



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	3560/6
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Paddington Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	7 February 2023
Application area:	300 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 24/170
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name:	Enterprise Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Paddington Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 300 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 819 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The proposed clearing is located approximately 52 kilometres northwest of the city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Clearing permit CPS 3560/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 25 March 2010 and was valid from 24 April 2010 to 24 April 2015. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 100 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 713 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

CPS 3560/2 was granted on 13 October 2011, amending the permit to increase the area authorised to clear from 100 hectares to 200 hectares. The permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 3560/3 was granted on 8 January 2015, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 24 April 2018. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 3560/4 was granted on 12 May 2016, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing from 200 to 300 hectares and increase the clearing permit boundary from 713 to 819 hectares.

CPS 3560/5 was granted on 29 March 2018, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 24 April 2023. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 7 February 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 3560/5 to extend the permit duration to 24 April 2027. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	7 March 2023
Decision area:	300 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 7 February 2023. DMIRS advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 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 results of a previous flora and vegetation survey and malleefowl 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 standard and non-standard management conditions.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that the proposed clearing will be conducted in a manner in which existing areas of disturbance area utilised wherever possible (Paddington, 2023). The applicant also stated that minimising the requirement to clear vegetation is considered in project planning stages (Paddington, 2023).

The applicant adequately demonstrated that 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 2022, 265.28 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared pursuant to clearing permit 3560/5 (Paddington Gold, 2021; 2022). The proposed amendment involves extending the period in which clearing is authorised by a further four years, until 24 April 2027 to complete the mining activities at the Enterprise Project. No changes are proposed to the area or amount of authorised clearing.

No new biological information has been provided in support of the amendment application. A number of flora and vegetation and fauna surveys have previously been undertaken over the application area. These include GHD (2009), Botanica (2015), and Terrestrial Ecosystems (2018). There is potential that some environmental values may have changed since these surveys were undertaken. Therefore any future amendments will require new flora and fauna surveys.

The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora. Priority flora species *Notisia intonsa* (S.Moore) P.S.Short (previously named *Gnephosis intonsa*) was identified within the application area (Botanical Consulting, 2015). This species was previously listed as a Priority 1 species but has since been reclassified as a Priority 3 species. There are 26 records of this species scattered across five Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Regions, a few of those records are located within protected areas (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Approximately 12 dead individuals were identified within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2015). It is unlikely that the proposed amendment will have a significant impact on the conservation status of this species.

A Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) (VU) survey conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2018) identified 12 inactive malleefowl mounds within the application area. One of those mounds was considered to be an active mound during February 2018, but it was later reclassified as an inactive mound on November 2018 (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2018). The results from the malleefowl survey indicate that the application area contains suitable breeding habitat for malleefowl and that malleefowl are present in the area, however there is limited evidence of malleefowl breeding within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2018). Impacts to malleefowl and malleefowl breeding habitat can be managed by placing a fauna condition on the clearing permit to conduct malleefowl surveys prior to conducting any clearing and placing a buffer around any malleefowl mounds recorded.

Noting that the application area contains ephemeral drainage lines (GIS Database) and that vegetation associated with a watercourse could be cleared, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f). The impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse from the proposed clearing can be managed by a watercourse management condition. This condition requires the permit holder to avoid clearing riparian vegetation and maintaining water flows.

The application area does not contain, or form a part of any mapped threatened or priority ecological communities (Botanica Consulting, 2015; GIS Database). At the bioregion (Coolgardie) and local (20 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area) scale, over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The nearest conservation area is located over 20 kilometres (west) of the application area (GIS Database) and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impacts surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principles (b) and (f) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the permit area, are well represented in surrounding areas and the region remains largely uncleared (Botanica Consulting, 2015; GIS Database). The four

year extension of duration is unlikely to result any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

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 differs from the assessment contained in all previous versions of the decision report.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 20 February 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 are two native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. 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, 2023). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

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 mining developments (GIS Database). The dominant land uses of the Eastern Goldfields subregion are pasture land (38 per cent), Nature Reserves (4.5 per cent) with the remaining areas used for mining, exploration activities and freehold (Botanica Consulting, 2015).
Ecological linkage	The application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is no located within any mapped conservation areas (GIS Database). The closest conservation area is Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve located approximately 20 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: 2901: Mosaic: Medium woodland; <i>Allocasuarina cristata</i> & goldfields blackbutt Shrublands; <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> thicket; (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during December, 2015. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area in two different landforms (Botanica Consulting, 2015):</p> <p>Clay-Loam Plain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eucalypt Woodlands (CLP-EW1): Low woodland <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloial</i> <i>E. transcontinentalis</i> over low scrub of <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>/ <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> subsp. <i>spathulata</i>/ <i>Maireana georgei</i> on clay-loam plain; • Eucalypt Woodlands (CLP-EW2): Forest of <i>Eucalyptus ravida</i> over open low scrub of <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> and low heath of <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i>/ <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on clay-loam plain;

