

# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

# 1. Application details

#### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3547/5

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML 70/244)

Iron Ore (McCamey's Monster) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Special Lease for Mining Operations, I 126948, Lot 32 on Deposited Plan 217524, Lot 39 on Deposited Plan 194318

Miscellaneous Licence 52/108 Miscellaneous Licence 52/109

Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Jimblebar No. 2 Spur

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of:

295 Mechanical Removal Construction and maintenance of railways, bores, water

pipelines, power lines and other associated

infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 22 October 2020

### 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

29: Sparse low woodland; Mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups;

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*; and

216: Low woodland; mulga (with spinifex) on rises (GIS Database).

There have been numerous flora and vegetation surveys undertaken across the amendment area and surrounding area since 2009 (BHP Billiton, 2019). The following vegetation associations have been identified within the permit area:

#### Acacia High Shrubland

FP Aa Ch TtCfAco - High Shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Aristida contorta* on red loamy sand on floodplains; and

FP AaAscAan Tp - High Shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* over Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* on red brown sandy loam on floodplains and drainage lines.

### Acacia Low Open Woodland

FP AaAciApr AsyAscAb Tp - Low Open Woodland of Acacia aptaneura, Acacia citrinoviridis and Acacia pruinocarpa over Open Shrubland of Acacia synchronicia, Acacia sclerosperma subsp. sclerosperma and Acacia bivenosa over Very Open Hummock Grassland of Triodia pungens on red brown clay loam on floodplains and medium drainage lines; and

FP AaAprCh EfrAteDpe AinCfAco - Low Open Woodland of Acacia aptaneura, Acacia pruinocarpa and Corymbia hamersleyana with Open Shrubland of Eremophila fraseri, Acacia tetragonophylla and Dodonea petiolaris over Tussock Grassland of Aristida inaequiglumis, Chrysopogon fallax and Aristida contorta on red sandy loam on floodplains.

### **Acacia Low Woodland**

FP AcaAaEx Eff Tp - Low Woodland of Acacia catenulata subsp. occidentalis, Acacia aptaneura and Eucalyptus xerothermica over Open Shrubland of Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii over Open Hummock Grassland of Triodia pungens on red sandy loam on floodplains; and

FP AciChAa AanApyPl TtAinCc - Low Woodland of *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Acacia aptanerua* over High Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida inaequiglumis* and \*Cenchrus ciliaris on brown sandy loam on floodplains and medium drainage lines.

#### **Acacia Shrubland**

MI AmoAanPI ChEI TtAin - Shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* with Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Aristida inaequilatera* on red loamy sand on minor drainage lines.

#### Corymbia Low Open Woodland

MI CcAa CcCs Tb - Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia candida* subsp. *dipsodes* and *Acacia aptaneura* over Open Tussock Grassland of \*Cenchrus ciliaris and \*Cenchrus setiger and Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* on red brown loam on floodplains and minor drainage lines; and

SP ChEoCd AanApaAad TbTscTs - Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Eucalyptus odontocarpa* and *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia pachyacra* and *Acacia adsurgens* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii*, *Triodia schinzii* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill on red brown sandy loam on footslopes and stony plains.

#### Themeda Tussock Grassland

ME TtCfEa ExEvCh PlApaApy - Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Eulalia aurea* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and Shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia pachyacra* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* on red sandy loam on medium drainage lines; and

MI TtCobEmu ChEg GwPlEt - Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Cymbopogon obtectus* and *Eriachne mucronata* with Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over High Open Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Eremophila tietkensii* on red loamy sand on minor drainage lines.

10b - Open Woodland of Eucalyptus kingsmillii subsp. kingsmillii and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia over Tall Open Scrub of Acacia monticola, Santalum lanceolatum and Androcalva luteiflora over Tussock Grassland of Themeda triandra and Eulalia aurea and Open Hummock Grassland of Triodia epactia.

### Triodia Hummock Grassland

FP Tb AaApr Eff - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Open Shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* on red sandy loam on floodplains:

FP Tp EtEg AbAanPI - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Very Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalva* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* on red brown loam on un-incised drainage tracts on stony plains;

HC TsTp EkEg - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill and *Triodia pungens* with Very Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus kingsmillii* subsp. *kingsmillii* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* on red sandy loam on hill slopes and hill crests:

HS Tb El AbAiPl - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* on red brown sandy loam on hill slopes;

HS TpTs CdEl AanAbAte - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tenuissima* on red loamy sand on hill slopes and footslopes;

HS Ts - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) on red brown sandy loam on hill slopes;

HS TsTwTp ElCh AhiAad - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia* wiseana and *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia hilliana* and *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxa* on red brown sandy loam on hill slopes;

HS Tw EIChHc AanAbAa - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Hakea chordophylla* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia aptaneura* on red sandy loam on hill slopes;

HS TwTs HcAbGw AptAhi - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with Open Shrubland of *Hakea chordophylla*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia pytchophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* on red brown sandy loam on upper hill slopes and hill crests:

MI TsTp AanAmoGw - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) and *Triodia* pungens with Shrubland of Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia monticola and Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula on brown sandy loam on minor drainage lines;

SA Tb ChEg SpBeKp - Hummock Grassland of Triodia basedowii with Low Open Woodland of Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus gamophylla over Low Open Shrubland of Scaevola parvifolia, Bonamia erecta and Kennedia prorepens on red loamy sand on sand plains;

