



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4394/4  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)  
General Purpose Lease 47/1235  
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara  
Colloquial name: West Angelas Deposit D Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
290		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Exploration, Hydrogeological Drilling, Geotechnical Investigation and Associated Activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 11 June 2015

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description**      **Vegetation Description:**  
Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area:

**18:** Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and  
**82:** Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* (GIS Database).

A Rio Tinto botanist conducted a flora and vegetation survey over the application area in September 2010 (Rio Tinto, 2011). Twenty-seven intact vegetation types were recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2011):

**Vegetation of Plains**

P1: *Acacia aneura*, *Corymbia deserticola* low open forest over *Acacia marramamba*, *Rhagodia eremaea*, *Rhagodia* sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794) open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

P2: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* open scrub over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Chrysopogon fallax* scattered tussock grass;

P3: *Acacia aneura*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla*, *Grevillea berryana* low open forest over *Acacia marramamba*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* high open shrubland over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Maireana villosa* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

P4: *Acacia aneura*, *Grevillea berryana* low open forest over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland;

P5: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia ayersiana* low open forest over *Maireana villosa* low open shrubland over *Chrysopogon fallax* very open tussock grassland;

P6: *Acacia catenulata*, *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* low woodland over *Exocarpos sparteus*, *Eremophila fraseri* open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland;

P7: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* low open forest over *Eremophila fraseri* open shrubland over *Eremophila caespitosa* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia melvillei* hummock grassland;

P8: *Acacia aneura* low woodland over *Triodia pungens* scattered hummock grassland over *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax*, *Eriachne benthamii* tussock grassland;

P9: *Acacia aneura* low closed woodland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Chrysopogon fallax* very open tussock grassland;

P10: *Acacia aneura* low open forest over *Senna artemisioides* shrubland over *Eremophila caespitosa* low open

shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland;

P11: *Senna hamersleyensis* low open shrubland over *Eriachne benthamii*, *Aristida latifolia*, *Astrebla ?pectinata* tussock grassland;

P12: *Acacia ayersiana*, *Acacia aneura* open scrub over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland; and

P13: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* open scrub over *Eremophila fraseri* open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland.

#### **Vegetation of Foothills, Rocky Hill Slopes and Crests**

H1: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia ayersiana*, *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Grevillea berryana* low open forest over *Eremophila fraseri* shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland over *Amphipogon caricinus* very open tussock grassland;

H2: *Eucalyptus leucophloia* low woodland over *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia marramamba* shrubland over *Eremophila jucunda* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

H3: *Eucalyptus leucophloia*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* low woodland over *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* high open shrubland over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland;

H4: *Acacia aneura*, *Corymbia ferritcola* low woodland over *Eremophila tietkensis*, *Eremophila latrobei*, *Senna glutinosa* shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland;

H5: *Grevillea berryana* low open woodland over *Acacia marramamba* open shrubland over *Ptilotus rotundifolius* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

H6: *Eucalyptus leucophloia* low open woodland over *Acacia pruinocarpa* high shrubland over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

H7: *Acacia aneura* low woodland over *Acacia marramamba*, *Acacia bivenosa*, *Eremophila fraseri* open shrubland over *Ptilotus rotundifolius*, *Eremophila phyllopoda* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

H8: *Eucalyptus leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Acacia pruinocarpa* high open shrubland over *Acacia bivenosa* shrubland over *Triodia basedowii*, *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland;

H9: *Eucalyptus leucophloia* low open woodland over *Acacia marramamba*, *Acacia tenuissima* open shrubland over *Ptilotus rotundifolius* low open shrubland over *Triodia basedowii*, *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland; and

H10: *Corymbia ferritcola*, *Acacia aneura* low open forest over *Psydrax latifolia*, *Astrotricha hamptonii*, *Acacia marramamba* high open shrubland over *Eremophila tietkensis*, *Hibiscus haynaldii* open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Aristida inaequiglumis*, *Cymbopogon ambiguus*, *Eriachne mucronata* open tussock grassland.

#### **Vegetation of Creeklines**

C1: *Eucalyptus xerothermica* low woodland over *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* open scrub over *Rhagodia eremaea*, *Senna artemisioides*, *Senna oligophylla* shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Eulalia aurea*, *Chrysopogon fallax* very open tussock grassland;

C2: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus victrix* low woodland over *Acacia citrinoviridis* high open shrubland over *Acacia pyrifolia* shrubland over *Tephrosia rosea*, *Corchorus crozophorifolius* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Eriachne tenuiculmis*, *Cymbopogon ambiguus* open tussock grassland;

C3: *Corymbia hamersleyana* low woodland over *Acacia pyrifolia*, *Acacia bivenosa* shrubland over *Ptilotus rotundifolius* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia basedowii* open hummock grassland over *Themeda triandra* very open tussock grassland; and

C4: *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Grevillea wickhamii* low woodland over *Rulingia luteiflora*, *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia pyrifolia* open scrub over *Corchorus lasiocarpus*, *Tephrosia rosea* low open shrubland over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland over *Cymbopogon ambiguus*, *Themeda triandra*, *Eriachne tenuiculmis* open tussock grassland over *Enneapogon lindleyanus* very open bunch grass.

