



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4793/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Pilbara Manganese Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 45/638
Local Government Authority: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Homestead Stage 2 Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
34.3		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 2 February 2012

2. Background

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 and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area:

Beard vegetation association 173: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft Spinifex and *Triodia wiseana* on basalt (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

A total of 18 flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted across the Woodie Woodie tenements between 1994 and 2010 and 17 plant communities have been identified (MBS Environmental, 2010). MBS Environmental (2011) have described four plant communities that occur within the application area:

- 3 – **Scrub or Thicket** of *Carissa lanceolata*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *A. ancistrocarpa* over *Triodia pungens*, *T. basedowii*, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Chrysopogon fallax* along minor watercourses;
- 5 – **Scrub or Low Shrubland** of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. arida*, *A. acradenia*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Gossypium austral*, *Acacia synchronicia* and *A. inequilateral* over *Triodia longiceps* and *T. wiseana* with patches of *Cenchrus ciliaris* on flats;
- 6 – **Open Low Shrubland** of *Acacia arida* and *A. hilliana* over *Triodia wiseana* and *Dampiera candidans* on slopes and hilltops; and
- 8 – **Hummock Grassland** of *Triodia longiceps* and *Triodia wiseana* with occasional *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* on flats and lower slopes.

Clearing Description Pilbara Manganese Pty Ltd (Pilbara Manganese) is proposing to clear up to 34.3 hectares of native vegetation within a 43.8 hectare application area for the Homestead Stage 2 Project (MBS Environmental, 2011). The clearing of vegetation is required for mining of manganese ore. Proposed manganese mining activities include cutback of an existing open pit (6 hectares) and construction and operation of a haul road (2.7 hectares) and waste rock landform (25.6 hectares). Existing roads, cleared areas and other infrastructure will be utilised where possible.

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

Comment The application area is located in the Chitcheater subregion of Western Australia and is situated approximately 100 kilometres east of Nullagine (GIS Database).
The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation surveys described in MBS Environmental (2011).

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The application area occurs within the Chichester (PIL1) subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by *Acacia inaequilatera* over *Triodia wiseana* (formerly *Triodia pungens*) hummock grasslands shrub steppes on the plains, while *Eucalyptus leucophloia* tree steppes occur on ranges (CALM, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area consists of Beard vegetation association 173, which is common and widespread throughout the Pilbara bioregion with approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database). A total of 18 flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted across the Woodie Woodie tenements between 1994 and 2010 (MBS Environmental, 2011). A total of 335 taxa from 136 genera and 48 plant families have been recorded in the Woodie Woodie tenements. MBS Environmental (2011) identified 4 vegetation communities within the application area, with the condition of these vegetation types classified as 'good' (Keighery, 1994). These plant communities are well represented throughout the region and are therefore not thought to be regionally or locally significant (MBS Environmental, 2011).

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) were identified within the application area, although the application area fell within the buffer of a PEC (GIS Database). MBS Environmental (2011) did not identify any TECs or PECs that would be impacted by the clearing proposal.

A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation Declared Rare and Priority Flora databases revealed no Priority Flora species which may potentially occur within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area. This search also revealed no potential Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species (DEC, 2011). MBS Environmental (2011) identified no DRF or Priority Flora species within the application area, however, one Priority 1 species (*Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera*) has been recorded approximately 250 metres to the south-west of the application area.

A total of 10 introduced (weed) species have been recorded in the Woodie Woodie tenements. None of these species are listed by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food as Declared Plants (MBS Environmental, 2011). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The fauna habitats within the application area are considered to be common and widespread within the region. The application area does not contain any unusual habitat such as caves or permanent pools (MBS Environmental, 2011).

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
DEC (2011)
Keighery (1994)
MBS Environmental (2011)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Western Wildlife (2010) has undertaken several Level One and Level Two fauna surveys in the Woodie Woodie area. These surveys identified three broad fauna habitat types within the application area:

- Spinifex on rocky hills;
- Spinifex on low stony hills; and
- Minor creeklines.

MBS Environmental (2011) identified the vegetation condition to be 'good' (Keighery, 1994). The habitats of the project area are common and widespread in the Pilbara region (MBS Environmental, 2011).

There is approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation remaining within the Pilbara bioregion (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database). Given the extent of the native vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the vegetation to be cleared does not represent a significant ecological link.

There are three species of conservation significance which have a low likelihood of occurring within the habitats of the application area. These are the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus* - Migratory), the Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani* – Priority 4), and the Long-tailed Dunnart (*Smithopsis longicaudata* – Priority 3). The Rainbow Bee-eater was recorded in the vicinity of the application area in April 2010 (MBS Environmental, 2011). However, this species is highly mobile and due to the presence of similar habitat surrounding the application area, the clearing proposed is unlikely to represent important habitat loss for the species.

Inactive mounds of the Western Pebble-mound Mouse have been found on low stony hills in the Woodie Woodie area. Since no active mounds have been found in this area, it is unlikely that the clearing proposal will impact on this species. It is also unlikely that the conservation status of the Long-tailed Dunnart will be impacted by the clearing proposal because it is uncommon in the East Pilbara and more often associated with Mulga habitats (MBS Environmental, 2011).

