Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4594/7
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1968*, Mineral Lease 246SA (AML 70/246)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Western Range Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
251.4		Mechanical Removal	Mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations, hydrogeological investigations, construction camp and associated activities.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 October 2018

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;
163: Shrublands; eremophila and cassia dwarf scrub;
181: Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub; and
567: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & *Triodia basedowii*.

A flora and vegetation survey of the permit area was conducted by Biota in June, September and October 2009; May and September 2011; and by Astron in August 2013. These surveys identified the following 28 vegetation types within the permit application area (Astron, 2013; Biota, 2009; Biota, 2012a; Biota, 2012b):

Hills and Ridges

1. AanAprAteTe: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* tall open shrubland to low woodland over *Acacia tetragonophyll*a scattered shrubs over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland on crests and slopes;
2. AprGbERsppTe: *Acacia pruinocarpa, Grevillea berryana* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri*, *Eremophila canaliculata, Eremophila cuneifolia* scattered low shrubs over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland on crests and slope;
3. AteAsyERcTe: *Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia synchronicia* scattered tall shrubs over *Eremophila cuneifolia* scattered shrubs over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland on footslopes and scattered low ridges;
4. AteERfTw: *Acacia tetragonophylla* scattered tall shrubs over *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* scattered shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland on low calcrete hills;
5. AanAteCAsppTw: *Acacia aneura* low open woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* tall open shrubland over *Cassia* spp. scattered shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock to hummock grassland;
6. AanAteERfTeTw: *Acacia aneura, Acacia tetragonophylla* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* scattered shrubs over *Triodia epactia, Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland on low ridges and hills;
7. AteTw: *Acacia tetragonophylla* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;
8. AanCAoERsppARc: *Acacia aneura* tall open scrub over *Cassia oligophylla, Eremophila* spp. open heath over *Aristida contorta* open bunch grassland;
9. DpERcrTe: *Dodonaea pachyneura, Eremophila cryptothrix* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland;

Stony Plains

10. AanAteTe: *Acacia aneura, Acacia tetragonophylla* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia* open hummock grassland low undulating hills and stony plains;
11. AanAteCAspp: *Acacia aneura, Acacia tetragonophylla* tall open shrubland over *Cassia* spp. scattered low shrubs;
12. AanAxAteERcTa: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open shrubland over A*cacia tetragonophylla*, *Eremophila cuneifolia* shrubland over *Triodia angusta* hummock grassland;
13. AxAteERcCAspp: *Acacia xiphophylla* tall open shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* open shrubland over *Eremophila cuneifolia, Cassia* spp. scattered low shrubs;
14. AanAxAteERcCAspp: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* open shrubland over *Eremophila cuneifolia, Cassia* spp. scattered low shrubs;
15. AanAxAteERcTa: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Eremophila cuneifolia* shrubland over *Triodia angusta* hummock grassland on calcrete plains;

Drainage Lines

16. EvAcMgCEspp: *Eucalyptus victrix* woodland to scattered trees over *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendens*, *Melaleuca glomerata* tall shrubland over **Cenchrus* spp. open tussock grassland;
17. AanAxTe: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open scrub over mixed open shrubland over *Triodia epactia* open hummock grassland;
18. AanAwTe: *Acacia aneura, Acacia pruinocarpa* tall open shrubland to low woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* scattered shrubs over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland;
19. AciAanCEspp: *Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia aneura* tall shrubland over **Cenchrus* spp. open tussock grassland to tussock grassland in moderate creeks;
20. AciCEsppTe: *Acacia citrinoviridis* low woodland over **Cenchrus* spp. open tussock to closed tussock grassland with *Triodia epactia* scatted to very open hummock grassland in floodbanks and floodplains associated with major unnamed creek;
21. AanAxTa: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open scrub over *Triodia angusta* open hummock grassland in moderate creeks;
22. EcEvAamMgCYPv: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus victrix* open forest over *Acacia ampliceps, Melaleuca glomerata* tall shrubland over *Cyperus vaginatus* open sedgeland to sedgeland;
23. EvTEr: *Eucalyptus victrix* scattered trees over *Tephrosia rosea* var. *glabrior* scattered low shrubs;
24. CfAciDpERcrTe: *Corymbia ferriticola* low open woodland over *Acacia citrinoviridis, Dodonaea pachyneura, Eremophila cryptothrix* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia* open hummock grassland;
25. AciAanAwTe: *Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia aneura* low open woodland to low woodland over *Acacia wanyu* tall open shrubland over *Triodia epactia* very open hummock grassland;
26. AciAanAwTw: *Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia aneura* low open woodland to low woodland over *Acacia wanyu* tall open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* very open hummock grassland in moderate creeks;
27. CfAciAanTe: *Corymbia ferriticola* scattered low trees to low open woodland over *Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia aneura* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia* open hummock grassland in converging rocky gullies and creeks; and
28. AanAxTe: *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla* tall open scrub over *Triodia epactia* open hummock grassland in minor flowlines.

