Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

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| **Permit number:** | 10351/2 |
| **Permit type:** | Purpose Permit |
| **Applicant name:** | Image Resources NL |
| **Application received:** | 11 December 2024 |
| **Application area:** | 1.57 hectares |
| **Purpose of clearing:** | Mineral exploration |
| **Method of clearing:** | Mechanical Removal |
| **Tenure:** | Exploration Licence 70/2844, 70/3298 |
| **Location (LGA area):** | Shire of Gingin |
| **Colloquial name:** | Bidamina Project |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Image Resources NL proposes to clear up to 1.57 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 14 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration (Image Resources NL, 2024b). The project is located approximately 39 kilometres north-west of Gingin, within the Shire of Gingin (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 10351/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 7 March 2024 and was valid from 30 March 2024 to 29 March 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 1.57 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 14 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration.

On 11 December 2024, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 10351/1 to extend the permit duration by five years.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

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| **Decision:** | Grant |
| **Decision date:** | 30 January 2025 |
| **Decision area:** | 1.57 hectares of native vegetation |

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with sections 51O and 51KA(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on 11 December 2024. DEMIRS advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment. The assessment identified that the proposed clearing can be managed to avoid and minimise significant impacts to environmental values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with the same management conditions.

## 2. Assessment of application

### 2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

An Exploration Environmental Management Plan (Terratree, 2023) was submitted by the applicant as part as a Programme of Work application, demonstrating that the applicant is committed to adhere to the following avoidance and mitigation measures:

- avoid or, if unavoidable, to minimise and mitigate impacts to native vegetation;
- avoid direct impacts on native fauna;
- avoid or, if unavoidable, minimise and mitigate impacts to native fauna habitat;
- avoid impacts to Carnaby's cockatoo habitat trees including mature *Banksia* and *Eucalyptus todtiana*;
- avoid impacts on fauna as a result of uncapped drill holes;

- no significant impacts to a Declared wetland Environmental Sensitive Areas will occur as a result of exploration activities;
- prevent soil erosion and to rehabilitate areas disturbed during exploration;
- rehabilitate disturbed areas and mitigate the impacts caused by the exploration program;
- prevent the introduction and spread of pathogens during exploration, notably *Phytophthora* species;
- prevention of soil and water contamination and to minimise air and noise pollution as a result of exploration activities;
- there will be no impact to surface water flows and groundwater levels as a result of exploration activities; and
- ensure adequate regeneration of the native vegetation on completion of works.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

## 2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The assessment against the 10 clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared contains 254 individuals of a Priority 3 flora species (*Banksia dallanneyi* subsp. *pollosta*) (Terratree, 2019). No Threatened flora species have been recorded in the application area (Terratree, 2019; GIS Database). The application area falls within the mapped boundary of the BC Act listed Priority 3 Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Ecological Community (PEC) which is also listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the EPBC Act. The flora and vegetation survey identifies that vegetation type 1 and type 2 are representative of the PEC (Terratree, 2019). The small scale of the proposed clearing is unlikely to represent a significant impact to the PEC. Weeds and dieback management conditions can minimise impacts to the present PEC. The impacts of the proposed clearing on Priority flora and Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain PEC can be managed by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback and implementing buffer zones to avoid the clearing of Priority flora.

The project area is located within the distribution range of the Carnaby's black cockatoo (Terratree, 2023; GIS Database). The flora and vegetation survey (Terratree, 2019) identified suitable foraging habitat for this species. However, no suitable breeding or roosting habitat was identified in the application area (Terratree, 2023). The proposed clearing will be undertaken by driving over vegetation and conducting raised blade clearing (Terratree, 2023). This method of clearing will avoid disturbance to the rootstock and maintain key foraging species such as *Banksia* spp., *Hakea* spp. and *Grevillea* spp., for this reason, impacts to Carnaby's black cockatoo from the proposed clearing are not considered to be significant. Due to the absence of a targeted wetland survey, it is unknown if the application area contains suitable habitat for the western swamp tortoise. A pre-clearance survey for the western swamp tortoise was conducted for the nearby clearing permit CPS 9297/1 which did not find any western swamp tortoises or any aestivation burrows (Spectrum, 2022). The impacts of the proposed clearing on Carnaby's black cockatoo habitat, and western swam tortoise can be managed by the implementation of a clearing not authorised condition and a fauna management condition.

