



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10442/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Focus Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	5 December 2023
Application area:	48.3 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production and Associated Activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 15/277, 15/595, 15/877
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Bonnievale Underground Mine Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Focus Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 48.3 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 112.2 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Focus Operations Pty Ltd, 2023). The project is located approximately 11 kilometres north of the town of Coolgardie, within the Shire of Coolgardie.

The application is to allow for the development of a new underground gold mine at Bonnievale, using box cut excavation to access orebody. Other proposed activities include:

- Waste rock landforms
- Run-of-mine pad,
- Dewatering pipelines,
- Topsoil stockpiles,
- Surface water diversion channels or drains, and
- Other ancillary infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	7 March 2024
Decision area:	48.3 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on 5 December 2023. DEMIRS advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of flora and vegetation surveys, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate new underground gold mine.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that is potentially suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and four other conservation listed fauna species;
- loss of native vegetation that is growing in association with a watercourse; and
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)
- *Guideline for the survey of arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) in Western Australia* (DFCA, 2020)
- *Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds* (DEWHA, 2017)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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. Control measures were submitted by the applicant demonstrating (Astill Consultants, 2023):

- Clearing will be kept to the minimum and utilise existing disturbances where possible;
- Clearing will be undertaken progressively as required;
- Clearing will have clear visual boundaries set out by surveyor or spotter with GPS coordinates;
- Raised blade clearing technique will be used, where practicable;
- Topsoil will be stripped to 200 millimetre depth and stockpiled for rehabilitation; and
- Drainage diversion infrastructure will be installed to ensure that flood risks are mitigated whilst preserving natural flow paths.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values, land and water resource values. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values - Clearing Principle (a)

Assessment

Three flora and vegetation field surveys have been conducted over the application area and the broader surrounds:

- 88 flora species were recorded by Terratree (2017) during a reconnaissance survey between 24 to 26 April 2017;
- 149 flora species were recorded by 360 Environmental (2022) during a detailed survey between 11 to 15 October 2021 and 15 to 19 November 2021; and
- 139 flora species were recorded by Native Vegetation Solutions (2023) during a reconnaissance survey between 16 to 22 September 2023.

There are no records of Threatened or Priority flora within the application area (Astill Consultants, 2023; GIS Database). There is potential habitat for 14 Priority flora including high likelihood of occurrence for *Acacia websteri* (P1) and *Eremophila veronica* (P3), however none were detected during field surveys and all vegetation identified within the application area is common and well represented in the Eastern Goldfields subregion (Astill Consultants, 2023; Native Vegetation Solutions, 2023). Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact conservation status of these species.

A total of 14 introduced flora species have been recorded within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022; Native Vegetation Solutions, 2023; Terratree, 2017). None of the species are listed as Weeds of National Significance or declared pest plants in Western Australia under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, however weeds have potential to out-compete native flora and reduce biodiversity of an area.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on native vegetation biodiversity can be managed by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

3.2.2. Biological values - Clearing Principle (b)

Assessment

Multiple fauna field surveys have been conducted over the application area and broader surrounds:

- Basic fauna survey conducted by Kingfisher (2017) between 24 to 26 April 2017;
- Basic fauna survey conducted by 360 Environmental (2022) between 11 to 15 October 2021 and 15 to 19 November 2021;
- Basic fauna survey conducted by Western Ecological (2023a) between 4 to 11 April 2023; and
- Targeted malleefowl survey conducted by Western Ecological (2023b) on 19 July 2023.

There is potential for Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU) to utilise part of the application area for breeding and foraging. One inactive mound was recorded within the application area and six additional inactive mounds were recorded outside the application area on the lower slopes of Emu Hill (Kingfisher, 2017). A visual sighting and fresh tracks were also recorded within a kilometre south of the application area (Kingfisher, 2017). The northern portion of the application is not considered to be suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl due to historical disturbances, however, a portion of the southern area was mapped by Kingfisher (2017) as suitable breeding habitat within dense *Acacia* shrubland. There is potentially suitable breeding habitat within mallee eucalyptus woodland and casuarina shrubland habitat (Western Ecological, 2023a), however no active or inactive mounds were detected during either field surveys (Western Ecological, 2023a; Western Ecological, 2023b). Fauna habitats within the application area that have minimal disturbances may contain suitable malleefowl foraging habitat (360 Environmental, 2022; Kingfisher, 2017; Western Ecological, 2023a; Western Ecological, 2023b). All fauna habitats were mapped and considered regionally common with habitat connectivity present in surrounding area (see Appendix A; Kingfisher, 2017; Western Ecological, 2023a).

