



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4397/4  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML70/248)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton  
Colloquial name: Jimmawurrada and Mesa H Project

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 17 March 2016

## 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. Four Beard vegetation associations are located within the permit area (GIS Database):

**Beard vegetation association 82:** hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; Snappy Gum over *Triodia wiseana*;

**Beard vegetation association 603:** hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe, *Acacia bivenosa* over hard Spinifex;

**Beard vegetation association 605:** Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Acacia pachycarpa* & waterwood over soft spinifex; and

**Beard vegetation association 609:** mosaic: hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; Bloodwood with sparse Kanji shrubs over soft Spinifex / hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; Snappy Gum over *Triodia wiseana* on a lateritic crust.

Numerous flora surveys were conducted over the original permit area. These surveys were reviewed by Rio Tinto (2011) and the sections relevant to the original permit area were summarised in a report. Rio Tinto (2011) reported 34 vegetation communities within the original permit boundary which are detailed in Decision Report CPS 4397/1.

Further flora surveys were conducted by Rio Tinto (2014) over the original permit boundary and additional areas added for CPS 4397/2. An additional 14 vegetation communities were mapped in the expanded permit boundary which are detailed in Decision Report CPS 4397/2.

A flora survey was conducted of the additional areas for CPS 4397/3 and 4397/4 by Astron Environmental Services (Astron) (2014) from 23 to 30 October 2014. The following 28 vegetation associations were recorded during this survey (Astron, 2014):

**AacTw:** *Acacia acradenia* tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**AacTwTsr:** *Acacia acradenia* and *Grevillea wickhamii* tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* (*Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) open hummock grassland;

**AbTw:** *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland to open heath over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**AiAbTw:** *Acacia inaequilatera* scattered tall shrubs over *A. bivenosa* scattered shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**AiTWTsr:** *Acacia inaequilatera* scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) open hummock to hummock grassland;

**AprTw:** *Acacia pruinocarpa* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**AptAaTw:** *Acacia ptychophylla* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* open heath over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**AptTw:** *Acacia ptychophylla* low open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**AprTwTsr:** *Acacia pruinocarpa* low woodland over *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) hummock grassland;

**AsAbTwCspp:** *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia bivenosa* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* very open hummock grassland and \**Cenchrus ciliaris*, \**C. setiger* open tussock grassland;

**AsTw:** *Acacia synchronicia* open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**AtrPI:** *Acacia trachycarpa*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* tall open scrub;

**AtuTw:** *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* tall open scrub over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**AtuTwTrs:** *Acacia tumida* tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) open hummock grassland;

**AxTw:** *Acacia xiphophylla* low woodland to tall shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**ChAbTw:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland open heath over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**ChAbTwTe:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees to low woodland over *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* and *T. epactia* hummock grassland;

**ChAiAbTw:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low trees over *Acacia inaequilatera* scattered tall shrubs over *Acacia bivenosa* scattered shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**ChAsppGOrGsspPISsTeTw:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* scattered low tree to low open woodland over *Acacia* species (spp.), *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Grevillea* spp., *Petalostylis labicheoides*, and *Stylobasium spathulatum* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia* and *T. wiseana* hummock grassland;

**ChAtuTw:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* and/or *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* tall open scrub over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

**ChPIAbGOrTw:** *Corymbia hamersleyana* low open woodland over *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Gossypium robinsonii* tall open scrub over *Triodia wiseana* (*T. angusta*) open hummock grassland;

**EcEvAtrApyPITw:** *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *refulgens* woodland over *Eucalyptus victrix* low woodland over *Acacia trachycarpa*, *A. pyrifolia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* tall open shrubland over mixed open hermland and *Triodia wiseana* very open hummock grassland;

**EIAiAbTw:** *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Acacia inaequilatera* scattered tall shrubs over *Acacia bivenosa* scattered shrubs to open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**EIAtuAbTwERIm:** *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and/or *Acacia bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland and *Eriachne mucronata* open tussock grassland;

**EIGwAacTw:** *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Grevillea wickhamii* scattered tall shrubs to tall shrubland over *Acacia acradenia* scattered shrubs to shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

**EITwTsr:** *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* scattered low trees over *Triodia wiseana* and *T.* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) very open to open hummock grassland;

**EIAITwTsr:** *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland over *Acacia inaequilatera* scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* (*Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) on Breakaways) open hummock grassland;

**Tw:** *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland.

\*denotes weed species.

