



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	3202/5
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Northern Star (Carosue Dam) Pty Ltd
Application received:	11 July 2023
Application area:	190 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated works
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 31/172
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Menzies
Colloquial name:	Wallbrook Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Northern Star (Carosue Dam) proposes to clear up to 190 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 242 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated works. The project is located approximately 120 kilometres northeast of Kalgoorlie Boulder, within the Shire of Menzies.

The application is to allow for expansion of the existing pits, waste rock landform and supporting infrastructure, including run-of-mine pad, Turkey's Nest, workshops and offices (Northern Star, 2023b).

Clearing permit CPS 3202/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 10 September 2009 and was valid from 10 October 2009 to 31 December 2014. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 90 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 329 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated works.

CPS 3202/2 was granted on 23 October 2014, amending the permit to extend the permit duration by five years to 31 December 2019. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 3202/3 was granted on 7 November 2019, amending the permit to remove Mining Lease 31/231 from the permit therefore reducing the permit boundary from 329 hectares to 242 hectares, and to extend the permit duration by five years to 31 December 2024.

CPS 3202/4 was granted on 11 August 2022, amending the permit to change the name of the Permit Holder from Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd to Northern Star (Carosue Dam) Pty Ltd. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 11 July 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 3202/4 to extend the duration of the clearing permit until 31 December 2027, and to increase the amount of native vegetation clearing within the clearing permit boundary from 90 hectares to 190 hectares.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	12 October 2023
Decision area:	190 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51KA(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 11 July 2023. DMIRS advertised the application for 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, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant including the information of a flora and vegetation survey and fauna survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with the same management conditions as clearing permit CPS 3202/4.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that Northern Star Resources Ltd operates on a hierarchy of avoid, minimise, rehabilitate and offset. This hierarchy is achieved primarily through changes in design during mine planning and implementation. The following considerations were made during the mine planning process.

- **Avoid:** it will not be possible to avoid the additional clearing, as additional disturbance will be required to accommodate the expanded mining infrastructure (e.g. mining void, waste rock dump etc.).
- **Minimise:** additional clearing will be minimised as far as practicable using a design that minimises lateral expansion of infrastructure (e.g. waste rock dumps) as far as practicable. Clearing will take place progressively during implementation.
- **Rehabilitate:** native vegetation clearing will be rehabilitated in accordance with mine closure obligations under the *Mining Act 1978*. While some clearing such as that for mining voids will be permanent, other areas such as supporting infrastructure and waste rock dumps will be rehabilitated at closure.
- **Offset:** the proposed native vegetation clearing will not result in any significant residual impacts to the environment and therefore an offset is not required (Northern Star, 2023b).

The applicant adequately demonstrated that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The permit holder has advised that as of 30 June 2023, 72.79 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared within the application area under previous clearing permit (Northern Star, 2023a). The proposed amendment involves increasing the clearing amount from 90 hectares to 190 hectares and extend the duration of the permit until 31 December 2027. No changes are proposed to the application area.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in previous versions of the decision report. The conditions currently imposed on clearing permit CPS 3202/4 are considered adequate for amended permit CPS 3202/5.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 8 September 2023 by the Department of 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 (WC2019/002) over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Nyalpa Pirniku). 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 Cultural Heritage Sites within the application area (DPLH, 2023). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* and ensure that no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites 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.

