Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3087/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963*, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML 70/4)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Tom Price Mine

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Waste Dump Construction

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description
Vegetation within the application area has been mapped at a 1:250,000 scale as Beard Vegetation Association:

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappygum over *Triodia wiseana*.

Pilbara Flora undertook a flora and vegetation survey over the application area in April and May 2008. The following three vegetation units were identified within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008):

1. Steep Hillsides Open Woodland: *Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia* and *Acacia hamersleyensis* shrubland over *Triodia epactia, Triodia pungens* and *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

2. Breakaway Steep Hillsides Shrubland: *Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia* low open woodland over *Acacia hamersleyensis, Acacia maitlandii* and *Acacia marramamba* open scrub over *Cryptandra monticola* and *Dodonaea petiolaris* open heath over *Eriachne mucronata, Triodia epactia* and *Triodia wiseana* tussock/hummock grasslands; and

3. Narrow Valley Themeda Grass Woodland: *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* low woodland over *Acacia hamersleyensis, Acacia maitlandii, Dodonaea petiolaris, Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Santalum lanceolatum* open scrub over *Themeda sp. Mt Barricade (M.E. Trudgen 2471)* closed tussock grassland and *Triodia basedowii* very open hummock grassland.

Clearing Description
Hamersley Iron has applied to clear up to 15 hectares within an application area of 15.38 hectares for the purpose of constructing a waste dump. The clearing application area is located approximately 8.5 kilometres south-west of Tom Price (GIS Database). Clearing will be by mechanical means.

Vegetation Condition
Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

to

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Comment
The vegetation condition was assessed by botanists from Pilbara Flora. The vegetation conditions were described using a scale based on Trudgen (1988) and have been converted to the corresponding conditions from the Keighery (1994) scale.

There has been weed species recorded within vegetation types 1 and 2, whilst type 3 has no recorded occurrence of weeds (Pilbara Flora, 2008). There has been no fire within the application area for at least five years (Pilbara Flora, 2008).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle
The application area occurs within the Hamersley (PIL3) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) subregion (GIS Database). At a broad scale vegetation can be described as Mulga low woodland over

bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors, and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002). The vegetation within the application area has been mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 82 which is common throughout the bioregion, with approximately 100% of the Pre-European extent remaining (GIS Database; Shepherd et al., 2001).

A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken within the application area by Pilbara Flora in April and May 2008. This survey identified three vegetation types within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). These vegetation types ranged from 'excellent' to 'very good'.

The flora survey of the Tom Price mine area recorded 182 taxa from 45 families within the vegetation types that were present within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). There were several introduced species within the application area; Kapok Bush (*Aerva javanica*), Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Feathertop Rhodes Grass (*Chloris virgata*), Bipinnate Beggartick (*Bidens bipinnata*), and *Acetosa vesicaria* (Pilbara Flora, 2008). The presence of these introduced weed species lowers the biodiversity value of the area proposed to be cleared. Should a clearing permit be granted, it is recommended that a condition be imposed for the purpose of weed management.

A search by the assessing officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Naturemap database identified 12 mammals, 1 bird, 18 reptiles and 1 amphibian species that have been previously recorded within a 5 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2009). Given the close proximity of the application area to the existing Tom Price mine, it is not likely to support a higher faunal diversity that other areas in the region.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2002)
DEC (2009)
Pilbara Flora (2008)
Shepherd et al (2001)
GIS Database
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (subregions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(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 indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area. A desktop review for fauna species of conservation significance was conducted by Pilbara Flora (2008).

Two potential significant habitat features; narrow valley and steep breakaways are found within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). However, all the landscape units within the application area are considered as being common and widespread throughout the Pilbara (Pilbara Flora, 2008).

The vegetation within the application area has been classed as ranging from 'excellent' to 'very good'. Aerial imagery shows that the application area is situated adjacent to an existing pit which may act as a deterrent for fauna species.

