



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4242/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964*, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/6178, Document J998595 L, Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 51079; Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Lot 372 on Deposited Plan 35620, Lot 376 on Deposited Plan 54518, pursuant to Section 25(2)(b) of the *Port Authorities Act 1999* (Port Hedland Port Authority).

Local Government Area: Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name: Hunt Point Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
12		Mechanical Removal	Port Infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 12 May 2011

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation association have been mapped at a 1:250,000 scale for the whole of Western Australia. The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as:

Beard vegetation association 117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft Spinifex (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

ENV Australia (2010) conducted a flora survey of the application area and surrounding areas on the 19 August 2010, and described the vegetation communities of the application area as follows:

- 1. Cenchrus Closed Tussock Grassland** – Closed Tussock Grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris* with scattered shrubs of *Acacia stellaticeps* and *A. bivenosa* over scattered herbs of *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis* on orange sand on sandplain;
- 2. Spinifex Open Tussock Grassland** – Open Tussock Grassland of *Spinifex longifolius* and *Cenchrus ciliaris* with shrubland of *Acacia stellaticeps* and *Santalum lanceolatum* over scattered herbs of *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis* and *Ptilotus exaltatus* var. *exaltatus* on foreshore-dunes; and
- 3. Rehabilitated area** – Scattered shrubs of *Acacia ampliceps* and *Casuarina obesa* over scattered Tussock Grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris* on red brown loamy on rehabilitated low hill.

Clearing Description BHP Billiton Iron Ore is proposing to clear up to 12 hectares of native vegetation within a 44 hectare application area, for the Hunt Point Project (BHP Billiton, 2011). The clearing of vegetation is required for the upgrade of roads and tracks, installation of new buildings, car parks and general infrastructure.

The vegetation will be cleared using a bulldozer, grader and manual removal. The vegetation and topsoil will be stockpiled separately for use in rehabilitation.

Vegetation Condition Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994);

To:

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Comment The application area is located in the Roebourne subregion of Western Australia and is situated approximately three kilometres west of the Port Hedland town site (GIS Database).

The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by ENV Australia (2010).

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 Roebourne subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by quaternary alluvial and older colluvial coastal and sub-coastal plains with a grass savannah of mixed bunch and hummock grasses, and dwarf shrub steppe or <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> or <i>A. pyrifolia</i> and <i>A. inaequilatera</i>. Uplands are dominated by <i>Triodia</i> hummock grasslands. Ephemeral drainage lines support <i>Eucalyptus victrix</i> or <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> woodlands. Samphire, <i>Sporobolus</i> and mangal occur on marine alluvial flats and river deltas (CALM, 2001).</p> <p>The vegetation within the application area consists of Beard vegetation association 11, which is common and widespread throughout the Pilbara bioregion with approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database). A search on the Department of Environment and Conservation Declared Rare and Priority Flora databases revealed that no Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species and three Priority species may potentially occur within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2011). A vegetation survey by ENV Australia (2010) on 19 August 2010 of the application area and surrounding vegetation identified 37 species of flora taxa belonging to 33 Genera and 20 Families. No DRF were found and one Priority flora species <i>Tephrosia rosea</i> var. <i>venulosa</i> (Priority one) was found outside the application area. A vegetation survey of the application area by ENV Australia (2010) on 19 August 2010 identified three vegetation communities. The condition of the vegetation types was classified as 'degraded' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded or identified within the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>A total of eight weed species were identified during the field survey (ENV Australia, 2010), with the Prickly Pear (<i>Opuntia stricta</i>) listed as a 'Declared Plant' species under the <i>Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976</i> by the Department of Agriculture and Food. Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.</p> <p>The fauna habitats within the application area are considered to be common and widespread within the subregion and faunal assemblages are unlikely to be different to that found in similar habitat located elsewhere in the region (ENV Australia, 2010). Whilst tidal flats are typically diverse in bird fauna, the limited habitats within the proposed clearing area are not likely to support a higher level of faunal diversity in comparison to surrounding tidal flats which are larger and in better condition. The clearing of 12 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to have a significant impact 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>CALM (2001) DEC (2011) ENV Australia (2010) Keighery (1994) Shepherd (2009) GIS Database: - IBRA WA (regions - subregions) - Pre-European Vegetation - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered</p>

(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	<p>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</p> <p>ENV Australia (2010) conducted a level one fauna survey of the application area on 19 August 2010. There were three broad fauna habitat types recorded within the survey area;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dunes;2. Shorelines; and3. Rehabilitated vegetation. <p>ENV Australia (2010) identified the vegetation condition to be 'degraded' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994). The dune habitat type is considered of low habitat value and is likely to be similar to those found in neighbouring areas due to the availability of similar fauna habitats in the surrounding areas (ENV Australia, 2010). The shoreline habitat type is considered of high value for fauna, and is not well represented in the immediate region (ENV Australia, 2010). The shoreline habitat consists primarily of tidal reef platforms, limestone outcropping and sandy beaches. Vegetation is sparse, consisting of mainly a few scattered <i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i> subsp. <i>brasiliensis</i> and <i>Ptilotus exaltatus</i> var. <i>exaltatus</i> (ENV Australia, 2010). The sandy beaches and tidal reef platforms provide shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for various birds. BHP Billiton (2011)</p>
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state that impacts to the shoreline habitat are expected to be minimal, only involving an upgrade to the existing 4WD track. It is unlikely that the species of conservation significance will be directly affected to a large degree by the clearing of native vegetation in the application area as the proposed amount of native vegetation to be cleared (12 hectares) is small. The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact important habitat for endemic fauna.