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 native vegetation and salt lakes which form part of the landscape of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is located within any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest conservation area is Goongarrie National Park which is located approximately 55 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:</p> <p>400: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over bluebush (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during May, 2023. The following vegetation communities were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DD-AOW1: Acacia sparse woodland - <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> low sparse woodland over <i>Hakea preissii</i> tall, isolated shrubs over <i>Eremophila dempsteri</i>, <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Enchylaena lanata</i>, <i>E. tomentosa</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Cephalopterum drummondii</i>, <i>Rhodanthe chlorocephala</i> subsp. <i>rosea</i> and <i>Lawrencella rosea</i> sparse forbland. - QRP-AFW1: Allocasuarina woodland - <i>Casuarina pauper</i> low sparse woodland over <i>Melaleuca stereophloia</i> tall, isolated shrubs over <i>Acacia assimilis</i> subsp. <i>assimilis</i>, <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> and <i>Dodonaea inaequifolia</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Atriplex codonocarpa</i>, <i>Sclerolaena densiflora</i> and <i>Seringia cacaobrunnea</i> low sparse shrubland. - QRP-AOW1: Acacia open woodland - <i>Eucalyptus grossa</i>, <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> low open woodland over <i>Santalum acuminatum</i>, <i>Hakea preissii</i> and <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Dicrasyllis parvifolia</i>, <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> and <i>Abutilon cryptopetalum</i> low sparse shrubland. - CLP-CS1: Chenopod shrubland - <i>Eucalyptus cylindriflora</i> low isolated trees over <i>Acacia eremophila</i>, <i>A. hemiteles</i> and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Eremophila georgei</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Atriplex semilunaris</i>, <i>Maireana trichoptera</i> and <i>Sclerolaena drummondii</i> low open shrubland. - RH-AOW1: Acacia open woodland - <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>supralaevis</i>, <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> low isolated trees over <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i>, <i>Acacia blaxellii</i>, <i>Eremophila violacea</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Prostanthera grylloana</i>, <i>Westringia cephalantha</i> low sparse shrubland.
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica Consulting, 2023) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B. Representative photos and vegetation mapping are available in Appendix C.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located within an arid zone where the annual rainfall average (Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport) is of 264.6 millimetres (BoM, 2023).
Soil description	The soil within the application area is mapped as soil unit BE15 (GIS Database). Soil unit BE15 is described as gently undulating to low hilly pediments with stony and gravelly pavements, and traversed by numerous seasonal streams: chief soils seem to be shallow earthy loams with shallow red earths, both underlain by red-brown hardpan. There are small inclusions of soils common to the adjoining units (Northcote et al., 1960-68).
Land systems and erosion risk	The application area falls within the Gundockerta land system (DPIRD, 2023). This land system is described as extensive, gently undulating, calcareous, stony plains, supporting bluebush shrublands. Where not protected by a stony mantle, saline plains and adjacent lower alluvial tracts are susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/ Or the soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994).

Characteristic	Details
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that three minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area which is legislated by the <i>RIWI Act 1914</i> . The mapped groundwater salinity is 3,000-7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There were no conservation significant flora recorded in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2023). There are two records of Priority flora species located within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). However, it is unlikely these species would occur within the application area habitat is unlikely to be present (Botanica Consulting, 2023; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).
Ecological communities	The application area is not located within any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Botanica Consulting, 2023; GIS Database). The closest record is located approximately 47 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There were no conservation significant fauna recorded in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2023). There are three records of Malleefowl within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). However, the habitats within the application area are likely marginal and unsuitable for breeding, this species may occur as a transient only (Botanica Consulting, 2023).

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating

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.



Figure 1. Vegetation community DD-AOW1 *Acacia* sparse woodland



Figure 2. Vegetation community QRP-AFW1 *Allocasuarina* woodland



Figure 3. Vegetation community QRP-AOW1 *Acacia* open woodland



Figure 4. Vegetation community CLP-CS1 Chenopod shrubland



Figure 5. Vegetation community RH-AOW1 *Acacia* open woodland



Figure 6. Vegetation mapping of the application area

Appendix D. Sources of information

1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

2. References

- Botanica Consulting (2023) Wallbrook Project Reconnaissance Flora and Basic Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Northern Star Resources Ltd, June 2023.
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2023) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 30 August 2023).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2023) 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 31 August 2023).
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Northern Star (2023a) CPS 3202/4 – 2023 Annual Clearing Report. Unpublished report prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by Northern Star Resources Limited. July 2023.
- Northern Star (2023b) Wallbrook Project CPS 3202/4 Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Amendment Supporting Document, July 2023.
- Pringle, H J, Gilligan, S A, and van Vreeswyk, A M. (1994), *An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 87.
- 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.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 1 September 2023).

3. 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)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)

DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
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.