



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4677/2
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 Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML70/244)
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Orebody 31 Exploration Drilling Programme

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purposes of:
200		Mechanical Removal	Mineral exploration, hydrological investigations and associated infrastructure.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 5 June 2014

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 over the entirety of Western Australia. The following Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area:

- 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*; and
- 216: Low woodland; mulga (with spinifex) on rises.

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area undertaken in October 2013 identified the following vegetation associations within this area:

- 1a: Low open forest (to low woodland) of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia paraneura* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over open scrub (to high shrubland) of *Acacia balsamea*, *Acacia wanyu* and *Acacia monticola* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* forming mulga groves on flood plains and on minor drainage lines through undulating ironstone ridges, hills and valleys;
- 1b: Low open forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia paraneura* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over open scrub of *Acacia wanyu*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia bivenosa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill on minor drainage lines through undulating ironstone ridges, hills and valleys;
- 2a: Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia ayersiana* over high shrubland of *Acacia subcontorta* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* on stony loam plains;
- 2b: Low woodland of *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over high shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over open tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* on medium drainage lines;
- 3: Closed scrub (to closed low forest) of *Acacia pteraneura* and *Corymbia aspera* over tussock grassland of *Panicum effusum* and *Eragrostis flaccida* and open shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* on gilgai drainage zones and flats;
- 4a: Open scrub of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tenuissima* over hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* with low open mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* on drainage lines and drainage zones;
- 4b: Open scrub of *Acacia monticola* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with scattered low trees of *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* on minor drainage lines dissecting low hills and foot slopes;

- 5a: High shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia adsurgens* and *Acacia elachantha* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia schinzii* and open tussock grassland of *Aristida inaequiglumis*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Digitaria brownii* on foot slopes;
- 5b: High shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia adsurgens* and *Acacia elachantha* over open tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* and *Paraneurachne muelleri* with low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Corymbia aspera* and *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* on sandy drainage zones and floodplains;
- 5c: High shrubland of *Acacia balsamea*, *Acacia wanyu* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over open shrubland of *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii*, *Eremophila platycalyx* and *Senna stricta* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill on undulating plateaux and hill slopes;
- 6: High open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* over scattered tussock grasses of *Aristida contorta* and *Aristida inaequiglumis* and scattered hummock grasses of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia pungens* on clay loam flats and stony plains;
- 7: Shrubland of *Acacia wanyu*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii* over low shrubland of *Senna stricta*, *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill on undulating hills, ironstone ridges and valleys;
- 8: Low shrubland of *Eremophila compacta*, *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Lepidium platypetalum* with low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* and high open shrubland of *Acacia wanyu* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii* on low hill crests and slopes;
- 9: Low shrubland of *Sclerolaena cuneata*, *Frankenia setosa* and *Eremophila cuneifolia* with open shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia* and scattered low trees of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* on gently sloping plains;
- 10a: Hummock grassland of *Triodia angusta* and *Triodia pungens* with shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* and low open mallee of *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* on low calcrete hills and rises;
- 10b: Hummock grassland of *Triodia angusta* with open shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia wanyu* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila cuneifolia*, *Lepidium platypetalum* and *Maireana pyramidata* on undulating hills, ironstone ridges and eroded slopes;
- 10c: Hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia pungens* with high shrubland (to open scrub) of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia pyriformis* var. *pyriformis* and *Acacia bivenosa* and low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* on sandy floodplains and levee banks;
- 10d: Hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* and high open shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia pachyacra* and *Acacia bivenosa* on stony sand plains;
- 10e: Hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with low woodland of *Acacia pteraneura* over open shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Senna glutinosa* ssp. *x luerssenii* on sandy loam plains;
- 10f: Hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia paraneura* over shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* on sandy drainage zones;
- 10g: Hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* with high shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *Acacia tenuissima* with low open woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Corymbia aspera* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* on clay loam drainage zones;
- 10h: Hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* with shrubland (to open scrub) of *Acacia pyriformis* var. *pyriformis*, *Gossypium robinsonii* and *Acacia maitlandii* with low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* on sandy floodplain and levee banks;
- 10i: Hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill and *Triodia pungens* with high shrubland of *Acacia rhodophloia* and low shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia* on ironstone hill slopes;
- 10j: Hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with high shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* and *Acacia bivenosa* over low open shrubland of *Acacia hilliana* on foot slopes;
- 10k: Hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with high shrubland of *Acacia wanyu*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* over open shrubland of *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii* on foot slopes and lower hill slopes;
- 10l: Hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with low shrubland of *Acacia hilliana*, *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxo* and *Halgania solanacea* with high open shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula*, *Acacia marramamba* and *Grevillea berryana* on hill crests and slopes;
- 11a: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia pungens* over open tussock grassland of *Aristida inaequiglumis*, *Themeda triandra* and *Digitaria brownii* with low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* on loamy drainage zones adjacent to floodplains;