There is potential for Western Quoll, Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi fortis*, VU) to utilise habitat within the application area for foraging. A scat was recorded within approximately six kilometres from application area (360 Environmental, 2022). Suitable foraging habitat was identified as eucalyptus woodland and acacia shrubland (360 Environmental, 2022). The western quoll is largely restricted to the south-west, with small numbers in the Midwest and minimal records in areas the surrounding area (360 Environmental, 2022; GIS Database). Chuditch are highly mobile and use bush remnants as corridors (360 Environmental, 2022).

The application area consists of potential habitat for inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*, P1) and arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB, *Ogyris subterrestris petrina*, CR) (Astill Consultants, 2023). The preferred habitat for inland hairstreak is associated with *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Froggattella kirbii* ants (Eastwood et al., 2023). The application area was not extensively searched for the inland hairstreak, and *S. artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* was recorded within the application area. However, the preferred habitat is regionally common and habitat connectivity is present in the surrounding area (Astill Consultants, 2023). Preferred habitat for ABAB is associated with sugar ants (*Camponotus terebrans*) and smooth-barked Eucalyptus species (*Eucalyptus salubris* and *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) (DBCA, 2020). Suitable habitat was identified within the application area, however, neither the ABAB, nor the associated sugar ant species was detected during field survey with approximately 100 Eucalyptus trees inspected (Kingfisher, 2017). There is potential for both species to utilise habitat within the application area, however, given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the conservation status of these species.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant fauna and associated habitat can be managed by a malleefowl condition and slow directional clearing to all terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent vegetation.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and

- A fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 20 December 2023 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2024). This claim (WC2017/007) has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant Marinyu Ghoorlie group. However, 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, 2024). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.
- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan 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.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The project is located approximately 10 kilometres north of Coolgardie and 40 kilometres west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is adjacent to the historic abandoned Bonnievale town site. The predominant land use in the region is grazing of native pastures, conservation and mining activities.
Conservation areas and ecological linkage	The nearest conservation area is the Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve, located 11 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database). According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolgardie 9: Medium woodland; Eucalyptus woodland/ Eremophila sparse shrubland. Associated species are coral gum (<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>) and goldfields blackbutt (<i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i>). • Coolgardie 1294: Medium woodland; coral gum. <p>Vegetation associations were mapped by Terratree (2017) and 360 Environmental (2022) within the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EsppEiiSaa: <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> mid isolated trees over a mosaic of <i>Eucalyptus celastroides</i>, <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i>, and <i>Eucalyptus torquata</i> low open woodland over <i>Eremophila interstans</i> subsp. <i>interstans</i> (<i>Eremophila parvifolia</i> subsp. <i>auricampi</i>) mid isolated shrubs over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>artemisioides</i>, <i>S. artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, and <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low open shrubland • EsEiiAv: <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> mid open woodland over <i>Eremophila interstans</i> subsp. <i>interstans</i> (<i>Eremophila parvifolia</i> subsp. <i>auricampi</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>) tall to mid isolated shrubs over <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> low open shrubland • AaDI: low open woodland of <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> over tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and <i>Eremophila decipiens</i>. • AaPo: tall shrubland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i>, <i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> and <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> over low open shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> subsp. <i>obovatus</i>, <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> and <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> • AqDIPO: tall shrubland of <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i>, <i>Casuarina pauper</i> and <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> over sparse shrubland of <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> subsp. <i>obovatus</i>, <i>Eremophila decipiens</i> subsp. <i>decipiens</i> and <i>Sclerolaena diacantha</i>. • Ec: open forest of <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i>. • EgSaEd: woodland of <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> and <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> over tall sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> and <i>Eremophila interstans</i> subsp. <i>interstans</i> over open shrubland of <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> and <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila decipiens</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i>. • EsAnSs: open forest of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>, <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> and <i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i> over tall sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> and <i>Eremophila interstans</i> subsp. <i>interstans</i> over open shrubland of <i>Atriplex nummularia</i>, <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> and <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> subsp. <i>obovatus</i> and <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i>.
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation surveys (360 Environmental, 2022; Terratree, 2017) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Excellent to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent: Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species. <p>To</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p> <p>The northern portion of the application area has been heavily impacted by historical mining disturbances and more recent establishment of exploration activities such as tracks and drill pads (Astill Consultants, 2023). The southern portion of the application area is mostly undisturbed remnant vegetation (Astill Consultants, 2023).</p>

Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion is characterised as arid to semi-arid with hot summers and mild winters (CALM, 2002). The annual average rainfall in Coolgardie is approximately 270 millimetres (BoM, 2024). The application area is mapped within elevations of 390-410 metres AHD (GIS Database).
Soil and land system description	<p>The application area falls within the Coolgardie Land System and to a lesser extent, the Jaurdi Land System (0.3 ha) (DPIRD, 2024b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolgardie Land system: described as uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones. Erosional surfaces with deeply weathered uplands and rises. • Jaurdi Land system: described as basalt hills and ridges. Erosional surfaces; hills and ridges with rounded crests and steep to moderately inclined upper slopes with abundant mantles of basaltic stones and rock outcrop; gently inclined colluvial foot slopes and narrow drainage tracts. <p>Soils (DPIRD, 2024a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcareous shallow loam • Calcareous loamy earth • Red loamy earth • Self-mulching cracking clay <p>Mine Earth (2021) conducted a soil assessment in September 2021. All four locations soil below 20 cm was described as hardpan. Soil profiles between 0 to 20cm were described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat open woodland: weak surface crust transitioning to moderate-strongly structured soil with polyhedral aggregates. A moderate concentration of roots and approximately 10% coarse fragments ranging from 2 to 10 millimetres, decreasing with depth; • Rock mid-gentle slope: moderately strong surface crust. Moderately structured soil with polyhedral aggregates. Abundant roots with approximately 30% sub-rounded to sub-angular coarse fragments, 2 to 60 millimetres in size; • Flat open Eucalypt woodland at base of a low rise: well-structured clayey soil with polyhedral aggregates. Moderate amount of roots present with approximately 10 to 20% coarse fragments, 2 – 30 millimetres in size, decreasing in abundance and depth; and • Top of a low rise: 0 – 10 centimetres: moderately to strongly structured soil with polyhedral aggregates. Moderate number of roots with approximately 20 to 30% coarse fragments ranging in size from 2 – 50 millimetres. 10 - 20cm: single-grained soil with 30 to 40% calcareous coarse fragments ranging from 2 – 40 millimetres.
Hydrogeography and waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several ephemeral drainage lines that transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). There are no natural surface water bodies or wetlands within the application area, however there are numerous ephemeral salt lakes within the broader surrounding area (Astill Consultants, 2023). There is a Goldfields Groundwater Area Management Plan, 1994 under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> . The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as hypersaline (GIS Database).
Flora	There have been no records of Threatened or Priority flora within the application area (Astill Consultants, 2023; GIS Database). There is one record of Threatened flora (<i>Gastrolobium graniticum</i> (S.Moore) Crisp) and 26 Priority flora within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). <i>Acacia websteri</i> (P1) and <i>Eremophila veronica</i> (P3) have a high likelihood of occurring in the application area (Astill Consultants, 2023).
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities within the local area (20 kilometre radius).
Fauna and habitat	<p>Malleefowl have been recorded within one kilometre of the application area and one inactive mound has been recorded within the application area (Astill Consultants, 2023). Four species of conservation significant fauna have a possibility of occurring within the application area (Astill Consultants, 2023).</p> <p>Fauna habitat and disturbed areas (Kingfisher, 2017; Western Ecological, 2023a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallee Eucalyptus Woodland: mixed mallee eucalypts including <i>Eucalyptus griffithii</i>, <i>Eucalyptus torquate</i>, <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> and <i>Eucalyptus campaspe</i>, over scattered tall shrubs, over <i>Eremophila</i> sp. and <i>Senna</i> sp. on stony slopes. • Salmon Gum Woodland: scattered <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> trees over a ground cover of scattered low shrubs and herbs, on sandy flats. • Acacia Shrubland: mixed Acacia shrubs dominated by <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> with <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Acacia burkittii</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> species, over mixed low shrubs and grasses on sandy soils and greenstone hills. The southern margins of the application area are situated on the lower slopes of Emu Hill and include several incised gullies supporting dense thickets of vegetation. • Casuarina Shrubland: <i>Casuarina pauper</i> (Sheoak) trees, over mixed shrubs, herbs and grasses on stony slopes and foothills of Emu Hill. • Disturbed areas: Disturbed land from public off-road vehicle use, illegal rubbish disposal, timber cutting and previous mining and exploration activities.