SP TpTb Eg PlAbAan - Hummock Grassland of Triodia pungens and Triodia basedowii with Open Mallee of Eucalyptus gamophylla and Shrubland of Petalostylis labicheoides, Acacia bivenosa and Acacia ancistrocarpa on red brown loamy sand on stony plains and footslopes;

SP TpTwTs EfrSgpSao - Hummock Grassland of Triodia pungens, Triodia wiseana and Triodia sp. Shovelanna Hill with Open Shrubland of Eremophila fraseri, Senna glutinosa subsp. pruinosa and Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla on red brown loamy sand on stony plains and hill slopes;

3a - Low Open Woodland of Hakea lorea subsp. Iorea and Corymbia aspera over Scattered Tall Shrubs of Acacia pruinocarpa over Hummock Grassland of Triodia schinzii and Scattered herbs of Bonamia rosea and Duperreya commixta;

3c - Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Scattered Tall Shrubs of Acacia *pruinocarpa* and *A. aptaneura* over Low Open Shrubland of *A. hilliana* and *A. adoxa* var. *adoxa* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii*: and

FS Ts CdHc AancAiGrwh - Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola* and *Hakea chordophylla* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia inaequilatera* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* on red brown sandy loam on footslopes and stony plains.

#### \*Cenchrus Tussock Grassland

MA CcTtEua ChCa AbAtpAss - Tussock Grassland of \*Cenchrus ciliaris, Themeda triandra and Eulalia aurea with Low Open Woodland of Corymbia hamersleyana and Corymbia aspera over High Open Shrubland of Acacia bivenosa, Acacia tumida var. pilbarensis and Acacia sclerosperma subsp. sclerosperma on brown loamy sand on levee banks of major drainage lines.

#### Acacia Open Shrubland

MI AtpPIAm TpTs ChEII - Open Scrub of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Acacia monticola* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S.van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* on red brown sandy loam on minor drainage lines.

#### Acacia Tall Open Scrub

10b - This is a mosaic of two vegetation associations: 11a: Tall scrub of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. disctylophleba*, *Grevillea wickhamii* and *A. inaequilatera* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii*, and *T.* sp. Shovellana Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Paraneurachne muelleri* which occurs as a mosaic with vegetation association 5a.5a: Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Santalum lanceolatum* and *A. bivenosa* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *T. basedowii* and Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*.

#### Triodia Open Hummock Grassland

HS TpTb EllAaAQcao SesSeglErcu - Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia basedowii* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia, Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* over Open Shrubland of *Senna stricta, Senna glutinosa* subsp. x *luerssenii* and *Eremophila cuneifolia* on orange sandy loam on hill slopes.

\*denotes introduced species.

# **Clearing Description**

Jimblebar No. 2 Spur Project.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 295 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,816 hectares, for the purposes of construction and maintenance of railways, bores, water pipelines, power lines and other associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 16 kilometres east of Newman, within the Shire of East Pilbara.

### **Vegetation Condition**

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

to

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

#### Comment

Clearing permit CPS 3547/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 4 March 2010 and was valid from 3 April 2010 to 3 April 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 295 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,017 hectares, for the purpose of railway construction and maintenance, and associated works.

CPS 3547/2 was granted on 27 November 2014, amending the authorised purpose of clearing to construction and maintenance of railways, water pipelines, power lines and other associated infrastructure, and extending the permit duration to 30 November 2026. There was no change to the amount of clearing authorised or the permit boundary.

CPS 3547/3 was granted on 17 November 2016, increasing the size of the permit boundary from approximately 1,017 hectares to approximately 1,195 hectares. There was no change to the amount of clearing authorised.

CPS 3547/4 was granted on 18 April 2019, increasing the size of the permit boundary from approximately 1,195 hectares to approximately 1,816 hectares. There was no change to the amount of clearing authorised.

On 19 August 2020, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 3547/4 to extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 30 November 2030 and extend the permit duration to 30 November 2035. The amount of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries are to remain unchanged.

# 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

#### Comments

The permit holder has applied to amend the clearing permit to extend the permit duration by nine years, as the project is ongoing. The size of the area approved to clear (295 hectares), and the permit boundaries remain unchanged. The amendment is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing (GIS Database).

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.

#### Methodology

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

### Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

#### Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2005/006) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). 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.

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.

The amendment application was advertised on 7 September 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

#### 4. References

BHP Billiton (2019) Application to Amend NVCP CPS 3547/2 Jimblebar No. 2 Spur. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Amendment Application Supporting Document. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, February 2019.

DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <a href="http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/">http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/</a> (Accessed 13 October 2020).

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

# 5. Glossary

#### **Acronyms:**

BC Act Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Western Australia
BoM Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government

DAA Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)

DAFWA Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)

DAWE Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government

DBCA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

DEC Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)

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)

Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DAWE)

Dobe 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

**DSEWPaC** Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DAWE)

**DWER** Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia

EPA Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPA Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia

EPBC Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)

GIS Geographical Information System
ha Hectare (10,000 square metres)

IBRA Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

**IUCN** International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the

World Conservation Union

PEC Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia

RIWI Act Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia

TEC Threatened Ecological Community

### **Definitions:**

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

# T Threatened species:

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

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

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

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

#### CR Critically endangered species

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

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

### EN Endangered species

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

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

### VU Vulnerable species

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

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

### **Extinct Species:**

### EX Extinct species

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

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

# EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

### **Specially protected species:**

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

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

# MI Migratory species

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

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

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

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

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

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

# OS Other specially protected species

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

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

## P Priority species:

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

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

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

# P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species

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

### P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species

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

# P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

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

#### P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring

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

# **Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare 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 clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.