- 11b: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and high open shrubland of *Eremophila platycalyx*, *Acacia wanyu* and *Acacia synchronicia* on stony rises, plains and foot slopes;
- 11c: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with low open woodland of *Corymbia ferricola* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and open shrubland of *Astrotricha hamptonii*, *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Acacia maitlandii* on faces of large open ravines and occasionally cliffs;
- 12: Closed tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Eulalia aurea* with low open woodland of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia aspera* and open shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on plains and drainage zones;
- 13a: Tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Digitaria brownii* and *Aristida inaequiglumis* with low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and very open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* on clay drainage zones and floodplains;
- 13b: Tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Digitaria brownii* with low open woodland (to low woodland) of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* and open shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* on floodplains;
- 13c: Tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Digitaria brownii* with low woodland (to low open woodland) of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and low open shrubland of *Isotropis forrestii* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on drainage zones and flats;
- 14: Tussock grassland of *Eragrostis eriopoda*, *Paraneurachne muelleri* and *Aristida contorta* with low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* and *Corymbia aspera* and open shrubland of *Acacia melleodora* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* on gently sloping sandy loam plains;
- 15: Tussock grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris* with low open woodland of *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and high shrubland of *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* on sandy floodplain.

Clearing Description	Orebody 31 Exploration Drilling Program. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 200 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 3,010 hectares for the purposes of mineral exploration, hydrological investigations and associated activities. The project is located approximately 37 kilometres east of Newman, in the Shire of East Pilbara.
Vegetation Condition	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994); to Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).
Comment	Vegetation condition in the application area was assessed using the vegetation condition scale described in Keighery (1994). Clearing permit CPS 4677/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) on 8 December 2011 and approved the clearing of 102 hectares of native vegetation within a permit boundary of approximately 3,024.89 hectares. An application to amend clearing permit CPS 4677/1 was received by DMP on 7 March 2014. The application requested the clearing area authorised under this permit be increased by 98 hectares and the permit boundary be decreased to approximately 3,010 hectares to allow areas of environmental significance to be avoided by the proposed activities.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments	<p>A Level 2 flora and vegetation survey of the application area was undertaken in 2011 by Syrinx Environmental (Onshore Environmental, 2014). In 2013, Onshore Environmental was commissioned by BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd to undertake a second season Level 2 flora and vegetation survey of the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2014). A total of 273 flora taxa representing 34 families and 109 genera were recorded during this survey (Onshore Environmental, 2014). Thirty five vegetation associations were mapped within the application area during this survey, none of which match the description of any Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community (Onshore Environmental, 2014).</p> <p>No Threatened Flora taxa were identified during this survey (Onshore Environmental, 2014). One Priority listed flora species; <i>Rhagodia</i> sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794) (Priority 3) and a taxon of interest; <i>Acacia</i> sp. nov (reticulate/anastomosing) were recorded during this survey (Onshore Environmental, 2014). <i>Acacia clelandii</i> was also recorded during this survey, representing a 400 kilometre range extension north of known populations of this species (Onshore Environmental, 2014; Western Australian Herbarium, 2014). The application area has been amended to exclude the locations of <i>Rhagodia</i> sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794), <i>Acacia</i> sp. nov (reticulate/anastomosing) and <i>Acacia clelandii</i> recorded during this survey along with a 10 metre buffer surrounding these recordings (Onshore Environmental, 2014; BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, 2014a). As the recorded occurrences of these species are not contained within the application area, the clearing activities are not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to the conservation status or distribution of these species.</p>
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None of the weed species recorded within the application area are listed as declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007)* (Department of Agriculture and Food, 2014). To minimise the impact of clearing on the biodiversity of the area, a weed management condition has been placed on the permit.