There is the potential for several species of conservation significance to be found within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). However, given that the habitat features within the application area are considered common in the Pilbara and the proximity of the application area to an existing mine site, the proposed clearing is not likely to represent significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Pilbara Flora (2008)

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A desktop review was conducted by Pilbara Flora (2008) that included searches of the DEC Threatened Flora Database, Rio Tinto Iron Ore Rare and Priority Flora Database and of previous vegetation surveys conducted in the area. This search revealed that 2 species of DRF and 52 Priority Flora species that could potentially occur at the Tom Price mine site. A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Four species of Priority Flora have been identified within the application area, however, no DRF were recorded (Pilbara Flora, 2008):

- *Dampiera anonyma* (P3)
- *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* (P4)
- *Indigofera ixocarpa* (P2)
- *Sida* sp. *Hamersley Range* (P1)

Dampiera anonyma occurs at three locations within the application area with no less than 23 plants recorded (Pilbara Flora, 2008; Rio Tinto Iron Ore, 2009). This species is known to occur at 21 locations on the Tom Price mining leases with over 130 plants recorded (Pilbara Flora, 2008). *Dampiera anonyma* is restricted to stony slopes and hilly terrain (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Areas of steep hillsides and breakaways have been identified within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Whilst the proposed clearing will result in the loss of 23 individual *Dampiera anonyma* and a small amount of habitat, the species is not likely to be significantly impacted.

A total of 75 plants of *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* have been recorded at three locations within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008; Rio Tinto Iron Ore, 2009). This species is known to occur from at least 71 locations, 19 of these being within the vicinity of Tom Price (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Over 550 individuals have been recorded in the Tom Price area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* is found in a linear distribution from north-west of Newman to Karijini National Park and extending south-east to Tom Price (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Given this species is not restricted to the Tom Price area and the small number impacted by this proposal, it is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Indigofera ixocarpa occurs at two locations within the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). 13 plants were recorded from these locations (Rio Tinto Iron Ore, 2009). It is found within a 30-40 kilometres radius of Tom Price with another population between Nullagine and Marble Bar (Pilbara Flora, 2008). This species has been recorded over numerous locations around Tom Price with an estimated population of over 2,500 in that area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Given there is a large population in the local area the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

One individual of *Sida* sp. *Hamersley Range* has been recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto Iron Ore, 2009). It is an upright, spindly shrub which inhabits cliffs, steep rocky slopes and scree high in the landscape (Rio Tinto Iron Ore, 2009). There are 16 recorded locations of *Sida* sp. *Hamersley Range* from the Central and Western Pilbara (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2007). Given only one plant will be impacted and the species is not restricted to the Tom Price area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on *Sida* sp. *Hamersley Range*.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
Keith Lindbeck and Associates (2007)
Pilbara Flora (2008)
Rio Tinto Iron Ore (2009)
GIS Database
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) within the application area (GIS Database). No vegetation communities described as a TEC were recorded during the botanical survey of the application area (Pilbara Flora, 2008). The nearest known TEC is located approximately 38 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
Pilbara Flora (2008)
GIS Database
- Threatened Ecological Communities

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 99.9% of the Pre-European vegetation remains (see table) (GIS Database; Shepherd et al., 2001).

The vegetation of the application area has been mapped as;

- Beard Vegetation Association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappygum over soft spinifex.

According to Shepherd et al., (2001) approximately 100% of Beard Vegetation Association 82 remains at both the state and bioregional level. Therefore the area proposed to clear does not represent a remnant of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared.

