there are no known aquatic or terrestrial Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) located within the DE or PCA.

The closest watercourse to the DE, is located approximately 900 m south, identified as Mullering Brook. The area between the DE and the creek consists of cleared native vegetation and historically cleared areas. Therefore, the relatively minor quantity of proposed clearing is not expected to increase, exacerbate or contribute to the deterioration of this watercourse.

Within the local area the groundwater salinity ranges from 500-3000 mg/L TDS which is considered low to moderately saline.

No deep excavation will be necessary as part of the proposed works, therefore disturbance to any surface water or groundwater is not likely for the project. Given the relatively minor nature of the works, it is unlikely the project will impact the water quality of this area; therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be 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: DPIRD land quality mapping indicates the DE has a 'low to moderate' risk of waterlogging and a 'low' risk of water erosion and flooding. The topography ranges from 120m above sea-level Australian Height Datum (m AHD) at the northern end of the DE to 104m AHD at the southern end of the DE across a distance of close to 700m. This equates to a relatively gentle 2% grade over the extent of the DE. The mean annual rainfall in the area of the DE is 476.0 mm, taken from the Chelsea station (009006) (BoM, 2025). The DE is composed of undulating rises and low hills and dunes, on subdued dissected lateritic plateau. It is made up of pale deep sand, sandy gravels and semi-wet and wet soil. The proposed clearing will not increase the area of hardstand or amend the existing topography of the area. The DE comprises native vegetation in 'Degraded' to 'Excellent' condition, parts having been impacted by historic clearing for powerline construction and maintenance. The vegetation to be removed is minimal relative to the surrounding landscape, therefore it is unlikely that the clearing will exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. For the above reasons, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.	

7. Planning instrument or other relevant matters

There are no approved planning strategies relevant to this area. No further approvals or licences are required. 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 DE does not intersect any registered Aboriginal heritage sites (DPLH, 2025). It is also noted that works will be limited to removal of infrastructure within existing Western Power maintenance corridors that have been previously disturbed. The only new structure that is proposed as part of these works will be contained within the existing disturbed Cataby Substation. As the clearing is deemed low disturbance and no known heritage sites are present, no heritage approvals under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* are required.

Given the scale of the proposed clearing and lack of sensitive receptors in vicinity of the project, it is unlikely to have a significant social and or environmental impact or generate significant public interest. Therefore, referral to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is not required.

The clearing assessment has been undertaken in accordance with 'A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation' (DER, 2014).

8. Clearing Permit Details

Western Power manages impacts of clearing through the implementation of an internal Vegetation Clearing Permit (VCP). A VCP will be generated to be issued prior to construction.

9. Offsets

Western Power is proposing the use of financial offsets for instances of small-scale clearing, where acquiring land for a single project is impractical. Instead, it is more feasible to pool offset contributions across multiple projects to secure larger, more ecologically valuable property.

Given that the proposed clearing involves removal of no more than 0.80 hectares of Banksia Woodland including no more than 0.51 hectares of Banksia Woodland TEC, Western Power is proposing the use of a financial offset as an appropriate mitigation strategy for these smaller-scale impacts. The financial offset proposal will be submitted for the purchase of approximately 20 ha within the Shire of Dandaragan to compensate for the significant residual impacts associated with the clearing of native vegetation for the project.

10. 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?	Yes	The proposed clearing is located below the 26th parallel and averages over 400mm of annual rainfall. A Dieback Hygiene Management Plan (DHMP) will be completed and adhered to during the works.
Has advice been received from DWER or an environmental specialist that the area may be susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback?	No	No other pathogens identified in the vegetation and flora assessment.
Is a Vegetation Management Plan required?	Yes	A Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) is required and has been completed for this project (Appendix C Vegetation Management Plan). Appendix C includes management actions for clearing and fulfills the requirement for a VMP.
Is rehabilitation/revegetation required?	No	No temporary clearing will occur so no further action required.
Is a Dieback Management Plan required?	Yes	Works may occur in conditions other than dry conditions. A DHMP will be developed and implemented to satisfy the requirements of condition 9 of CPS 1918/11. The DHMP will be submitted to DBCA for endorsement as required by condition 9(c) due to clearing proposed in Badgingarra Conservation Park.
Is an offset required?	Yes	As the proposed clearing is at variance with principles (a), (b), (d), (e) and (h) an offset proposal will be submitted (refer to Section 9).
What is the clearing risk rating?	High	A clearing intervention by an environmental specialist is required.

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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 all submissions will be published on the Western Power website.