A Level 1 fauna survey of the application area was undertaken in 2011 by ENV (Biologic, 2014). In 2013, Biologic conducted a Level 2 fauna survey of this area (Biologic, 2014). This survey recorded 98 native vertebrate fauna species comprising 17 mammal species, 39 bird species and 42 reptile species (Biologic, 2014). Five introduced mammal species were also recorded during this survey (Biologic, 2014). When the results of the surveys undertaken by ENV and Biologic are combined, a total of 120 native vertebrate fauna taxa have been recorded within the application area comprising 20 native mammal species, 56 bird species, 43 reptile species and one amphibian species (Biologic, 2014). The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the application area (Biologic, 2014):

- Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) (Priority 4);
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) (Migratory, Schedule 3);
- Mulgara (either the Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi*) (Priority 4) or the Crest-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*) (Vulnerable, Schedule 1));
- Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) (Priority 4); and
- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) (Migratory, Schedule 3).

The desktop assessment which was performed as a component of the fauna survey undertaken by Biologic determined that additional fauna species of conservation significance could occur in this area (Biologic, 2014).

Five fauna habitats were identified within the application area; minor drainage line, sand plain, crest-slope, drainage area and gorge-gully (Biologic, 2014). None of these habitats are restricted to the application area (Biologic, 2014). While the habitats identified in the application area are known to support conservation significant fauna species and may provide habitat for additional fauna species of conservation significance, the proposed activities will result in the disturbance of approximately seven percent of the application area, leaving much of this area's fauna habitat in situ. Consequently, the proposed activities are unlikely to result in adverse impacts to the conservation status or distribution of conservation significant fauna species. In addition, the proponent has committed to avoid active Western Pebble-mound Mouse mounds, known Mulgara locations and identified active Mulgara burrows where practicable (BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, 2014b). Furthermore, the proponent has modified the proposed clearing permit boundary to exclude the gorge/gully habitat mapped during the fauna surveys undertaken by Biologic and ENV due to its potential to support fauna species of conservation significance.

Based on the above, the proposed amendments are unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts in addition to or different in nature from those assessed for CPS 4677/1. The assessment of the clearing principles undertaken for this amendment is consistent with that undertaken for CPS 4677/1.

Methodology BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2014a)
BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2014b)
Biologic (2014)
Department of Agriculture and Food (2014)
Onshore Environmental (2014)
Western Australian Herbarium (2014)

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

Comments There is a Native Title Claim (WC2005/006) 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 tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered sites of Aboriginal heritage significance in the vicinity of the application area. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no sites of Aboriginal heritage 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 amendment application was advertised on 24 March 2014 by DMP inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology 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

- BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2014a) CPS 4677/2 – Further Information Requested. Email received on 23 May 2014.
- BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2014b) BHP Billiton Iron Ore Mining Operations: Amendment application to Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 4677/1 for Orebody 31 exploration drilling program. Report prepared by BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd.
- Biologic (2014) Orebody 31 vertebrate fauna survey. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd.
- Department of Agriculture and Food (2014) BAMA Declared Organisms search. Department of Agriculture and Food. <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms> (Accessed April 2014).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A guide to plant community survey for the community. Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Onshore Environmental (2014) Orebody 31 Level 2 flora and vegetation survey. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed May 2014).

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

{Atkins, K (2005). *Declared rare and priority flora list for Western Australia, 22 February 2005*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

- P1** **Priority One - Poorly Known taxa:** taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2** **Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa:** taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3** **Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa:** taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.
- P4** **Priority Four – Rare taxa:** taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.
- R** **Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa (= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable):** taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the

Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

- X Declared Rare Flora - Presumed Extinct taxa:** taxa which have not been collected, or otherwise verified, over the past 50 years despite thorough searching, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

{Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005} [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950] :-

- Schedule 1 Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct:** being fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
- Schedule 2 Schedule 2 – Fauna that is presumed to be extinct:** being fauna that is presumed to be extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
- Schedule 3 Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement:** being birds that are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
- Schedule 4 Schedule 4 – Other specially protected fauna:** being fauna that is declared to be fauna that is in need of special protection, otherwise than for the reasons mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

{CALM (2005). *Priority Codes for Fauna*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

- P1 Priority One: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands:** Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, active mineral leases. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
- P2 Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands:** Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
- P3 Priority Three: Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands:** Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
- P4 Priority Four: Taxa in need of monitoring:** Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and which are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands.
- P5 Priority Five: Taxa in need of monitoring:** Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Categories of threatened species (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

- EX Extinct:** A native species for which there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.
- EX(W) Extinct in the wild:** A native species which:
(a) is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or
(b) has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.
- CR Critically Endangered:** A native species which is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.
- EN Endangered:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered; and
(b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.
- VU Vulnerable:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered or endangered; and
(b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.
- CD Conservation Dependent:** A native species which is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.