Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3805/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

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

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Rhodes Ridge) Authorisation Agreement Act 1972,* Temporary Reserve (TR70/4192)
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5		Mechanical Removal	Creating a Borrow Pit

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 Beard Vegetation Association 18: low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*), and Vegetation Association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* (Shepherd, 2007).

A flora survey was conducted over the application area in November 2004 and September 2008. The surveys identified 5 vegetation types (Rio Tinto, 2008)

1. Flow lines
- *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *C. deserticola*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* low open forest over *Acacia tumida*, *A. ancistrocarpa*, *A. dictyophleba* high shrubland over *Gastrolobium grandiflorum*, *Rulingia luteiflora* shrubland over *Keraudrenia velutina*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low shrubland over *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax* tussock grassland over *Paraneurachne muelleri* very open bunch grass.

2. Slopes
- *Corymbia deserticola*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* low woodland over *Acacia inaequilatera*, *A. pruinosa*, *A. aneura* high shrubland over *Acacia hamersleyensis*, *A. bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland.

3. Flats
- *Corymbia deserticola*, *Acacia pruinosa*, *A. aneura* low woodland over *Senna glutinosa*, *Eremophila forestii* open *shrubland* over *Triodia melvillei* hummock grassland.

4. Slight Lower Slope
- *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *E. deserticola*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* low woodland over *Acacia rhodophloia*, *A. pruinosa*, *A. aneura* high open shrubland over *Eremophila exilis*, *Acacia adoxa* low open shrubland over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland over *Amphipogon caricinus* very open tussock grassland.

Clearing Description

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has applied to clear 5 hectares within a total of 36.7 hectares for the purpose of creating a borrow pit. Clearing will be via bulldozer with the blade down, and vegetation will be stockpiled and used for rehabilitation.

The study area is located 45 kilometres north-west of Newman. The study area is one area (36.7 hectares) adjacent to the Great Northern Hwy, approximately 3.5 kilometres south-west of the Roads Ridge Camp.

Vegetation Condition

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

Comment

Vegetation condition was assessed by Rio Tinto (2008) as in very good condition using the Trudgen scale. This is described as 'Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by the activities of European man. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds such as **Ursinia anthemoides* or **Briza spp.*, or occasional vehicle tracks'. This description, and photography supplied by Rio (2008) suggest the vegetation could be ranked as Excellent using the Keighery (1994) scale.

5. Stoney Slope

- *Corymbia deserticola*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* low open forest over *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. bivenosa*, *A. rhodophloia* high shrubland over *Senna glutinosa* open shrubland over *Corchorus lasiocarpus* low scattered shrubs over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland over *Amphipogon caricinus* grassland.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area occurs within the Hamersley (PIL3) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) sub-region of the Pilbara region (GIS Database). This sub-region is characterised by Mulga low woodland over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors, and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002).

A vegetation survey within and adjacent to the study area conducted by Rio Tinto identified 250 plant taxa from 110 plant genera and 47 families (Rio Tinto, 2008). This is indicative of species richness in a broader context of the surrounding area, and is considered within the expected range for the Hamersley sub-region (Rio Tinto, 2008). No Declared Rare Flora, Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were located found within the application area. Based on this information it is not expected that the biological diversity in the application area is greater than the surrounding area.

Rio Tinto (2010) reported that the vegetation of the application area was generally in very good condition, with only minor previous disturbance from historical exploration evident. The application area is not located within any pastoral leases and therefore would not have been exposed historic degradation from grazing (GIS Database).

No fauna species of conservation significance and no weed species were recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2008).

The application area is broadly described as Beard Vegetation Associations, 18 and 82, which are well represented within the Hamersley sub-region (GIS Database).