* denotes a weed species.

Clearing Description

Western Range Project.
Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 251.4 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 7,683 hectares, for the purposes of mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations, hydrogeological investigations, construction camp and associated activities. The project is located approximately 20 kilometres west-southwest of Paraburdoo, within the Shire of Ashburton.

Vegetation Condition

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

To

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Astron (2013) and Biota (2009; 2012a; 2012b). The Completely Degraded vegetation condition only applies to a small number of cleared exploration access tracks within the amended permit boundary area. The majority of the application area is considered to be in Excellent condition on the Keighery scale (Hamersley Iron, 2018).

Clearing Permit CPS 4594/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 15 December 2011 and was valid from 7 January 2012 to 30 November 2021. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 202 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 5,018 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations, hydrogeological drilling and access tracks.

CPS 4594/2 was granted on 12 February 2015, amending the permit to increase the total clearing area by approximately 18 hectares and to increase the total boundary by approximately 488 hectares.

CPS 4594/3 was granted on 21 April 2017, amending the permit to increase the duration of the clearing by four years and amend the annual reporting date.

CPS 4594/4 was granted on 5 July 2018, amending the permit to update the purpose of clearing to 'mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations, hydrogeological investigations and associated activities,' increase the permit boundary by 2.3 hectares and the amount of approved clearing by 1.4 hectares.

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 4594/4 to increase the permit boundary by approximately 2,056 hectares, increase the amount of clearing by 30 hectares, and add construction camp to the purpose of the permit. The CPS number assigned to this amendment clearing permit is 4594/7 due to system errors (CPS 4594/5 and 4594/6 therefore does not exist). A small portion (4.2%) of the proposed additional 2,056 hectares has not been previously surveyed. However, mapping of vegetation units and vegetation condition and assessment of available fauna habitats were extrapolated into this area, based on the continuation of landforms and vegetation pattern observed on aerial photography (Hamersley Iron, 2018).

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 4594/4 to increase the permit boundary by approximately 2,056 hectares, increase the amount of clearing by 30 hectares, and add construction camp to the purpose of the permit.

No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities have been identified within the amended boundary area (Hamersley Iron, 2018; GIS Database). The landforms and habitat found within the amended permit boundary are considered as being well represented in the local region (Hamersley Iron, 2018).

Three conservation significant species were recorded within the amended permit boundary area; *Aluta quadrata* (Threatened), *Goodenia* sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) (Priority 3), and *Ptilotus trichocephalus* (Priority 4). *Aluta quadrata and Ptilotus trichocephalus* were recorded in the previous permit boundary area. Records of these conservation signficant flora species within the amended permit boundary is as follows:

- *Aluta quadrata* – three plants (Rio Tinto, 2012 as referenced by Hamersley Iron, 2018);
- *Goodenia* sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) – 30 plants (Biota, 2012a); and
- *Ptilotus trichocephalus* – 296 plants (Biota, 2012a).

The estimated total population numbers for *Goodenia* sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) and *Ptilotus trichocephalus* within a 20 kilometre radius from the application area are 41,654 plants and 73,395 plants, respctively (Hamersley Iron, 2018). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikley to have a significant impact on these species. The population of *Aluta quadrata* within the same area is 4,535 plants however, it is restricted to three separate popualtions from the southern Hamersley Range (DBCA, 2018; Hamersley Iron, 2018). A flora management condtion was placed on the previous versions of the permit requiring the avoidance of *Aluta quadrata* individuals with a 10 metre buffer. Following the grant of CPS 4594/1, the conservation status of *Aluta quadrata* changed from prioirty 1 to Threatened. Given the change in conservation status, the clearing buffer in the flora management condition has been increased to 50 metres. Current biodiversity lists were checked against the Biota (2012a) field survey results. No other Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded during Biota's (2012a) survey (DBCA, 2018).

Six broad fauna habitat types occur within the amended permit boundary area and are described as (Biota, 2012a);

Vegetation of Hills and Ridges:

- *Acacia aneura* tall open scrub over *Cassia* spp*., Eremophila* spp. open heath over *Aristida spp.* open bunch grassland;
- *Acacia* spp. scattered tall shrubs to tall open shrubland over *Eremophila* spp. scattered shrubs over *Triodia* spp. open hummock grassland to hummock grassland;

Vegetation of Stony Plains:

- *Acacia aneura, Acacia xiphophylla, Acacia tetragonophylla* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila* spp., *Cassia* spp. scattered low shrubs over occasional *Triodia angusta* hummock grassland;

Vegetation of Drainage Lines and Flood Plains:

- *Acacia aneura* low woodland over *Acacia* spp*.* tall shrubland to tall open scrub over *Triodia spp.* open hummock grassland;
- *Acacia citrinoviridis* low open woodland to low woodland over either *Triodia* spp*.* very open hummock grassland, **Cenchrus* spp. tussock grassland; and
- *Eucalyptus* spp., *Corymbia* spp. open forest to open woodland over *Acacia* spp. *Melaleuca* spp. tall shrubland over either *Cyperus* spp. sedgeland, *Triodia* spp. hummock grassland, **Cenchrus* spp. tussock grassland.