A.2. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, 20-kilometre radius of relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Threatened							
<i>Gastrobium graniticum</i> (S.Moore) Crisp	T	N	Y	Y	9 km	43	Y
Priority 1							
<i>Acacia coatesii</i> Maslin	P1	Y	Y	Y	16 km	5	Y
<i>Acacia sclerophylla</i> var. <i>teretiusecula</i> Maiden & Blakely	P1	N	Y	Y	19 km	29	Y
<i>Acacia websteri</i> Maiden & Blakely	P1	Y	N	Y	9 km	21	Y
<i>Calandrinia lefroyensis</i> Obbens	P1	Y	N	Y	10 km	11	N
<i>Chamelaucium</i> sp. <i>Parker Range</i> (B.H. Smith 1255)	P1	N	N	N	19 km	12	Y
<i>Dampiera plumosa</i> S.Moore	P1	?	?	Y	18 km	7	N
<i>Eucalyptus websteriana</i> subsp. <i>norsemanica</i> L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill	P1	N	Y	Y	18 km	15	Y
<i>Phebalium appressum</i> Paul G.Wilson	P1	N	N	N	6 km	5	N
<i>Thryptomene planiflora</i> Rye	P1	N?	Y?	N	8 km	23	Y
<i>Thryptomene</i> sp. <i>Coolgardie</i> (E. Kelso s.n. 1902)	P1	?	?	?	9 km	2	N/A
Priority 2							
<i>Austrostipa frankliniae</i> A.R.Williams	P2	Y	Y	Y	19 km	9	Y
<i>Eremophila praecox</i> Chinnock	P2	Y	Y	Y	17 km	37	Y
<i>Hakea rigida</i> Haegi	P2	N	Y	N	6 km	19	Y
<i>Lepidium merrallii</i> F.Muell.	P2	Y?	Y?	Y	9 km	3	Y
<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. <i>Kambalda</i> (A.A. Mitchell 5156)	P2	Y?	Y?	Y	19 km	2	N
Priority 3							
<i>Allocasuarina eriochlamys</i> subsp. <i>grossa</i> (L.A.S.Johnson) L.A.S.Johnson	P3	N	Y	N	10 km	29	Y
<i>Austrostipa turbinata</i> A.R.Williams	P3	N	Y	Y	18 km	22	Y
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> subsp. <i>norsemanense</i> Paul G.Wilson	P3	Y	Y	Y	9 km	17	Y
<i>Eremophila veronica</i> (S.Moore) C.A.Gardner	P3	Y	Y	Y	11 km	16	Y
<i>Gompholobium cinereum</i> Chappill	P3	N	Y	N	19 km	18	Y
<i>Grevillea georgeana</i> McGill.	P3	Y	Y	Y	13 km	65	Y
<i>Notisia intonsa</i> (S.Moore) P.S.Short	P3	Y	Y	Y	15	27	Y

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Phlegmatospermum eremaeum</i> (J.M.Black) E.A.Shaw	P3	Y	Y	Y	8 km	18	Y
Priority 4							
<i>Eremophila caerulea subsp. merrallii</i> Chinnock	P4	Y	Y	Y	4 km	23	Y
<i>Eucalyptus jutsonii</i> Maiden subsp. jutsonii	P4	Y	Y	Y	13 km	34	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

A.3. Fauna analysis table

Significant fauna assessment of likelihood (Astill Consultants, 2023).

Species name	Common name	Conservation status		Assessment	Likelihood
		EPBC Act	BC Act		
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	VU	VU	One inactive malleefowl nest was observed within the survey area (Kingfisher, 2017) and suitable habitat found within survey area.	Likely (transient visitor to Project area)
<i>Dasyurus geoffroi fortis</i>	Chuditch	VU	VU	While largely restricted to the south-west of Western Australia, one Chuditch scat was observed approximately 6.6 km outside of the Project area (360 Environmental, 2022)	Possible
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	-	OS	Suitable habitat may be present but unlikely to represent breeding habitat. Survey area may form part of larger home range but unlikely to breed in area. Significant impact unlikely.	Possible
<i>Jalmenus aridus</i>	Inland Hairstreak		P1	Suitable habitat was observed during field surveys.	Possible
<i>Ogyris subterrestris petrina</i>	Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly	CR	CR	Presence of multiple smooth-barked eucalypt species within survey areas suggest suitable habitat may occur.	Possible
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	-	VU	There is no recent nearby records and preferred nesting habitat is absent. May use the Project area for hunting.	Unlikely
Migratory Shorebirds (Various species)		MI	MI	While there are records of migratory shorebirds within 15 km of the Project area, these are associated with waterbodies (i.e. lakes and dams). There is no suitable habitat for migratory shorebird or waterbird species in the Project area.	Unlikely
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	Central Long-eared Bat	-	P3	Some suitable habitat is present in the the survey area however only one record of this species 82 km to the southeast suggests	Unlikely
<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Carnaby's Cockatoo	EN	EN	The Project area is approximately 250 km east of its currently known distribution. The closest records are 28 km from the Project area in Kalgoorlie, which appears to be an anomaly.	Unlikely