While a small percentage of the vegetation types within the Pilbara bioregion are protected within conservation reserves, the bioregion remains largely uncleared. As a result, the conservation of vegetation associations

within the bioregion is not likely to be impacted by this proposal.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-european % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves (and post clearing %)*
IBRA Bioregion – Pilbara	17,804,164	17,794,651	~99.9	Least Concern	6.3 (6.3)
Beard veg assoc. – State					
82	2,565,929	2,565,929	~100	Least Concern	10.2 (10.2)
Beard veg assoc. – Bioregion					
82	2,563,609	2,563,609	~100	Least Concern	10.2 (10.2)

* Shepherd et al. (2001)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Options to select from: Bioregional Conservation Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Presumed extinct	Probably no longer present in the bioregion
Endangered	<10% of pre-European extent remains
Vulnerable	10-30% of pre-European extent exists
Depleted	>30% and up to 50% of pre-European extent exists
Least concern	>50% pre-European extent exists and subject to little or no degradation over a majority of this area

Based on the above, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS Database
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments

Proposal is at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the application area contains several ephemeral drainage lines (GIS Database). The botanical survey over the application area did not identify any vegetation growing within or in association with a watercourse or wetland (Pilbara Flora, 2008).

Given the application area includes ephemeral drainage lines, the proposed clearing is at variance with this Principle.

These ephemeral watercourses only ever flow following heavy rainfall events and are dry for the majority of the year. None of the vegetation within the application area has been identified as riparian (Pilbara Flora, 2008). An analysis of aerial photography revealed that the areas where the ephemeral watercourses flow outside the application area have already been heavily disturbed by existing operations (GIS Database), therefore the proposed clearing within the application area is not likely to have a significant effect on any watercourses.

Methodology
Pilbara Flora (2008)
GIS Database
- Hydrography, linear
- Mount Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic – Landgate 2004 (Image)

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the application area is comprised of the Newman land system (GIS Database). The Newman land system is characterised by rugged jaspilite plateaux, ridges and mountains supporting hard spinifex grasslands (Payne et al, 1988). The lower slopes landform in which the application area is found, is described as gently inclined concave slopes mostly less than 400 metres in extent with mantles of very abundant pebbles and cobbles of ironstone and other rocks (Payne et al, 1988). The soils of this landform have been described as stony soils on upper margins with red loamy earths on lower margins (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The Newman land system has a nil to minor erosion potential, which is likely to

be due to the surface mantle present which provides protection from erosional forces (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

Soil pH in the application area is 5.5 to 6.0 and there is no known occurrence of acid sulphate soils within the application area (CSIRO, 2009). The average annual evaporation is over 8 times the average annual rainfall, so it is unlikely the proposed clearing will result in increased groundwater recharge causing raised saline tables (GIS Database). The application area is steep and hilly and the proposed clearing could potentially increase surface runoff and cause an increased risk of erosion in some areas. However, given the landforms represented in the application area and the size of the proposed clearing, it is not likely that the proposal will result in appreciable land degradation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
CSIRO (2009)
Payne et al (1988)
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Rainfall, Mean Annual
- Topographic Contours, Statewide

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the application area is not located within a conservation area or any DEC managed lands (GIS Database). The nearest conservation reserve is Karijini National Park located approximately 15 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database). Based on the distance between the proposed clearing and the nearest conservation area, the project is not likely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
GIS Database
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area (GIS Database).

Rainfall in the area is mainly restricted to a wet summer season, where precipitation can be variable. Rain can be either intense falls associated with cyclonic events, or scattered falls associated with local thunderstorms (Pilbara Flora, 2008). The average annual evaporation rate for the application area is approximately 3400 millimetres and the average annual rainfall is 400 millimetres (GIS Database). Therefore, during normal rainfall events surface water in the application area is likely to evaporate or be utilised by vegetation quickly. However, substantial rainfall events create surface sheet flow which is likely to have a high level of sediments. During normal rainfall events, the proposed clearing would not likely lead to an increase in sedimentation of watercourses within and outside the application area.