#### **Degraded Vegetation**

D1: *Acacia pruinocarpa* scattered shrubs over *Triodia pungens* scattered hummock grass.

A biological survey of the amendment area (amendment application CPS 4394/2) conducted by Biota (2014) during May 2014 identified one additional vegetation unit:

#### **Vegetation of Stony Hillslopes and Foothills**

G1 - *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees over *Acacia monticola*, *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* tall open scrub over *Themeda triandra* very open tussock grassland and *Triodia pungens* scattered hummock grasses;

and six existing vegetation units;

**C1** - *Acacia aptaneura* low open woodland over *A. citrinoviridis* tall open shrubland over *Themeda triandra* tussock grassland and *Triodia pungens* open hummock grassland;

**H1** - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Acacia maitlandii* scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *T. pungens* open hummock grassland;

**P1** - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *E. gamophylla* scattered low mallees over *Acacia* spp. scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), (*T. pungens*) open hummock grassland;

**P2** - *Acacia aptaneura*, (*A. ayersiana*) low open woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* scattered shrubs over *Triodia pungens* very open hummock grassland;

**P3** - *Acacia aptaneura* low open woodland over *Astrebla* spp., *Aristida* spp. open tussock grassland; and

**P4** - *Acacia pruinocarpa*, (*A. rhodophloia*) scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) open hummock grassland.

A flora and vegetation survey of the amendment area (amendment application CPS 4394/3) conducted by Rio Tinto and Biota Environmental Sciences (Rio Tinto, 2014) during 22 to 23 March 2014 identified seven additional vegetation units:

#### **Vegetation of stony lower slopes**

**S1** - Tall open shrubland of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aptaneura* over open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* over hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;

#### **Vegetation of loam plains**

**P1** - Tall shrubland to tall open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;

**P2** - Tall open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* over open shrubland *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Senna stricta*, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *x sturtii* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila phyllopoda* subsp. *phyllopoda*, *Eremophila caespitosa*, *Sclerolaena eriacantha*, *Sclerolaena cornishiana*, *Maireana georgei* and *Ptilotus roei* over scattered bunched grasses of *Aristida contorta*;

**P3** - Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* over open hummock grassland of *Chrysopogon fallax*, *Enneapogon polyphyllus*, *Themeda triandra* and *Digitaria ctenantha* over mixed herbs and grasses;

#### **Vegetation of clay plains**

**C1** - Tussock grassland to open tussock grassland of *Astrebla pectinata* and *Aristida latifolia*;

#### **Vegetation of drainage lines**

**D1** - Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over open shrubland of *Androcalva luteiflora*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Eremophila longifolia*, *Indigofera georgei* and mixed scattered shrubs over tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax*, *Digitaria ctenantha*, *Enneapogon polyphyllus* and *\*Cenchrus ciliaris* with very open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*; and

**D2** - Tall open mallee shrubland of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over tall shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia tenuissima* over shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Androcalva luteiflora* over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* with very open tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*.

Rehabilitated areas were also noted throughout the amendment area.

A flora and vegetation survey of the amendment area (amendment application CPS 4394/4) conducted by Rio Tinto, and Biota Environmental Sciences (Rio Tinto, 2015) during 22 to 23 March 2014 identified four existing vegetation units:

#### **Vegetation of clay plains**

**C1** - Tussock grassland to open tussock grassland of *Astrebla pectinata* and *Aristida latifolia*;

#### **Vegetation of Stony Hillslopes and Foothills**

**G1** - *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees over *Acacia monticola*, *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* tall open scrub over *Themeda triandra* very open tussock grassland and *Triodia pungens* scattered hummock grasses;

#### **Vegetation of Foothills, Rocky Hill Slopes and Crests**

**H1**: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia ayersiana*, *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Grevillea berryana* low open forest over *Eremophila fraseri* shrubland over *Triodia pungens* hummock grassland over *Amphipogon caricinus* very open tussock grassland;