* denotes a weed species.

These fauna habitat types are considered to be commonly found throughout both the Hamersley and Ashburton subregions (Biota, 2012a; Hamersley Iron, 2018). However, habitats within the application area comprising rocky breakaways, scarps and gullies, are considered to be of conservation significance as they represent

suitable and primary habitat for the Northern Quoll, Pilbara Olive Python, and the Pilbara Leaf-nosed bat. The latter two were recorded during a two-phase fauna survey (Biota, 2012a). Potential impacts to the Northern Quoll and Pilbara Leaf-nosed bat as a result of the proposed clearing of potential core habitats, may be minimised by the existing fauna management conditions.

Ephemeral rivers and springs within the study area should also be avoided as this habitat is utilised by a number of species including the Pilbara Leaf-nosed bat and Pilbara Olive Python (Biota, 2012a). There are no permanent wetlands or watercourses within the amended permit boundary (GIS Database). Howevever, there is one ephemeral creek, numerous narrow drainage tracts, and one major unnamed creek that intersect the application area. Assessment of the previous permit area found one vegetation unit EcEvAamMgCYPv: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus victrix* open forest over *Acacia ampliceps*, *Melaleuca glomerata* tall shrubland over *Cyperus vaginatus* open sedgeland to sedgeland, to be growing in assocation with a permanent spring (Ratty Springs) on Pirraburdu creekthat was considered to be of significance. A permit condition exluding this vegetation unit from the permitted area was implemented to minimise the potential impact to vegetation unit EcEvAamMgCYPv. This vegetation unit was not found within the amended application area. However, one vegetation association (EvAcMGCEspp) was identified as being associated with the major unnamed creek (Biota, 2012a). This vegetation type has been subject to degradation as a result of weed infestation, predomantly from Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), but is considered to be of local significance (Biota, 2012a; Hamersley Iron, 2018). Potential impacts to vegetation associated with drainage lines may be minimised by including vegetation unit EvAcMGCEspp to the exisiting condition excluding signficiant riparian vegetation from the permitted area.

A small portion of the amended permit boundary (25.2 hecatres) extends into the Dollar land system, which was previously not intersected by the permit application area. This land system is described as stony plains supporting *Acacia* shrublands. This land system is prone to degradation if grazing pressure is excessive, but most units are inherently resistant to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

The proposed additional clearing of 30 hectares within a boundary of approximately 2,056 hectares is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, have a significant impact on surface and groudwater quality nor increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (Hamersley Iron, 2018; GIS Database).

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

Methodology

Biota (2012a)
DBCA (2018)
Hamersley Iron (2018)
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)

GIS Database:
- DoW Surface Water Lines
- DoW Surface Water Bodies
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are two Native Title Claims (WC2010/011 and WC2010/016) over the area under application (DPLH, 2018). These claims have 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 (DPLH, 2018). 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 Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 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 amendment application was advertised on 10 September 2017 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2018)

4. References

Astron, (2013) Western Ranges Level 1 Vegetation, Flora and Fauna Survey. Report prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd by Astron Environmental Services, August 2013.

Biota (2009) Western Range Phase 1 Vegetation and Flora Summary Report. Report prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd by Biota Environmental Services, December 2009.

Biota (2012a) Western Range Additional Area Vegetation and Flora Report. Report prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd by Biota Environmental Services, March 2012.

Biota (2012b) Western Range Phase 2 Vegetation and Flora Report. Report prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd by Biota Environmental Services, February 2012.

DBCA (2018) NatureMap. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 3 September 2018).

DPLH (2018) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/ (Accessed 30 August 2018).

Hamersley Iron (2018) Application for Amendment to Purpose Permit CPS 4594/4 – Western Range Mineral Exploration and Geotechnical Investigation Activities – Tenement ML/246SA. Unpublished letter with supporting information prepared by Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, 1 August 2018.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
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
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**
Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* 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).

Threatened fauna is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' declared to be 'likely to become extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Threatened flora 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 1950*.

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.

CR **Critically endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

EN **Endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

VU **Vulnerable species**
Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

EX **Presumed extinct species**
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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.

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.