The groundwater salinity within the application area is approximately 500 – 1000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). This is considered to be potable water. The application area is part of the larger Tom Price iron ore mine. The Tom Price mine has had a significant impact on local hydrogeology (Pilbara Flora, 2008). There is significant groundwater draw down in areas that are being actively dewatered (Pilbara Flora, 2008). Given that the application area is located within a mine site that that has large amounts of disturbance and is being actively dewatered, the additional clearing of 15 hectares is not likely to have an adverse impact on groundwater in the Tom Price area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology
Pilbara Flora (2008)
GIS Database
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Rainfall, Mean Annual
- Groundwater Provinces
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA's)
- Hydrography, linear
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area experiences an arid, tropical climate with a wet summer season and a dry winter season (BoM, 2009). Most rainfall is received during the wet season, but falls can be variable (BoM, 2009). Rain can either be sporadic (local thunderstorms) or heavy and intense (cyclonic events). It is likely during times of intense rainfall there may be some localised flooding in adjacent areas. However, during normal rainfall events given the high annual evaporation to rainfall ratio, surface water in the application area is likely to be evaporated or utilised quickly by vegetation (GIS Database). Given the small area to be cleared (15 hectares) in relation to the size of the Ashburton River catchment area (7,877,743 hectares) the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an increase in flood height or duration (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

BoM (2009)
GIS Database
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments
- Rainfall, Mean Annual

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised by the Department of Mines and Petroleum, inviting submissions from the public. There was one submission received that stating no objections to the proposed clearing.

There is one native title claim over the area under application; WC97/089 (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. However, the mining tenement 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.*

According to available databases there are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponents' responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

Methodology

GIS Database
- Native Title Claims
- Sites of Aboriginal Significance

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The proposal has been assessed against the Clearing Principles, and is at variance to Principle (f), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Should the permit be granted it is recommended that conditions be imposed on the permit for the purposes of weed management, retention of vegetative material and topsoil, record keeping and permit reporting.

5. References

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Department of Conservation and Land Management (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions.

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

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Pilbara Flora (2008) Flora and Vegetation Survey for the Development of Multiple Areas within the Tom Price Mine. Unpublished Report for Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, Western Australia.

Rio Tinto Iron Ore (2009) Priority Flora Locations and Numbers. Email sent on 18 May 2009 to Native Vegetation Assessor, Department of Mines and Petroleum. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

Trudgen M.E. (1988) A Report on the Flora and Vegetation of the Port Kennedy Area. Unpublished report prepared for Bowman Bishaw and Associates, West Perth.

Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Hennig, P. and Leighton, K.A. (2004) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

6. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government.
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.
DA	Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
DEP	Department of Environment Protection (now DoE), Western Australia.
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs
DLI	Department of Land Information, Western Australia.
DoE	Department of Environment, Western Australia.
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources, Western Australia.
DOLA	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia.
DoW	Department of Water
EP Act	Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia.
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System.
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia.
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
RIWI	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia.
s.17	Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia.
TECs	Threatened Ecological Communities.

Definitions:

{Atkins, K (2005). ***Declared rare and priority flora list for Western Australia, 22 February 2005*****. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-**

P1	**Priority One - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P2	**Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P3	**Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.
P4	**Priority Four – Rare taxa**: taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.
R	**Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa** *(= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable)*: taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the

Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

X **Declared Rare Flora - Presumed Extinct taxa**: taxa which have not been collected, or otherwise verified, over the past 50 years despite thorough searching, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

{Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005} [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950] :-

Schedule 1 **Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct:** being fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 2 **Schedule 2 – Fauna that is presumed to be extinct:** being fauna that is presumed to be extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 3 **Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement:** being birds that are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 4 **Schedule 4 – Other specially protected fauna:** being fauna that is declared to be fauna that is in need of special protection, otherwise than for the reasons mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

{CALM (2005). *Priority Codes for Fauna*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1 **Priority One: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, active mineral leases. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P2 **Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P3 **Priority Three: Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P4 **Priority Four: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and which are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands.

P5 **Priority Five: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Categories of threatened species (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)*

EX **Extinct:** A native species for which there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

EX(W) **Extinct in the wild:** A native species which:
(a) is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or
(b) has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

CR **Critically Endangered:** A native species which is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

EN **Endangered:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered; and
(b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

VU **Vulnerable:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered or endangered; and
(b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

CD **Conservation Dependent:** A native species which is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.