Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10979/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Catalyst (Plutonic) Pty Ltd
Application received:	4 March 2025
Application area:	137 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Constructing Tailing Storage Facility cells and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 52/148
	Mining Lease 52/170
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	TSF 4 and 5 Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Catalyst (Plutonic) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 137 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 177 hectares, for the purpose of constructing Tailing Storage Facility cells and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 171 kilometres northeast of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra.

The application is to construct two additional Tailings Storage Facility cells and associated infrastructure, for the Plutonic minesite. This application is to mirror (with minor improvements but same intent) the previously approved CPS 8616/1, which expired on 4 October 2024.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	3 July 2025
Decision area:	137 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) 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 E), supporting flora and vegetation and fauna surveys (Appendix D), 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 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;
- potential impacts to riparian vegetation; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind and water erosion.

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

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;
- avoid clearing riparian vegetation where possible, if drainage lines are impacted build culverts to maintain waterflow; and
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

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 (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)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

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, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application (Catalyst, 2025) was submitted by the applicant, indicating that works shall be undertaken as follows:

- Avoid clearing native vegetation as far as practicable;
- minimise the amount of vegetation cleared to the area required for operations;
- implement ground control processes, such as ensuring that the clearing area is suitably delineated and a ground disturbance permit completed with the contractor prior to the start of works; and
- topsoil effectively stockpiled for rehabilitation.

Implement suitable weed control measures, including:

- “Clean on entry” forms completed for all earthmoving equipment prior to entry to the work area;
- ensure no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area; and
- restrict movement of machinery and vehicles to the limits of the area cleared.

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.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (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 (Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene, staged clearing management conditions, as well as a non-standard watercourse management condition.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 20 May 2025 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2017/011) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Gingirana). 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, 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- 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 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 surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Gascoyne bioregion. It is adjacent to the existing Plutonic Gold mining development (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the area proposed to be cleared does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest mapped record is the Doolgunna ex pastoral lease, located approximately 18 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) during April, 2019. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (ELA, 2019): **ApEfTt:** *Acacia pteraneura, Psydrax latifolia* and *Acacia fuscaneura* low woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Eremophila galeata* mid sparse shrubland over *Solanum lasiophyllum* and *Sida* sp. low isolated shrubs and *Themeda triandra* low sparse tussock grassland on orange clay-loam minor drainage. **AfGbPo:** *Acacia fuscaneura*, *Acacia pteraneura* and *Grevillea berryana* low open woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Eremophila clarkei* mid isolated shrubs over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Solanum lasiophyllum* and *Sclerolaena? eriacantha* low isolated shrubs on orange clay-loam wash plain. **AcElEe:** *Acacia? cuthbertsonii* subsp. *cuthbertsonii*, *Acacia pteraneura* and *Psydrax latifolia* tall sparse shrubland over *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei*, *Eremophila* clarkei and *Senna? artemisioides* subsp. x *sturtii* mid isolated shrubs over *Sida picklesiana* (P3) and *Ptilotus schwartzii* low isolated shrubs and *Eragrostis eriopoda* low isolated tussock grasses on orange clay-loam wash plain. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (ELA, 2019) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good to Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with an average annual rainfall (Meekatharra) of 233.1 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soil within the application area is mapped as red-brown hardpan sallow loam, red shallow sandy duplex, friable non-cracking clay, red deep sand, and loamy earth (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Horseshoe land system which is described as gently undulating stony plains and low rounded hills with partially saline drainage foci and alluvial tracts supporting acacia and eremophila tall shrublands, and chenopod low shrublands (DPIRD, 2025). This land system is somewhat susceptible to wind and water erosion where vegetation is degraded (Wilcox and McKinnon, 1974).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 500-1,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal quality (GIS Database).
Flora	No Threatened flora species were recorded from in the application area. One Priority 3 flora species, *Sida picklesiana* was recorded in the application area (ELA, 2019).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is the Frederick Land System which is listed as a Priority 3 Ecological Community and is located approximately three kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the application area (ELA, 2019; GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna habitat	Two fauna habitats were recorded and mapped during the fauna survey conducted by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (2019): • Open mulga woodland on sheet plain wash; and • Mulga woodland on minor drainage.

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: Vegetation communities delineated and mapped within the application area were not considered to be locally restricted (ELA, 2019). One Priority 3 flora species (*Sida picklesiana*) was recorded from 139 point locations within the survey area; totalling 251 individuals. This species was most commonly recorded within the AfGbPo community and the AcElEe vegetation community, with only four individuals recorded from one location within the ApEfTt community (ELA, 2019). The species is known from 32 Western Australian Herbarium records, representing 19 populations that extend over a range of approximately 250 kilometres across two IBRA Bioregions, indicating that it is not locally restricted (DBCA, 2019; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The species is recorded as common and in large numbers at several of the WA Herbarium specimen locations. Loss of this population is not likely to impact on the conservation status of this species (DBCA, 2019). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the conservation of this species. One introduced (weed) flora species was recorded as occurring within the survey area, namely *Bidens bipinnata*. This species is not listed as a Declared Pest listed under the State BAM Act or a Weed of National Significance (ELA, 2019). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: No direct (observations) or indirect (scats, tracks, diggings) evidence of conservation significant fauna species were recorded within the survey area (ELA, 2019). Habitat within the survey area was found to be unlikely to support any conservation significant fauna species. It is unlikely that proposed works would appreciably reduce or impact the representativeness of individual fauna species or supporting habitat within the local area or across the broader landscape (ELA, 2019).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: No Threatened flora species have been recorded in the application area (ELA, 2019; GIS Database). There were no records of Threatened flora within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). It is unlikely the application area contains suitable habitat for Threatened flora in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not form part of a known or mapped Threatened Ecological Community (GIS Database). No vegetation communities delineated within the current survey area were inferred to represent any known or potential conservation significant communities listed under the EPBC Act (ELA, 2019).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The application area falls within the Gascoyne Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Gascoyne Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (ELA, 2019; GIS Database). One seasonal drainage line passes through the application area. This drainage line is already interrupted by the existing TSF (GIS Database). One vegetation association recorded within the application area (ApEfTt), is noted as growing in association with the minor drainage line that dissects the application area (ELA, 2019). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle. Although the minor drainage line is already disrupted by current mining activities, a watercourse management condition on the clearing permit will ensure waterflow is maintained when clearing occurs in the drainage line.	At variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The Horseshoe land system is somewhat susceptible to wind and water erosion (Wilcox and McKinnon, 1974). The proposed clearing may be at variance with this principle. Potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or ground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.	Not likely to 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 Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation and Priority flora mapping

Figure 1. ApEfTt vegetation community.

Figure 2. AfGbPo Vegetation community.

Figure 3. AcElEe vegetation community.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)

- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

E.2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Meekatharra Station. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 23 June 2025).

Catalyst (Plutonic) Pty Ltd (Catalyst) (2025) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10979/1, received 4 March 2025.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8616/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, August 2019.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 24 June 2025).

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Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) (2019) Flora and Fauna Survey of the Proposed Tailings Storage Facility (TSF4). Prepared for Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, July 2019.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. 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) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf

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

Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 24 June 2025).

Wilcox, D. G., and McKinnon, E. A. (1974) A report on the condition of the Gascoyne catchment. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Report 2.

4. 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)
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 (now DMPE)
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)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
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	*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 (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T 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 the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

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.

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.

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.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

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).

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.

Specially protected species

SP **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).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or 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.

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

Species of special conservation need that are 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Species 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P **Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey 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 prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

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

Assessment of priority status 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 – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

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. These species need 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 a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

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.