Western Power has also 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 ☒	NA
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Drainage and Waterways Branch	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	NA
Conservation Council of WA	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	NA
Wildflower Society	Yes ☒ Not required ☐	TBC
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Yes ☒ Not required ☐	TBC
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 ☐	TBC
Any other party that may have an interest	Yes ☐ Not required ☒	

Appendix B - Biological Survey

Executive Summary & Conclusion

A summary of the Cataby results are presented below:

- Three Priority flora species were recorded including *Conostephium magnum* (P4), *Hypolaena robusta* (P4) and *Stylidium hymenocraspedum* (P3). All species were collected and confirmed at the Western Australian Herbarium by Mike Hislop.
- The Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act) was recorded for 5.19 ha.
- Two native vegetation communities were mapped for 6.31 ha (82%), and largely considered Excellent condition (4.08 ha, 53%).
- Two conservation significant fauna species were recorded this included EPBC and BC Act Endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) and the Black-faced cuckoo shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*).
- Suitable habitat is present for four significant fauna species (those with a 'High' or 'Moderate' likelihood) including:
 - Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act – known
 - Land Snail (*Bothriembryon perobesus*) Priority 1 – High
 - Quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*) Priority 4 – Moderate
 - Western Brush Wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*) Priority 4 – High
- The black cockatoo foraging habitat assessment received a score of '7' with the Commonwealth DAWE (2022) method and '5' for native fauna habitat using the Bamford (2020) method.
- Four potential black cockatoo nesting trees were recorded, within the survey area.
- No black cockatoo roosting sites or habitat was observed in the survey area.

Appendix C 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

This VMP has been prepared to guide the proposed clearing of 0.8 ha to support the augmentation and decommissioning of transmission line in and around the Cataby Zone Substation.

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 EDM.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing
	Have a copy (electronic or hard copy) of the VMP and ESA D474 protocol 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 respread in the neighbouring areas after project activities are completed	One compliance inspection will occur after clearing.	Site Supervisor	Once clearing has been completed
Specific Actions				

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe
Principle a	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.
	Priority flora species, <i>Conostephium magnum</i> and <i>Hypolaena robusta</i>, located within the approved Clearing Area boundary are to be inspected by the Site Supervisor prior to the commencement of clearing to determine whether any of these can be retained. Where it is identified that any of these individuals are able to be retained, they are to be clearly demarcated for retention in a different colour to the Clearing Area boundary. Ensure the Black Cockatoo potential breeding tree (refer to Figure 3: Fauna Habitat) is demarcated and retained. The importance of protecting these areas will be communicated to the crew during the pre-start.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.
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.			

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe
	Feeding, disturbance, harassing of fauna or the presence of firearms or pets is prohibited on site.			
	Ensure the Black Cockatoo potential breeding tree (refer to Figure 3: Fauna Habitat) is demarcated and retained. The importance of protecting this area will be communicated to the crew during the pre-start.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.
Principle d	The Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC extent to be retained as much as possible and will be demarcated. The importance of protecting this area will be communicated to the crew during the pre-start.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.
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.
	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

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe
Principle h	Where possible avoid and limit the amount of clearing on site.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.
	Remove or kill any weeds growing in project area that are likely to spread and result in environmental harm to adjacent area of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	One compliance inspection of weed infestations will occur post clearing.	Site Supervisor	Duration of works
	Clean machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared	Plans to be captured in CEMP	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing
	Ensure that no known dieback or weed-affected soil, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared	Plans to be captured in CEMP	Site Supervisor	Duration of works
	Implement weed hygiene and control measures to prevent new weed infestations from occurring within the project area and the spread of existing weeds.	One compliance inspection of weed infestations will occur post clearing.	Site Supervisor	Duration of works
	Clearing will progress slowly in one direction to ensure fauna has opportunity to move on.	One compliance inspection of weed infestations will occur post clearing.	Site Supervisor	Duration of works

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe
	The works will follow a Dieback Hygiene Management Plan and the WP ESA D474 procedure	Completed Dieback Hygiene Management Plan	Site Supervisor	Duration of works
	Adhere to Disturbance Approval System (DAS) requirements	One compliance inspection of weed infestations will occur post clearing.	Site Supervisor	Duration of works
Standard Record Keeping				
Record Keeping- Clearing	Maintain the following records for the cleared area: • Location of the clearing area as a shapefile • Size of clearing (ha) • Date(s) on which clearing was done	Clearing data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 14b 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 14d (revegetation), 14e (dieback/pathogen/weeds) and 14f (offsets).	Data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 14d, 14e and 14f managed by Environment team.	WP Transmission Energy Transition	Data to be submitted within 30 days of project activities being completed