



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3889/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Dampier Salt Limited**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mineral Lease 253 SA (AML70/253)
Dampier Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1967
Local Government Area: Shire of Roebourne
Colloquial name: Dampier Salt Operations – Borrow Pit

1.4. Application

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

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
<p>Beard Vegetation Associations have been mapped at a 1:250,000 scale for the whole of Western Australia. One Beard Vegetation Association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):</p> <p>- 589: Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.</p> <p>Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) carried out a flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounding vegetation in October 2005 and July 2006. One vegetation type was identified and mapped within the application area:</p> <p>Coastal Clay-loam Plains (CCLP): The coastal, clay-loam plain vegetation type is characterised by shrubland or scattered shrubs of <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i>, <i>Indigofera trita</i>, <i>I. colutea</i>, <i>I. linifolia</i>, <i>Neobassia astrocarpa</i> and <i>Trianthema turgidifolia</i> over hummock grasslands of either <i>Triodia longiceps</i>, or less commonly, <i>T. epactia</i>.</p>	<p>Dampier Salt Limited has applied to clear up to 1.86 hectares of native vegetation for the expansion of an existing borrow pit. Borrow material will be used in the construction and maintenance of levee banks and roads within the Dampier Salt mine operation on Mineral Lease 253SA.</p> <p>Vegetation will be cleared using mechanical equipment using blade down technique. Topsoil and vegetative material will be retained and used during rehabilitation of disturbed areas.</p>	<p>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>Vegetation condition has been provided by Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) and through the assessment of photographs and aerial imagery of the application area by the assessing officer.</p> <p>The clearing permit application area is located entirely within an area that was previously approved to clear by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) under Clearing Permit CPS 622/1 (GIS Database). Clearing Permit CPS 622/1 was granted by the DEC on 25 August 2005, however, expired on 1 May 2010. Dampier Salt Limited has applied for a new clearing permit to the Department of Mines and Petroleum to facilitate the expansion of the existing borrow pit.</p>

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 area under application was previously approved to clear under clearing permit CPS 622/1 for the purpose of borrow extraction (GIS Database). Aerial imagery clearly demonstrates that the vegetation within and

adjacent to the application area has been subject to disturbances that includes roads, laydown areas and an extraction site (GIS Database), and as a result the vegetation condition ranges from 'Good' to 'Degraded'.

One vegetation community (Coastal Clay-loam Plains (CCLP)) was recorded within the application area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008a). Vegetation mapping by Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) confirms that this vegetation community has a distribution that extends beyond the application area. No Declared Rare Flora or Threatened Ecological Communities are recorded within the application area and none would be expected to occur (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008a). Two Priority Ecological Communities (PEC's) are known from the plains that surround Karratha and a further two from the Burrup Peninsula (GIS Database). Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) recorded two PEC's during a flora and vegetation survey on Mineral Lease 253SA for the cyclone protection works (CPS 3698/1), however, the vegetation communities within the area under application do not represent either of these PEC's. Three Priority flora species (*Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (Priority 3), *Gomphrena leptophylla* (Priority 3) and *Goodenia nuda* (Priority 4)) were recorded in close proximity to the application area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008a). *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station and *Goodenia nuda* have a broad distribution through the Pilbara bioregion and *Gomphrena leptophylla* has a distribution from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions (Western Australian Herbarium, 2010). A further four Priority flora species, *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (Priority 3), *Terminalia supranitifolia* (Priority 3), *Acacia glaucocaesia* (Priority 3) and *Stackhousia clementii* (Priority 3), have been recorded within a 20 kilometres radius from the application area (GIS Database). The clearing is not likely to impact on the conservation of any of these Priority flora species.

The vegetation under application is not likely to comprise of high biological diversity especially considering the disturbances that have occurred within and in close proximity to the application area.

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a)
Western Australian Herbarium (2010)
GIS Database:
- Clearing Instruments
- Dampier and Extensions 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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**
Biota Environmental Sciences (2008b) conducted fauna surveys in October/November 2005 and September 2006 of an area totalling approximately 4,200 hectares. The area under application is located in the north-eastern portion of this survey area. Based on fauna habitats described by Biota Environmental Sciences (2008b), one main fauna habitat occurs within the application area; 'Low-lying saline basin, supporting *Tecticornia* low open heath'. This fauna habitat is considered to be widespread and well-represented in the locality (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008b).

Aerial imagery demonstrates that the application area is located adjacent to an existing borrow pit as well as numerous other disturbances such as roads, levee banks and salt crystallisation ponds (GIS Database). Whilst the vegetation within the application area appears mostly to be in 'Good' condition, the vegetation adjacent to the application is considered to be in 'Degraded' condition. The disturbances that have occurred are likely to have reduced the habitat value of the vegetation within and adjacent to the application area, as well as adversely impacted on any fauna corridors or linkages to higher quality vegetation south and east of the application area. The vegetation under application is not likely to support significant habitat for fauna populations.

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2008b)
GIS Database:
- Dampier and Extensions 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available datasets there are no known records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS database). The nearest record of DRF is located approximately 235 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database).

Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) conducted flora and vegetation surveys in October 2005 and July 2006 of an area totalling approximately 4,200 hectares. This survey included the vegetation within the application area.

No Declared Rare Flora (DRF) was recorded during the survey (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008a). There are no historic records of DRF occurring within the application area and none would be expected to occur (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2008a).

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) within the application area (GIS Database).

Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a) identified a single vegetation type within the application area during flora and vegetation surveys in October 2005 and July 2006. This vegetation type did not represent any Threatened Ecological Community listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, or by the Department of Environment and Conservation (Biota Environmental Science, 2010).