The application area contains approximately 6.451 hectares of mapped wetlands. These geomorphic wetlands are geographically classified as damp lands (Terratree, 2023). None of the vegetation types recorded during the flora and vegetation survey (Terratree, 2019) represent vegetation species or community types adapted to wetlands. Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with the watercourse may be minimised by continuing the implementation of a watercourse management condition, as well as minimising impacts to surface water quality or groundwater quality by maintaining the authorised activity condition requiring the proponent to only use a raised blade method of clearing or driving an off-road vehicle or equipment over vegetation.

The Swan Coastal Plain bioregion has over 39 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2019). This is higher than the 30 per cent target set out by the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). As the nearest conservation area is located over 1.5 kilometres east of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impacts surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (a), (d), and (i), may be at variance to principle (b), (f), not at variance with principle (e), and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

As of 30 June 2024, no clearing has been undertaken under CPS 10351/1 (Image Resources NL, 2024a). The requested extension of duration is unlikely to result any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 10351/1.

## 2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 17 January 2025 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The permit area is within the South West Native Title Settlement area (DPLH, 2025). This settlement resolves Native Title rights and interests over an area of approximately 200,000 square kilometres within the south west of Western Australia. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The application area overlaps the proposed Bidaminna Project area, which is currently subject to assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) (Assessment No. 2355). The Proposal Content Document and supporting information provided to the EPA do not include reference to drilling works or other activities that might constitute implementation of the proposal. The proposed activities do not appear to cause or allow substantial implementation of the Bidaminna Project as proposed. The clearing permit application appears to relate to a separate activity, and if it does relate to the proposal, it is likely to be considered investigative works to inform the proposal.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on Carnaby's black cockatoo, which is a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Federal) Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Environment for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| Local context | The area proposed to be cleared is part of a 32,000-hectare isolated patch of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by cleared areas and salt lakes (GIS Database). |
| Ecological linkage | According to aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database). |
| Conservation areas | The application area is not located within any known or mapped conservation area (GIS Database). The closest record of a conservation area is the Moore River National Park, located 1.5 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database). |
| Vegetation description | The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex:<br>43: Vegetation ranges from a low open forest and low open woodland of *Banksia* species *Eucalyptus todtiana* (Pricklybark) to low woodland of *Melaleuca* species and sedgelands which occupy the moister sites (GIS Database).<br><br>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Terratree Pty Ltd during October and November 2018 (Terratree, 2019). A follow up survey, which included the application area was conducted for clearing permit application CPS 9297/1 on July 2021. The following vegetation communities were recorded within the survey area (Terratree, 2019):<br><br>**Type 1:** Open woodland of *Banksia attenuata*, *B. menziesii* and *Eucalyptus todtiana* over shrubland of *Verticordia nitens*, *Adenanthos cygnorum* and *Stirlingia latifolia*.<br><br>**Type 2:** Open woodland of *Eucalyptus todtiana*, *Banksia menziesii* and *B. attenuata* over closed shrubland of *Allocasuarina humilis*, *Eremaea pauciflora* var. *pauciflora* and *Melaleuca clavifolia*.<br><br>**Type 3:** Open shrubland of *Adenanthos cygnorum*, *Pericalymma ellipticum* var. *ellipticum* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* over closed low shrubland of *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Dasypogon bromeliifolius* and *Alexgeorgea nitens*. |
| Vegetation condition | The vegetation survey (Terratree, 2019) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition.<br><br>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. |
| Climate and landform | The application area is located in a winter dominant zone with marked wet winters and dry summers (BoM, 2016). The annual average rainfall (Gingin) is 735.7 millimetres (BoM, 2025). |