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

Methodology

CALM (2002).
Rio Tinto (2008).
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

During a flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted in September 2008 no conservation significant species were recorded (Rio Tinto, 2008). Rio Tinto conducted a search of Department of Environment and Conservation's Threatened and Priority Fauna Database and identified 8 conservation significant fauna species that may be present within the application area. These included: Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*), Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), Blind Snake (*Ramphotyphlops ganei*), Pilbara Orange Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantius*), Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*), Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*), Star Finch (*Neochina ruficanda subclarescens*) and Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*). Of these, the Western Pebble-mound Mouse is considered most likely to occur within the application area.

The Western Pebble-mound Mouse (Priority 4) is widely represented in this region and occurs throughout the central and eastern Pilbara (CALM, 2002). Due to the widespread distribution of this species and the extent of native vegetation that is available for this species in the bioregion, it is considered that the habitat within the application area is not significant for this species and its conservation status is unlikely to be affected by the proposed clearing.

The vegetation and landscape types within the application area are considered to be widely represented in the Hamersley sub-region (GIS Database; Rio Tinto, 2008). While fauna species may utilise the application area while foraging, it is unlikely that the application area would contain den habitat as no restricted fauna or significant habitat features, such as permanent water, gorges and caves, were observed within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2008).

The relatively small scale of the proposed clearing (5 hectares) is considered to represent a low risk of

significant impact to fauna that may traverse the area.

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

Methodology CALM (2002).
Rio Tinto (2008).
GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, there are no populations of Declared Rare Fauna (DRF) occur within the application areas (GIS Database). The closest Declared Rare or Priority Flora (*Lepidium catapycnon*) is located approximately 4 kilometres west of the application area. The presence of the DRF was confirmed by Rio Tinto (2008).

Rio Tinto (2008) conducted a flora survey of the application area in April 2008. The flora survey of the application area recorded no DRF species (Rio Tinto, 2008). Vegetation within the application is typical of the Hamersley sub-region and is representative of the greater Pilbara region (GIS Database; Rio Tinto, 2008). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of rare flora.

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

Methodology Rio Tinto (2008).
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora Listing
- Pre-European Vegetation

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases (GIS Database), no Threatened Ecological Communities occur within the application area. The closest Threatened Ecological Community is identified to occur approximately 28 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database).

A vegetation survey conducted by Rio Tinto (2008) did not locate any Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area.

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

Methodology Rio Tinto (2008).
GIS Database
- Threatened Ecological Sites
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
The application area is located within the Pilbara IBRA Bioregion (GIS Database). Shepherd (2007) report that approximately 99.9% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Pilbara Bioregion. The vegetation in the application area is broadly mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 18: low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*), and Vegetation Association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* (Shepherd, 2007). According to Shepherd (2007) approximately 99.9% of this vegetation type remaining in Beard Vegetation Assocaition18 and approximately 100% in Beard Vegetation Association 82 (see table below).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,804,189	17,794,647	99.9	Least Concern	6
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,305	19,890,195	99.9	Least Concern	2
82	2,565,901	2,565,901	100	Least Concern	10
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	676,557	676, 557	100	Least Concern	17
82	2,563,583	2,563,583	100	Least Concern	10

* Shepherd (2007)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

The vegetation under application is not a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002).
Shepherd (2007).
GIS Databases:
- IBRA (Regions - SubRegions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments

Proposal is at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there is one minor ephemeral watercourse within the application area (GIS Database). There is a potential for the clearing of vegetation associated with this minor watercourse within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2008). This minor watercourse only flows after significant rainfall events and remain dry throughout the majority of the year. No wetlands and major watercourses are present within the application area (GIS Database).

Analysis of aerial photography revealed that there are many minor drainage lines within the application area, channelling surface water into the Weeli Wolli Creek and eventually the Fortescue River (GIS Database). According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the application area receives a low average annual rainfall of approximately 310.2 millimetres per year, with most rain events occurring between December - March (BoM, 2010). These rainfall events are most likely to be a result of cyclonic or thunderstorm activity and are likely to be brief but heavy. As a result the drainage lines in the application area would only experience water flow during these times of intense rainfall and would remain dry for the majority of the year.

