



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4158/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Warramboos project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Haul road and associated infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 4 August 2011

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009):

583: Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji and *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia wiseana*.

The application area was surveyed by Biota Environmental Sciences staff in September 2010. The following vegetation types were identified within the application area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010):

Minor Drainage Line

GwAiAtuAaTwEUa: *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa* tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland and *Eulalia aurea* open tussock grassland.

Stony Plains

AatAiAaAbTw: *Acacia atkinsiana*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland.

AbAatTw: *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia atkinsiana* scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland.

AbTw: *Acacia bivenosa* scattered low shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland.

ChCzAbAaAiTw: *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Corymbia zygophylla* scattered low trees over *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland.

ChGwAiAaTw: *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees over *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia inaequilatera* tall open shrubland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa* open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland.

Disturbed Areas

Approximately 3.9 hectares of the Warramboos Access area was previously disturbed. This disturbance included small tracks, old and new fence lines and the North West Coastal Highway (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

Clearing Description	<p>Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd is proposing to clear up to 15 hectares of native vegetation within an area of approximately 66.6 hectares to construct a new haul access road and associated infrastructure to enable the continuation of mining activities from Mesa A (Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd, 2010).</p> <p>Vegetation will be cleared using a dozer with a lowered blade. All cleared topsoil and vegetation will be stockpiled for use in rehabilitation.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p style="text-align: center;">to</p> <p>Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	<p>The application area is located in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and is situated approximately 76 kilometres west-north-west of Onslow (GIS Database).</p> <p>The vegetation condition was converted from Trudgen (1988) to Keighery (1994).</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 4158/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 10 February 2011 and was valid from 5 March 2011 to 5 March 2016. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of 9 hectares of native vegetation. An application for an amendment to CPS 4158/1 was submitted by Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd on 27 June 2011. The proponent has requested an amendment to increase the amount of authorised clearing from 9 hectares to 15 hectares. The original permit boundary that was approved under clearing permit CPS 4158/1 will remain the same.</p> <p>Following a review of the environmental values of the area and the proposed additional clearing, it is considered unlikely that there will be any additional environmental impacts from those described during the assessment of Clearing Permit CPS 4158/1.</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	<p>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</p> <p>The application area occurs within the Hamersley (PIL3) sub-region of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This sub-region is characterised by sedimentary ranges and plateaux, dissected by gorges (CALM, 2002). At a broad scale, vegetation can be described as Mulga low woodlands over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors and <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> over <i>Triodia brizoides</i> on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>No weed species were recorded within the application area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. This in turn can lead to greater rates of infestation and further loss of biodiversity if the area is subject to repeated fires. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.</p> <p>The application area intersects a 10 kilometre buffer zone around the Priority Ecological Community (PEC), 'subterranean invertebrate community of pisolitic mesas in the Pilbara' (DEC, 2010; GIS Database). This PEC has been given a status of Priority 1, with threatening processes being listed as mining (DEC, 2007; DEC, 2010). As the proposed clearing will not impact on the hills or mesas within the Pilbara, it is not likely that there will be a significant impact on the PEC from the proposed clearing.</p> <p>Biota Environmental Sciences (2010) identified two fauna habitat types present within the application area and concluded that these fauna habitats are both common and widespread in the Pilbara bioregion. Given that the vegetation and habitats present within the application area are well represented on a regional scale it is unlikely that the 15 hectares applied to be cleared for a haul access road represents significant fauna habitat in a regional context.</p> <p>The vegetation under application is in excellent to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition however no Declared Rare Flora species or Threatened Ecological Communities were recorded from the study area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010) and given the small size of the area to be cleared (15 hectares) it is not likely that the area to be cleared comprises a high level of biological diversity in a regional context.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.</p>
Methodology	<p>Biota Environmental Sciences (2010) CALM (2002) DEC (2007)</p>

DEC (2010)
Keighery (1994)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)
- 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

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation remains within the Pilbara bioregion. Given the extent of native vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the vegetation to be cleared does not represent a significant ecological linkage for fauna.

Biota Environmental Sciences (2010) recorded two broad habitat types as occurring within the application area:

Narrow Drainage Line - this habitat was found where a minor drainage line crossed the southern portion of the Warramboe Access application area and was characterised by a tall shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Acacia* spp. over hummock grassland; and

Stony Plains - This habitat covered the majority of the application area and is characterised by *Acacia* spp. tall open shrubland over *Triodia* open hummock grassland in much of the northern portion and *Corymbia* spp. low trees over *Acacia* spp. and *Grevillea* spp. over open hummock grassland in the southern portion (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

These habitat types are represented widely in the Pilbara region (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

The application area is dissected by the North West Coastal Highway (GIS Database). The habitat within the application area is not likely to be considered significant in either a local or regional context.

All vertebrate species that are likely to occur within the application area are wide-ranging and are unlikely to be impacted on a regional level (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on fauna or the availability of fauna habitat in the local or regional area

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- Road Centrelines

(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 GIS databases there are no known records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS Database).