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a)
Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
GIS Database:
- 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 bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Shepherd (2007) report that approximately 99.9% of the pre-European vegetation remains in the Pilbara bioregion.

The vegetation within the application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 589: Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (GIS Database). Approximately 100% of this vegetation association remains within the Pilbara bioregion (see table).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	% of Pre-European area in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,804,164	17,794,164	~99.9	Least Concern	6.3
Beard vegetation associations - WA					
589	809,754	809,637	~100	Least Concern	1.6
Beard vegetation associations - Pilbara Bioregion					
589	730,718	730,683	~100	Least Concern	1.8

* 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 Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions-Sub-regions)
- 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no permanent freshwater watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database; Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010). According to available datasets there are no minor, non-perennial watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). The area under application is located adjacent to a saline coastal flat which is utilised by Dampier Salt Limited for their salt crystallisation ponds. The saline coastal flat areas in the vicinity of the application area have been highly altered to facilitate the production of salt. Water movement within these areas is controlled by levee banks and pumps. As a result, the vegetation is no longer growing in association with any natural watercourse or wetland.

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
GIS Database:
- Dampier and Extensions 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

According to the available datasets the application area intersects the Cheerawarra and Horseflat Land Systems (GIS Database).

The Cheerawarra Land System is characterised by sandy coastal plains and saline clay plains supporting soft and hard spinifex grasslands and minor tussock grasslands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Most units of this land system are highly susceptible to wind erosion if vegetative cover is depleted (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The Horseflat Land System comprises of gilgaied clay plains supporting tussock grasslands and minor grassy snakewood shrublands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Part of this land system is moderately to highly susceptible to erosion if vegetation is depleted, though other units with clay soils and stony mantles are inherently resistant (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The application area intercepts two land systems that are moderately to highly susceptible to erosion if the vegetative cover is removed. There is a risk of wind and/or water erosion occurring should these areas remain exposed and also during the course of the borrow excavation. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a rehabilitation condition.

The application area is not located within an Acid Sulfate Soil risk area (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al., (2004)
GIS Database:
- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Pilbara Coastline
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

(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

There are two un-named Nature Reserves located approximately 15 kilometres north and north west of the application area which are managed for conservation and recreation, and conservation of flora and fauna respectively (GIS Database). These Nature Reserves are located on islands off the coastline and will not be impacted on by the proposed clearing.

The application area is located approximately 22 kilometres north-east of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) managed former Mardie pastoral station (GIS Database). This area is former leasehold which is proposed for conservation. The proposed clearing will not impact on this DEC managed area.

The Millstream-Chichester National Park is located approximately 55 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing will not impact on the environmental values of Millstream-Chichester National Park.

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

There are no permanent freshwater wetlands or watercourses within or adjacent to the application area (GIS Database). There are several minor, non-perennial watercourses proximate to the application area which acts as drainage pathways for overland flows (GIS Database). These watercourses would only support surface water for short periods following significant rainfall events. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of any surface water within or adjacent to the application area.

The application area is situated approximately 2 kilometres east of a tidal flat which is located adjacent to the Indian Ocean (GIS Database). This tidal flat area is located within an inlet which forms part of the Dampier Salt mining operation. Given the proximity to the coast, the tidal areas are likely to be saline (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010). High sediment loads may enter the tidal areas from overland flow events which result following significant rainfall events. The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly increase sediment entering the tidal areas or the Indian Ocean.

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The nearest PDWSA is the Roebourne Water Reserve and Harding Dam Catchment Area which are located approximately 42 kilometres east and south-east of the application area respectively (GIS Database). Given the distance separating the application area and the nearest water supply area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the water quality of the Roebourne Water Reserve and Harding Dam Catchment Area. The proposed clearing is not expected to impact on the quality of underground water.

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs)

(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 located within the Coastal Catchment Area which covers a total area of approximately 744,301 hectares (GIS Database). The application area is located in a low-lying coastal area and is subject to occasional flooding following significant rainfall or cyclonic events. However, the proposed clearing of 1.86 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to significantly impact on the drainage characteristics of the catchment, or the local area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

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

Comments

The clearing permit application area is located entirely within a 33.78 hectare area that was previously approved to clear by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) under Clearing Permit CPS 622/1 (GIS Database). Clearing Permit CPS 622/1 was granted by the DEC on 25 August 2005, however, expired on 1 May 2010. Dampier Salt Limited has applied for a new clearing permit to the Department of Mines and Petroleum to facilitate the expansion of an existing borrow pit.

There is one Native Title Claim (W99/014) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal 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 known Aboriginal Sites of Significance located within the clearing permit application area (GIS Database). 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 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 30 August 2010 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum, inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Native Title Determined
 - Native Title Federal
 - Native Title NNTT
 - Sites of Aboriginal Significance DIA

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (g), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

5. References

- Biota Environmental Sciences (2008a). A Vegetation and Flora Survey of the Proposed Dampier Salt Saltfield Expansion, unpublished report prepared for Dampier Salt Limited, prepared by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd.
- Biota Environmental Sciences (2008b). Dampier Salt Saltfield Expansion Seasonal Fauna Survey, unpublished report prepared for Dampier Salt Limited, prepared by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd.
- Biota Environmental Sciences (2010). Assessment of the Dampier Operations Cyclone Protection Works Against the Ten Clearing Principles, unpublished report for Dampier Salt Limited, prepared by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd.
- 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.
- 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. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.
- Van Vreeswyk A.M.E., Payne A.L., Leighton K.A. and Hennig P. (2004). Technical Bulletin - An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in Pilbara Region, Western Australia, No 92, Department of Agriculture, Government of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia.
- Western Australian Herbarium (2010). Florabase – The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. <<http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/>>.

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.