#### **Vegetation of loam plains**

**P2** - Tall open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* over open shrubland *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Senna stricta*, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *x sturtii* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila phyllopoda* subsp. *phyllopoda*, *Eremophila caespitosa*, *Sclerolaena eriacantha*, *Sclerolaena cornishiana*, *Maireana georgei* and *Ptilotus roei* over scattered bunched grasses of *Aristida contorta*.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	West Angelas Deposit D Project. Robe River Limited proposes to clear 290 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 1740.43 hectares, for the purposes of mineral exploration, hydrogeological drilling, geotechnical investigations and associated activities. The project is located approximately 95 kilometres east of Paraburdoo, in the Shire of East Pilbara.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);  To:  Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	Clearing permit CPS 4394/1 was granted by Department of Mines and Petroleum on 14 July 2011 and authorised the clearing of up to 196 hectares of native vegetation within an area totalling approximately 1,347 hectares. CPS 4394/1 was amended on 20 August 2014 to add new mining tenure to the clearing permit, hydrogeological work to the purpose, increase the amount of clearing to 280 hectares and increase the permit boundary from 1,347 hectares to 1,643 hectares. CPS 4394/2 was amended on 9 April 2015 increasing the permit boundary from 1,643 hectares to 1,693 hectares.  Robe River Limited has applied to amend CPS 4394/3 to increase the permit boundary from 1,693 hectares to 1740.43 hectares, increase the clearing area from 280 hectares to 290 hectares and update the purpose of clearing to 'mineral exploration, hydrogeological drilling, geotechnical investigation and associated activities.'

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

Robe River Limited has applied to increase the permit by 47.43 hectares, increase the clearing by 10 hectares and update the purpose of clearing to 'mineral exploration, hydrogeological drilling, geotechnical investigation and associated activities.'

A flora and vegetation survey of the amendment area conducted by Rio Tinto and Biota Environmental Sciences (Biota, 2014; Rio Tinto, 2015) identified four vegetation units occurring within the extended permit boundary. The vegetation types are not considered to be of higher diversity than those assessed within clearing permit decision report CPS 4394/3, and the vegetation types are not considered to be remnant locally or regionally. None of the vegetation units recorded are considered to be a Threatened Ecological Community (Rio Tinto, 2015; GIS Database).

The clay plain vegetation unit C1, as recorded during the survey of the amendment area, represents the 'West Angelas Cracking Clays' Priority Ecological Community (PEC). Approximately 0.14 hectares of vegetation unit C1 was mapped within the amendment permit boundary (Rio Tinto, 2015). Robe River Limited advises that an internal restriction area will be established surrounding the C1 vegetation unit mapped by the flora and vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2015). The PEC is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

The flora and vegetation survey identified 260 native flora taxa from 108 genera belonging to 38 families within a study area adjacent to and partially within the amendment area (Rio Tinto, 2015). Rio Tinto (2015) advises that the number of taxa recorded is not considered to be significantly diverse. The dominant plant groups are consistent with other surveys of the West Angelas region.

No Threatened or Priority Flora species were identified during the survey for the amended area (Rio Tinto, 2015).

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (c) and (d), and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Rio Tinto (2015) identified four additional broad fauna habitat types within the amendment area:

- Mulga Woodland;
- Stony Hillslopes and Foothills;
- Rocky Gullies; and
- Minor drainage lines.

These habitat types are well represented outside of the application area and although some conservation significant species may pass through the area or utilise the area for foraging, the application area is unlikely to represent significant core habitat for conservation significant species (Rio Tinto, 2015). No significant fauna habitats such as waterholes, significant drainage features or large tree hollows were observed within the amendment area (Rio Tinto, 2015).

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (b).

Current environmental information has been reviewed and the assessment of clearing principles (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) is consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 4394/3.

Keighery (1994)  
 Rio Tinto (2015)  
 GIS Database:  
 - DEC Tenure  
 - Evaporation Isoleths  
 - Groundwater Salinity  
 - Hydrography, linear  
 - IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)  
 - Pre-European Vegetation  
 - Public Drinking Water Source Areas  
 - Rangeland Land System Mapping  
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual  
 - Threatened and Priority Flora  
 - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

### Comments

There is one Native Title claim (WC 2010/011) over the area under application (DAA, 2015)). The claim WC2010/011 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 several 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 Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife 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 11 May 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

**Methodology** DAA (2015)  
 GIS Database:  
 - Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
 - Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT  
 - Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court  
 - Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court

## 4. References

- Biota (2014) West Angelas Deposit G Borrow Pits Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Report, Unpublished report prepared for Rio Tinto, by Biota Environmental Sciences, August 2014.  
 DAA (2014) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Government of Western Australia, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, viewed 29 May 2015 < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/>>.  
 Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.  
 Rio Tinto (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey for Proposed Evaluation Drilling at West Angelas Deposit D, Unpublished report prepared by Rio Tinto.  
 Rio Tinto (2015) Desktop Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at West Angelas Deposit G Evaluation Drilling Area and Access Track from Deposit H to Deposit G. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit - Supporting Report. Internal Report, March 2015.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

**BoM** Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government  
**DAA** Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia  
**DAFWA** Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia  
**DEC** Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)  
**DER** Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia  
**DMP** Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia  
**DRF** Declared Rare Flora  
**DotE** Department of the Environment, Australian Government

DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (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
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

### **Definitions:**

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T Threatened species:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).  
  
Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.
- Rankings:**  
CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.  
EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.  
VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X Presumed Extinct species:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.  
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S Other specially protected fauna:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**  
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**P5**

**Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**

Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.