A flora survey was conducted over the application area by staff from Biota Environmental Sciences on 7-9 September 2010 (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010). No DRF or species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* were recorded within the application area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

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

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
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

A search of available databases reveals that there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest TEC is located approximately 150 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database). At this distance the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on native vegetation that is within or is necessary for the maintenance of the TEC.

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

Methodology 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 falls within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). Shepherd (2009) reports that approximately 99.89% of the pre-European vegetation remains in this bioregion.

The vegetation within the application area is recorded as Beard vegetation association 583 - Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji and *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia wiseana* (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 100% of this Beard vegetation association remains within the Pilbara bioregion (see table below).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,804,193	17,785,001	~99.89%	Least Concern	~6.32%
Beard vegetation associations - State					
583	243,112	243,112	~100%	Least Concern	~35.25%
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
583	243,112	243,112	~100%	Least Concern	~35.25%

* Shepherd (2009)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (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 GIS Databases, there are no permanent wetlands or watercourses within the application area, however there is one non-perennial drainage line within the application area (GIS Database).

Based on vegetation mapping conducted by Biota Environmental Sciences (2010) one of the seven vegetation associations found within the application area is associated with drainage areas. No major watercourses or wetlands were recorded in the survey area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

GwAiAtuAaTWEUa: *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa* tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland and *Eulalia aurea* open tussock grassland (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010).

The riparian vegetation of the application area may be disturbed due to the construction of a haul access road crossing the drainage line which may alter the watercourses natural regime. However, the drainage line has suffered previous disturbance as it is currently bisected by the North West Coastal Highway (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2010). To minimise the impact and ensure the natural water flow is maintained it is recommended that culverts and floodways be installed where access tracks intersect the drainage line.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. However, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the conservation of vegetation growing in association with permanent

watercourses or wetlands due to the absence of these within the application area. The proposed clearing of 15 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to significantly impact on vegetation communities growing in association with this drainage channel. Should any watercourses be disturbed the proponent should liaise with the Department of Water to determine whether a Bed and Banks permit is necessary for the proposed works.

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2010)
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear
- Geodata, Lakes

(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 has been surveyed by the Department of Agriculture and Food (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004) and the application area is mapped as the Peedamulla land system (GIS Database).

The Peedamulla Land System is described as gravelly plains supporting hard spinifex grasslands and minor snakewood shrublands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The soils of this land system are generally not prone to degradation or erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle. Potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a rehabilitation condition.

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database:
- 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

The proposed clearing is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database). The nearest known conservation reserve is the Cane River Conservation Park, located approximately 32 kilometres south (GIS Database). At this distance it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact the environmental values of any conservation area.

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

According to available databases, the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database).

The Pilbara is an arid environment. The drainage line within the application area is ephemeral and surface water runoff is only likely to occur during and immediately following significant rainfall events. The groundwater salinity within the application area is approximately 500 - 1,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). This is considered to be potable water. Given the small size of the area to be cleared (15 hectares) it is not likely that the removal of native vegetation will cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Groundwater Salinity
- 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

There are no permanent watercourses mapped within the application area however there is one minor ephemeral drainage line located within the application area (GIS Database).

Local flooding occurs seasonally in the Pilbara region as a result of cyclonic activity and sporadic thunderstorms and it is likely that the drainage line within the application area would experience seasonal flooding during high rainfall periods, however, it is not likely that the clearing of 15 hectares of vegetation will increase the incidence or intensity of this flooding.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

Clearing permit CPS 4158/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 10 February 2011 and was valid from 5 March 2011 to 5 March 2016. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of 9 hectares of native vegetation. An application for an amendment to CPS 4158/1 was submitted by Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd on 27 June 2011. The proponent has requested an amendment to increase the amount of authorised clearing from 9 hectares to 15 hectares. The original permit boundary that was approved under clearing permit CPS 4158/1 will remain the same.

Following a review of the environmental values of the area and the proposed additional clearing, it is considered unlikely that there will be any additional environmental impacts from those described during the assessment of Clearing Permit CPS 4158/1.

There is one Native Title Claim over the area under application (WC99/12) (GIS Database). The 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 registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the 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.

Clearing Permit CPS 4158/2 was advertised by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 4 July 2011, inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

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

4. References

- Biota Environmental Sciences (2010) Warramboe Access: Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Report. Prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore. Prepared by Biota Environmental Sciences December 2010.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Pilbara 3 (PIL3 - Hamersley subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2007) Definitions, Categories and Criteria for Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities. www.dec.wa.gov.au.
- DEC (2010) Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation. www.dec.wa.gov.au.
- 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd (2010) Clearing Permit Application Supporting Documentation. Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2009) 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.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1988) A Report on the Flora and Vegetation of the Port Kennedy Area. Unpublished report prepared for Bowman Bishaw and Associates, West Perth.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Hennig, P., and Leighton, K.A. (2004) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC), Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
DEP	Department of Environment Protection (now DEC), 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 (now DEC), Western Australia
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources (now DMP), Western Australia
DOLA	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia
DoW	Department of Water
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
RIWI Act	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

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.