The proposed application area occurs approximately 73 kilometres from the Fortescue River (GIS Database). It is not expected that the proposed clearing will significantly impact the riparian vegetation within this river system.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. However, the clearing of vegetation within the minor watercourse or drainage lines is not expected to significantly impact downstream environmental values.

Methodology Rio Tinto (2008).
BoM (2010).
GIS Database:
- Ophthalmia 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Hydrography, Linear
- Hydrography, Linear (Heirarchy)

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Boolgeeda and Newman Land System (GIS Database). The Boolgeeda Land system is described by Van Vreeswyk (2004) as stoney lower slopes and plains below hills supporting hard and soft Spinifex grasslands and mulga shrublands. The Newman Land System is described by Van Vreeswyk (2004) as ruggered jaspilite plateaux, ridges and mountains supporting hard Spinifex grasslands. Van Vreeswyk (2004) describes both of these systems as not generally being susceptible to vegetation degradation and erosion. Rio Tinto (2008) report that the land system is able to withstand massive rainfall events on an annual basis without any appreciable increase in land degradation or erosion (Rio Tinto, 2008).

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

Methodology

Van Vreeswky et al (2004).
Rio Tinto (2008).
GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, no conservation areas exist within a close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, the vegetation within the application areas does not contribute to any environmental values of any adjacent conservation reserves, nor would it provide a buffer or ecological linkage to any adjacent conservation areas.

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

Methodology

GIS Database:
- DEC Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application does not occur within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database).

The application area occurs within the Pilbara Groundwater Areas as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction within the proclaimed area is subject to licensing by the Department of Water (DoW, 2009). The removal of 5 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to significantly impact on the level or quality of groundwater in the area.

Any interference with the bed and banks of a watercourse in this proclaimed area will require a permit (DoW, 2009).

One minor ephemeral watercourse occurs within the application area, which is part of the Upper Fortescue River catchment area (GIS Database). This watercourse is only likely to flow following periods of intense rainfall associated with cyclonic or thunderstorm activity. The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on the quality of surface water.

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

Methodology

DoW (2009).
GIS Database:
- Public Drinking Water Source Area
- Hydrography, Linear
- Hydrography, Linear (Heirarchy)

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is characterised by an arid, tropical climate with a wet summer season and a dry season (BoM, 2010). Most rainfall is received during the wet season, but falls can be variable (BoM, 2010). Rain can either be sporadic (local thunderstorms), or heavy and intense (cyclonic events). It is likely that during times of intense rainfall there may be some localised flooding in adjacent areas. However, the small area to be cleared (5 hectares) in relation to the size of the catchment area (2,975,200 hectares; GIS Database) is not likely to lead to an increase in flood height or duration within the application area.

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

Methodology BoM (2010).
GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

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

Comments

There is one native title claim over the area under application; WAD 6280_98 (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the tenement has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (ie. 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 (GIS Database). There are 13 sites within close proximity. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 28 June 2010 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to the application.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

This application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

5. References

BoM (2010) Climate Averages - Newman. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_007151.shtml. Accessed 8/7/10. Bureau of Meteorology.

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western's 53 Biogeographical Sub-regions. Department of Environment and Conservation.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

DoW (2009) Pilbara Water in Mining Guidelines. Department of Water.

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

Rio Tinto (2008) Botanical Survey for a Proposed Site for a Borrow Pit to Sheet Road. Unpublished report prepared by Rio Tinto Pty Ltd.

Shepherd, D.P. (2007) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

Van Vreeswyk A.M.E., Payne A.L., Leighton K.A. & Hennig P. (2004) Technical Bulletin No. 92: An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

6. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government.
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.
DA	Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

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

Definitions:

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

P1 **Priority One - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.

P4 **Priority Four – Rare taxa**: taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.

R **Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa** *(= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable)*: taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P2 **Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest,

vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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