Since the habitats present in the application area are common on both a local and regional scale, it is unlikely that the clearing of 34.4 hectares will adversely impact the conservation status of any species.

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

Methodology Keighery (1994)
MBS Environmental (2011)
Shepherd (2009)
Western Wildlife (2010)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, there are no records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS Database). A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation Declared Rare and Priority Flora databases identified no DRF species as occurring within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2011).

MBS Environmental (2010) conducted several vegetation and flora surveys of the application area and surrounding areas and did not record any DRF species within the survey area.

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

Methodology DEC (2011)
MBS Environmental (2010)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
A search of the available databases shows that there are no Threatened Ecological Community (TECs), within or adjacent to the application area (GIS Database). MBS Environmental (2011) did not identify any TECs that would be impacted by the clearing proposal.

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

Methodology MBS Environmental (2011)
GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
The application area falls within the Pilbara IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application area is recorded as:

Beard vegetation association 173: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft Spinifex and *Triodia wiseana* on basalt (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

Although several other clearing permits have been granted in the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have any significant impact at a regional scale upon vegetation that is significant as an ecological link. This is because of the extensive amount of vegetation remaining in the region of the pre-European extent and a similarly large amount of vegetation remaining of the applicable vegetation association.

According to Shepherd (2009), Beard vegetation association 173 retains approximately 100% of its pre-European extent. Therefore, the areas proposed to be cleared are not a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,804,19	17,785,000	~99.98	Least Concern	6.32
Beard vegetation associations - State					
173	1,421,375	1,421,375	~100	Least Concern	4.82
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
173	1,420,792	1,420,792	~100	Least Concern	4.82

* Shepherd (2009)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (MBS Environmental, 2011; GIS Database), however there are several minor drainage lines which traverse the application area (GIS Database). These drainage lines only flow after major rainfall events.

One plant community found along drainage lines is present within the application area (community 3). Approximately 1.5 hectares of this community is present within the application area, along minor watercourses and in the general area. However, this community and drainage line is common throughout the Woodie Woodie area so the impact of the small amount of clearing proposed is unlikely to be significant (MBS Environmental, 2011).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology MBS Environmental (2011)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the application area is comprised of the:

Coongimah land system: plateaux remnants, undulating low hills and uplands with steep slopes, more gently undulating lower stony plains, closed spaced drainage lines incised into bedrock in narrow valleys in upper parts becoming broader downslope and minor areas of sand sheet. (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004; GIS Database).

The Coongimah land system has a very low erosion risk.

The water table in the application area is sufficiently deep (approximately 30 metres) so that clearing of vegetation will not cause a major rise in the water table, resulting in soil salinity (MBS Environmental, 2011).

In the context of the low erodability of the land system and intact vegetation on a regional scale, the small scale of disturbance from the proposed clearing is not anticipated to increase land degradation (MBS Environmental, 2011).

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

Methodology MBS Environmental (2011)
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation reserves in close proximity to the application area. The nearest Department of Environment and Conservation managed land is the Rudall River National Park, approximately 110 kilometres away (MBS Environmental, 2011; GIS Database).

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

Methodology MBS Environmental (2011)
GIS Database:
- DEC Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

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

There are no permanent watercourses or water bodies within the application area (GIS Database). Any surface water within the application area is likely to only remain for short periods following significant rainfall events as the annual evaporation rate exceeds rainfall. The low density of vegetation and arid climate act to minimise the effect of vegetation removal on surface water runoff. The depth to groundwater of approximately 30 metres means the impact of vegetation removal on groundwater levels will not be significant (MBS Environmental, 2011).

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

Methodology MBS Environmental (2011)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The east Pilbara area is in an arid environment, characterised by high intensity rainfall events associated with thunderstorms and cyclones. For the majority of the year, the creek systems are dry. Within the application area, surface runoff occurs only during and immediately following significant rainfall (MBS Environmental, 2011; CALM, 2002).

Given the size of the area to be cleared (34.3 hectares) compared to the size of the Oakover River catchment area (200,275 hectares) (GIS Database), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will lead to an appreciable increase in run off, and subsequently cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
MBS Environmental (2011)
GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one Native Title claim (WC99/8) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no 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 and Conservation and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 9 January 2012 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. A submission was received in relation to this application regarding the cumulative impacts of clearing within the Pilbara. A written response was provided on the matters raised.

Methodology

GIS Database:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Pilbara 2 (PIL1 – Chichester subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2011) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity, Department of Environment and Conservation, viewed 18 November 2011, <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>>.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- MBS Environmental (2010) Site Wide Flora and Vegetation Report – Woodie Woodie Manganese Operations. Unpublished report prepared for Pilbara Manganese Pty Ltd.
- MBS Environmental (2011) Woodiee Woodie Manganese Operations – Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit) Application – Homestead Stage 2 – M 45/638 – Native Vegetation Management Plan and Assessment of Clearing Principles. December 2011. Unpublished report prepared for Consolidated Minerals.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A & Hennig, P. (2004) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Western Wildlife (2010) Woodie Woodie Prospect Areas: Homestead, Parrot, Lucy Mack North, Canyon, Sardine – Level 1 Fauna Survey – May 2010. Unpublished report prepared for Consolidated Minerals Pty Ltd. June 2010.

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.