**Clearing Description**

Jimmawurrada and Mesa H Project.  
Robe River Ltd proposes to clear up to 700 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of 7,700 hectares for the purposes of mineral exploration, hydrological drilling, geotechnical investigations and associated activities. The project area is located approximately 115 kilometres east of Onslow within the Shire of Ashburton.

**Vegetation Condition**

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

to

Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment**

The vegetation conditions were described using a scale based on Trudgen (1988) and have been converted to the corresponding conditions from the Keighery (1994) scale.

Clearing permit CPS 4397/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 1 September 2011 and authorised the clearing of up to 196 hectares of native vegetation within an area totalling approximately 2,518 hectares. This permit was amended on 20 November 2014 to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 600 hectares and the permit boundary to 5,587 hectares. It was also amended to remove Conditions 2 and 3 from the permit and extend the duration of the clearing to 31 July 2020. CPS 4397/2 was amended on 19 March 2015, increasing the permit boundary to 7,206 hectares and adding hydrological drilling, geotechnical investigations and associated activities to the purpose.

Robe River Ltd has applied to amend CPS 4397/3 to increase the permit boundary from 7,206 hectares to 7,700 hectares, increase the clearing amount from 600 hectares to 700 hectares, amend the reporting date from 31 July each year to 30 June to report on clearing carried out between 1 January and 30 December, and extend the expiry date from 31 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

Robe River Pty Ltd has applied to increase the clearing permit boundary by 494 hectares to 7,700 hectares and increase the clearing authorised by 100 hectares to 700 hectares. They have also applied to extend the permit duration and reporting date.

The additional application area is dominated by mesas which extend from the edge of the Hamersley Ranges to the Robe River. The mesas are characterised by *Acacia* shrublands over spinifex grasslands. The plains are typically alluvial with sparse *Corymbia hamersleyana* trees and open *Acacia* shrubland over *Triodia* species or *Cenchrus* species grasslands (Rio Tinto, 2016). There were 7 vegetation associations within the additional area, all of which had been previously mapped (Rio Tinto, 2016). The majority of the vegetation was in 'pristine' and 'excellent' condition (Astron, 2014). None of the vegetation communities within the additional area are considered to be a Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community (Rio Tinto, 2016; GIS Database).

The flora species recorded within the additional area are considered to be typical of the same landforms in the Hamersley subregion (Astron, 2014). No species of Threatened flora have been recorded within the additional area (Astron, 2014; Rio Tinto, 2015; GIS Database). The Priority flora species *Triodia* sp. Robe River (Priority 3) and *Rhynchosia bungarensis* (Priority 4) were both recorded within the additional area (Astron, 2014; Rio Tinto, 2015). *Triodia* sp. Robe River was widespread on skeletal soils associated with rocky ledges and breakaways (Astron, 2014). The flora survey recorded in excess of 125,000 individuals of *Triodia* sp. Robe River. A flora survey of the CPS 4397/2 permit area also recorded 20,000 individuals (Rio Tinto, 2014). This species is known from the West Pilbara and a regional study of the species estimates that there are over 60 million individuals (Astron, 2010). The flora survey recorded a total of 966 *Rhynchosia bungarensis* individuals which were primarily found within riparian habitat associated with the Robe River (Astron, 2014). Given the majority of habitat for this species will not be impacted, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

A fauna survey of the additional area identified five broad fauna habitats; drainage, low hills and slopes, breakaway, loamy/stony plains and disturbed areas (Rio Tinto, 2015). The majority of the additional area is comprised of the loamy/stony plains habitat which was not considered to be significant for local fauna species (Rio Tinto, 2016). The breakaway and drainage habitats are considered moderately significant as they contain a complexity of habitats including caves and semi-permanent pools that provide shelter and foraging habitat for a range of threatened species (Rio Tinto, 2016). Of the 485 hectares that was recorded during the fauna survey, there is only 14.42 hectares of this habitat present within the additional area (Rio Tinto, 2016).