There is approximately 99.89% of the pre-European vegetation remaining within the Pilbara bioregion (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database). Given the extent of the native vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the vegetation to be cleared does not represent a significant ecological link.

There are fifty nine conservation significant fauna species listed as either Threatened Species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999* or protected under Western Australian legislation (*Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*), that may potentially occur within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (ENV Australia, 2010). Five conservation significant fauna were recorded in the application area: the Eastern Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*), Eastern Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) and the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). These species can be regarded as possibly utilising the application area for some purpose at times based on habitats present. All of the birds are listed as migratory under the *EPBC Act 1999*. Migratory birds are highly mobile and have a wide distribution; therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact critical feeding or breeding habitat for any migratory species (ENV Australia, 2010).

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

Methodology BHP Billiton (2011)
ENV Australia (2010)
Keighery (1994)
Shepherd (2009)
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 records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS Database). A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation's NatureMap database identified no DRF species as occurring within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2011).

ENV Australia (2010) conducted a vegetation and flora survey of the application area on 19 August 2010. No DRF were recorded within the survey area.

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

Methodology DEC (2011)
ENV Australia (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 the available databases shows that there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) situated within 100 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

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 area falls within the Pilbara IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). Shepherd (2009) reports that approximately 99.89% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in this bioregion.

The vegetation associations within the application area are recorded as:

Beard vegetation association 117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft Spinifex (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 81.70% of the Beard vegetation association 117 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	17,804,193.01	17,785,000.82	~99.89	Least Concern	6.32
Beard vegetation associations - State					
117	919,161.39	871,010.76	~94.76	Least Concern	12.94
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
117	74,557.44	60,911.91	~81.70	Least Concern	11.96

* 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 not likely be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, there are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be growing in association with any watercourse or wetland.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- 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**
The application area is broadly mapped as the Littoral land system (GIS Database).

The Littoral land system is described as bare coastal mudflats with mangroves on seaward fringes, samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches. Approximately 70 percent of the system is tidal flat which supports no vegetation and coastal dunes are highly susceptible to wind erosion if plant cover is lost by fire or other disturbances (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The application area contains Spinifex open tussock grassland which grows over the coastal dunes, where BHP Billiton (2011) have estimated that up to three hectares of coastal dune vegetation will be cleared for an access track.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition to ensure large areas are not exposed of vegetative cover for extended periods.

Methodology BHP Billiton (2011)
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 application area is not located within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is North Turtle Island Nature Reserve, located approximately 56 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database).

Given the distance and water body separating the application area from the North Turtle Island Nature Reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to provide a significant ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor and is not likely to impact the environmental values of the 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

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database).

There are no permanent watercourses or water bodies within the application area (GIS Database). Any surface water within the application area is likely to only remain for short periods following significant rainfall events as the annual evaporation rate exceeds rainfall (BoM, 2011). The proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any surface water within or outside of the application area.

The application area is located within the proclaimed Pilbara groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1994* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water.

Construction water for the project will be sourced from a metered Water Corporation supply (BHP Billiton, 2011). Given the low impact nature of the proposed clearing activities, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any underground water.

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

Methodology BHP Billiton (2011)
BoM (2011)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

(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 experiences an arid (semi-desert) tropical climate with mainly summer rainfall, with an annual average of approximately 310 millimetres per year (CALM, 2001; BoM, 2011). Based on an average annual evaporation rate of 3,200 - 3,600 millimetres (BoM, 2011), any surface water resulting from rainfall events is likely to be relatively short lived.

The small clearing size of 12 hectares in comparison to the size of the Port Hedland Coast catchment area (744,300 hectares) is not likely to lead to an appreciable increase in run off, and subsequently cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding (ENV Australia, 2010).

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

Methodology BoM (2011)
CALM (2001)
ENV Australia (2010)

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

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 March 2011 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to the proposed clearing.

There is one Native Title Claim (WC99/3) 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 two registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (site IDs: 25003 and 17024) (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.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court

4. References

- BHP Billiton (2011) Hunt Point Ancillary Works - Application to clear native vegetation (purpose permit) under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Unpublished report dated February 2011, Western Australia.
- BoM (2011) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Port Hedland Airport, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, viewed 7 April 2011, <http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_004032.shtml>.
- CALM (2001) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Pilbara 4 (PIL4 - Roebourne synopsis), Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2011) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity, Department of Environment and Conservation, viewed 10 April 2011, <<http://naturemap.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.
- ENV Australia (2010) Hunt Point beach flora and vegetation and fauna assessment. Unpublished report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, 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.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A & Hennig, P. (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

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.