Characteristic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casuarina Forests and Woodlands/Eucalypt Woodlands (CLP-CFW/EW1): Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i>/ <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> over low scrub of <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>/ <i>Eremophila pustulata</i>/ <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Acacia erinacea</i>/ <i>Olearia muelleri</i> on undulating clay loam plain; and • Mallee Woodlands and Shrublands (CLP-MWS1): Open tree mallee of <i>Eucalyptus ebbanoensis</i> subsp. <i>ebbanoensis</i> over scrub of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>/ <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Olearia muelleri</i>/ <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on clay-loam plain. <p>Rocky Hillslope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acacia Forests and Woodlands (RH-AFW1): Low woodland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>/ <i>A. quadrimarginea</i> over low scrub of <i>Eremophila granitica</i>/ <i>Melaleuca hamata</i> and open dwarf scrub of <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> on rocky hillslope; • Casuarina forests and Woodlands (RH-CFW1): Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over low scrub of <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>/ <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and open dwarf scrub of <i>A. erinacea</i>/ <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>/ <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> on rocky hillslope; • Eucalypt Woodlands (RH-EW1): Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus clelandii</i> over low scrub of <i>Acacia erinacea</i>/ <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> and open dwarf scrub of <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>/ <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> on rocky hillslope; • Mallee Woodlands and Shrublands (RH-MWS1): Open tree mallee of <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> over low woodland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i>/ <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>/ <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Olearia muelleri</i>/ <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> rocky hillslope; and • Mallee Woodlands and Shrublands (RH-MWS2): Tree mallee of <i>Eucalyptus flavida</i> over heath of <i>Eremophila pustulata</i> and dwarf scrub of <i>Westringia rigida</i> on rocky hillslope.
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica Consulting, 2015) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good (Keighery, 1994) condition.</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B Error! Reference source not found.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with an average annual rainfall (Ora Banda station) of 241.4 millimetres (BoM, 2023).
Soil description	The soils within the application area is mapped as soil units SV15 and BB5 (GIS Database). Soil unit SV15 is described as salt lakes and their associated areas: common soils are gypseous and saline loams together with gypseous and saline soils on the lake beds. Associated are sandy red earths on lunettes (Northcote et al., 1960-68). Soil unit BB5 is described as rocky ranges and hills of greenstones - basic igneous rocks: chief soils seem to be shallow calcareous loamy soils, with shallow brown and grey-brown calcareous earths below which weathered rock occurs at shallow depths. Associated soils are not described but may include alkaline red earths (Northcote et al., 1960-68).
Land degradation risk	The soils mapped within the application area are mildly susceptible to erosion. Given the proposed clearing is for mining purposes and includes expanding an open pit, waste rock stockpile and associated infrastructure, most of the clearing will not be susceptible to wind erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several 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 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as highly saline (GIS Database).
Flora	The flora survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2015) identified one Priority 3 flora species within the application area.
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any mapped Priority of Threatened Ecological Communities (Botanica Consulting, 2015; GIS Database).
Fauna	Available databases show several records of malleefowl (VU) within the application area (GIS Databases). Terrestrial Ecosystems (2018) conducted a malleefowl survey which identified 12 inactive malleefowl mounds within the application area.

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix C - References and databases

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

BoM (2023) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed on 21 February 2023).

Botanica Consulting (2015) Level 1 Flora & Vegetation Survey of the Enterprise Stage 4 Tenement: M24/170. Report prepared for Norton Gold Fields Limited, by Botanica Consulting, December 2015.

- 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 22 February 2023).
- GHD (2009) Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, Enterprise Development Activities Flora and Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, by GHD Pty Ltd, 2009.
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Paddington (2021) Paddington Gold Clearing Permit Reports 2020/2021. Report prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, July 2021.
- Paddington (2022) Paddington Gold Clearing Permit Reports 2021/2022, Report prepares for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by Paddington Gold Pty Ltd. July 2022.
- Paddington (2023) Enterprise project application for clearing permit within Mining Lease M 24/170. Paddington Gold Pty Ltd, January 2023.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2018) Annual Malleefowl Survey – Enterprise, Carbine and Golden Cities, December 2018.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 21 February 2023).

• Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Western Australia</i>
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, Western Australia</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)</i>
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, Western Australia</i>
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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.