The Northern Quoll occurs in a variety of habitats, but is commonly found in open lowland savannah forest and rocky escarpments (Rio Tinto, 2016). This species was recorded outside of the additional application area, through identification of scat samples during the Astron (2014) survey, at two locations within the Gorge/Gully fauna habitat type. In addition, the Northern Quoll has previously been recorded within the vicinity of the Robe River area through both individuals being trapped and scat samples positively identified (Rio Tinto, 2016). The evidence therefore suggests that the Robe River area is used by the species, however, given it was not recorded on motion sensor cameras; it is unlikely to be in high densities (Rio Tinto, 2016). Breakaway habitats present in the application area are likely to provide foraging and potential denning/sheltering opportunities for this species.

The Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni* – Schedule 1; Vulnerable) has been previously recorded in the vicinity of the permit boundary but was not recorded during the Astron (2014) survey. However, as suitable habitat is present it is likely that it utilises the additional area. The drainage and breakaway habitats contain potential shelter and foraging habitat for this species. The drainage habitat is the most significant due to the presence of permanent and semi-permanent water pools (Astron, 2014). There is 63.4 hectares of the drainage habitat mapped within the additional area. This habitat has been mapped extensively outside of the permit boundary (Rio Tinto, 2016). The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the available habitat for this species.

The Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonictis aurantia* – Schedule 1; Vulnerable) was recorded acoustically, however, there was no evidence of this species utilising the caves inspected during the fauna survey (Astron, 2014). The timing of the calls recorded suggests the bats originate from a distant roost and utilise the riverine habitat for foraging (Astron, 2014). Permanent pools and riparian vegetation associated with the Robe River

may be relied upon by localised populations of Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat but are not present within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2016).

There were a number of vegetation associations that were identified as growing in association with ephemeral watercourses (Astron, 2014). The most significant of these is EcEvAtrApyPITw which is growing in association with the Robe River (Astron, 2014). The flora survey mapped a total of 355 hectares of this vegetation association, of which 15.51 hectares is within the additional area (Rio Tinto, 2016). The proposed clearing is not likely to have significantly greater impacts on riparian vegetation and water quality than the previous permit. Potential impacts to watercourses may be minimised by the existing watercourse management condition.

The additional area is comprised of the Newman, River and Robe land systems (GIS Database). The Newman and Robe land systems are generally not prone to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The River land system is highly to very highly susceptible to erosion if vegetation cover is removed (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). There is only a minor part of the additional area that is comprised of the River land system, which is associated with the Robe River. Potential impacts from erosion may be minimised by the existing staged clearing and watercourse management conditions.

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principles (a), (b) and (f), may be at variance to Principle (g), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (c), (d), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

**Methodology** Astron (2010)  
Astron (2014)  
Rio Tinto (2014)  
Rio Tinto (2016)  
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)

GIS Database:  
- Rangeland Land System Mapping  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered  
- WA Herb

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

##### Comments

There is one Native Title claim (WC1999/012) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been filed at the Federal Court 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 numerous 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 was advertised by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 1 February 2016, inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
DAA (2016)

#### 4. References

- Astron (2010) West Pilbara Iron Ore Project, Triodia sp. Robe River Mapping and Targeted Search. July 2010. Unpublished Report prepared for API Management Pty Ltd by Astron Environmental Services, October 2010.
- Astron (2014) Mesa H Level 1 Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore by Astron Environmental Services, October 2014.
- DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Government of Western Australia, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, <<http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/>> accessed 03 March 2016
- 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) Statement Addressing the 10 Clearing Principles. Jimmawurrada & Mesa H evaluation drilling. May 2011. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia.
- Rio Tinto (2014) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Jimmawurrada, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Report (RTIO-HSE-0220213). Rio Tinto Iron Ore, May 2014.
- Rio Tinto (2016) Statement Addressing the 10 Clearing Principles for clearing permit CPS 4397/4. Report prepared by Rio Tinto Iron Ore, January 2016.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DotE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>s.17</b>	Section 17 of <i>the Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

### Definitions:

{DPaW (2015) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia):-

<b>T</b>	<b>Threatened species:</b> Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).  <b>Threatened fauna</b> is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.  <b>Threatened flora</b> is flora that has been declared to be ‘likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection’, pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.  The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.
<b>CR</b>	<b>Critically endangered species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
<b>EN</b>	<b>Endangered species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
<b>VU</b>	<b>Vulnerable species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
<b>EX</b>	<b>Presumed extinct species</b> Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct

- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**  
Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD Conservation dependent fauna**  
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS Other specially protected fauna**  
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P Priority species**  
Species which are poorly known; or  
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations 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 locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.
- 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 are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.  
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**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.