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| Soil description | The soil located within the application area is mapped as soil unit Cb39 (GIS Database). This soil unit is described as subdued dune-swale terrain: chief soils are leached sands. Associated are small areas of other sand soils (Northcote et al., 1960-68). |
| Land degradation risk | The application area has been mapped as the Bassendean land system (DPIRD, 2025). This land system has an extreme risk of eutrophication, a high risk of wind erosion and a high risk of waterlogging (DPIRD, 2021). |
| Waterbodies | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no watercourses that transect the area proposed to be cleared. The application area is not mapped within or adjacent toa wetland (GIS Database). |
| Hydrogeography | The application area falls within the Gingin Groundwater Area which contains a mapped groundwater salinity of less than 500 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as fresh (GIS Database). |
| Flora | The flora survey recorded one Priority species within the application area (Terratree, 2019). There were no Threatened flora species recorded in the survey area (Terratree, 2019; GIS Database). |
| Ecological communities | Vegetation communities Type 1 and Type 2 identified during the survey meet the description of the Priority 3 Ecological Community Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (Terratree, 2019). |
| Fauna | There were no fauna surveys conducted in the application area. However, the application area is located within the range of Carnaby's black cockatoo (GIS Database). |

## Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

**Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)**

| Condition | Description |
|---|---|
| Pristine | Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance. |
| Excellent | Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species. |
| Very good | Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing. |
| Good | Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing. |
| Degraded | Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing. |
| Completely degraded | The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs. |

## Appendix C. References and databases

### C1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)

- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

## C2. References


Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate classification maps, Seasonal rainfall. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/climate-classifications/ (Accessed 15 January 2025).

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Gingin. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 15 January 2025).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 15 January 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2021) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 9297/1. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, July 2021.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/ (Accessed 15 January 2025).

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

Image Resources NL (2024a) Annual Report CPS 10351/1. Prepared for the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Image Resources NL (2024b) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10351/2, received 11 December 2024.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

Spectrum Ecology Pty Ltd (Spectrum) (2022) Bidaminna Western Swamp Tortoise Pre-clearing Survey, prepared for: Preston Consulting | Image Resources.

Terratree (2019) Targeted Flora, Vegetation and Phytophthora Dieback Survey of Proposed Drill Lines at Bidaminna Survey Area.

Terratree (2023) Exploration Environmental Management Plan for Bidaminna for Tenements E70/4794, E70/2844, E70/3298 and E70/4919. Prepared for Image Resources.


## 3. Glossary

**Acronyms:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **BC Act** | *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia |
| **BoM** | Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government |
| **DAA** | Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH) |
| **DAFWA** | Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD) |
| **DAWE** | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government |
| **DBCA** | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia |
| **DEMIRS** | Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety202 |
| **DER** | Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER) |
| **DMIRS** | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS) |
| **DMP** | Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS) |
| **DoEE** | Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE) |
| **DoW** | Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER) |
| **DPaW** | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA) |
| **DPIRD** | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia |

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|---|---|
| **DPLH** | Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia |
| **DRF** | Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora) |
| **DWER** | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia |
| **EP Act** | *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia |
| **EPA** | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia |
| **EPBC Act** | *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal Act) |
| **GIS** | Geographical Information System |
| **ha** | Hectare (10,000 square metres) |
| **IBRA** | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia |
| **IUCN** | International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union |
| **PEC** | Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia |
| **RIWI Act** | *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia |
| **TEC** | Threatened Ecological Community |

**Definitions:**

**{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-**

**T** **Threatened species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

***Threatened fauna*** is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

***Threatened flora*** is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

**CR** **Critically endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be "*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

**EN** **Endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be "*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

**VU** **Vulnerable species**
Threatened species considered to be "*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

**Extinct Species:**

**EX** **Extinct species**

Species where "*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

**EW** **Extinct in the wild species**

Species that *"is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

**Specially protected species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

**MI** **Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**CD** **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**OS** **Other specially protected species**

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**P** **Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

**P1** **Priority One - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2** **Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3** **Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

**P4** **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

**(a)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

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

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

**(d)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

**(e)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

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

**(g)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

**(h)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

**(i)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

**(j)** Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.