EN = Listed as Endangered under the EBPC Act and BC Act, VU = Listed as Vulnerable under the EBPC Act and BC Act, MI = Listed as Migratory under the EBPC Act and BC Act

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains potential habitat for Priority flora.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Part of the area proposed to be cleared contains foraging and potential breeding habitat for malleefowl and several other conservation significant species.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). There is record of one Threatened flora species within 10 kilometres of the application (GIS Database). There is potential for it to occur within the application area, however, no suitable habitat was identified, and no individuals were detected during field surveys (360 Environmental, 2022; Native Vegetation Solutions, 2023; Terratree, 2017).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The current extent of vegetation associations remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolgardie 9: 97.78% (235,100.97 ha) • Coolgardie 1294: 96.06% (6,047.45 ha) <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve is located approximately 11 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent water courses or wetlands recorded within the application area, however a macro-channel has been recognised on the western side of the application area that is remnants of an ancient major drainage line (Terratree, 2017; Western Ecological, 2023a). <i>Acacia</i> shrubland and associated flora species such as <i>Juncus aridicola</i>, <i>Convolvulus remotus</i> and <i>Erodium cygnorum</i> have been recorded to grow in association with the minor non-perennial drainage line (Terratree, 2017). Potential impacts to vegetation associated with this vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.</p>	At variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are moderate to highly susceptible to water erosion (DPIRD, 2024b; GIS Database). The footslopes and valley floors of the Coolgardie Land System are susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2024b). Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetative cover for extended periods.</p>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the hyper salinity of groundwater within the regions and no Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent wetlands or major water courses recorded within the application area and the applicant has planned to implement drainage diversion management measures planned (Astill Consultants, 2023). Potential impacts that are likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incident or intensity of flooding can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.</p>	May be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from 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.

Condition	Description
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 D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo Carnaby's Distribution
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

D.2. References

- 360 Environmental (2022) CNX Three Mile Hill Coolgardie Gold Project Biological Surveys. Prepared for Focus Minerals Pty Ltd June 2022.
- Astill Consultants (2023) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application for Bonnievale Underground Mine Project, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, December 2023.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2024) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Coolgardie. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 9 January 2024).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2020) *Guideline for the survey of arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) in Western Australia*. Available from: [Threatened and priority fauna resources | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/Threatened-and-priority-fauna-resources/Department-of-Biodiversity-Conservation-and-Attractions)
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) (2017) *Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds*. Available from: [Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds \(dcceew.gov.au\)](https://dcceew.gov.au)
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2024) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 15 February 2024).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2024) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 15 February 2024).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2024a) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 10442/1. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, January 2024.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available from: http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. Available from: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- Eastwood, R. Jacks, A. Williams, A.A.E. Petersen. L, Cameron, J. (1988) Current distribution, preferred habitat, behaviour, and biology of the Inland Hairstreak, *Jalmenus aridus* Graham & Moulds, (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in the Eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia.
- Focus Operations Pty Ltd (2023) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10442/1, received 5 December 2023.
- 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>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Kingfisher Environmental Consulting (Kingfisher) (2017) Bonnievale Level 1 Fauna Assessment, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, November 2023.
- Mine Earth (2021) Coolgardie Gold Project Soil Resource Assessment, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, September 2021.
- Native Vegetation Solutions (2023) Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Bonnievale Project Area – May and September 2023, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, November 2023.
- Terratree (2017) Bonnievale Flora and Vegetation assessment, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, April 2017.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 5 February 2024).
- Western Ecological (2023a) Coolgardie Gold Project Basic Terrestrial Fauna Survey report. Prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, May 2023.
- Western Ecological (2023b) Targeted Malleefowl survey – Bonnievale, prepared for Focus Minerals Ltd, August 2023.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
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 DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (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	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , 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.