



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4921/1
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 1963, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/4585, Lease Extension L827583, Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 47458
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Paraburdoo Airstrip Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
25		Mechanical Removal	Airstrip Maintenance and Upgrade Works

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 19 April 2012

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. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009):

181: Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub.

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted in July 2011 by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012). This survey identified the following five vegetation communities within the application area:

UP1-AxEc: *Acacia xiphophylla* scattered low trees, over *Acacia xiphophylla* tall shrubland, over *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii*, *Rhagodia eremaea* and *Acacia synchronicia* open shrubland, over *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Senna hamersleyensis* low open shrubland, over *Maireana villosa* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* very low open shrubland, over *Cenchrus ciliaris* scattered to very open tussock grassland;

SRR-AaEc: *Acacia aptaneura* scattered tall shrubs to tall open shrubland, over *Acacia aptaneura*, *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* open shrubland, over *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Tribulus suberosus* low open shrubland, over *Aristida contorta* scattered tussock grasses;

UP2-AaAw: *Acacia aptaneura* low open woodland, over *Acacia wanyu* tall shrubland, over *Acacia wanyu*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* open shrubland, over *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* scattered shrubs to low open shrubland, over *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Sporobolus australis* very open tussock grassland;

UPCC-Ax: *Acacia xiphophylla* tall open shrubland, over *Acacia xiphophylla* and *Acacia synchronicia* open shrubland, over *Eremophila cuneifolia*, *Senna hamersleyensis* and *Acacia synchronicia*, low open shrubland, over *Operculina aequisejala* very open herbland (creeping); and

UP3-Aa: *Acacia aptaneura* scattered low trees, over *Acacia aptaneura* tall shrubland to tall open scrub, over *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii* and *Eremophila cuneifolia* scattered shrubs, over *Eremophila cuneifolia* scattered low shrubs to low open shrubland, over *Cenchrus ciliaris* scattered tussock grasses.

Clearing Description Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd is proposing to clear up to 25 hectares of native vegetation within a broader

boundary of approximately 150 hectares for the purpose of airstrip maintenance and upgrade works.

Clearing will be conducted using a dozer with blade up and blade down techniques and also by scrub rolling. All cleared vegetation will be stockpiled and used in rehabilitation.

Vegetation Condition	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994); To Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The application area is located within the Pilbara region of Western Australia and is situated approximately 6 kilometres east north-east of Paraburdo.

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 proposed clearing is located approximately 6 kilometres east north-east of Paraburdo in the Hamersley subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). At a broad scale, vegetation can be described as Mulga low woodlands over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002). Rare features of the subregion include gorges of the Hamersley Ranges (particularly those within Karijini National Park), Palm Spring, Duck Creek and Themeda grasslands (CALM, 2002). Permanent spring systems such as Weeli Wollie Creek are also listed for their importance as refugia (CALM, 2002).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012) in July 2011. A total of 109 flora species from 68 genera and 26 families were recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2012). This is within the average expected range of species diversity and species richness for a study area of this size in the Hamersley subregion (Rio Tinto, 2012).

According to available databases there are no Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities within the application area (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012) in July 2011 did not identify any Declared Rare Flora or Priority Flora species within the application area.

A flora and vegetation survey conducted by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012) identified eight weed species, *Aerva javanica*, *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Cenchrus setiger*, *Echinochloa colona*, *Malvastrum americanum*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Vachellia farnesiana*, within the application area. Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. This can in turn lead to greater rates of infestation and further loss of biodiversity if the area is subject to repeated fires. None of these species are listed as 'Declared Plant' species under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* by the Department of Agriculture and Food. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

A fauna survey conducted by Rio Tinto (2012) identified two fauna habitats, Undulating Plains and Small Rocky Rises, within the application area. Based on these fauna habitats and a desktop survey, seven conservation significant fauna species have been assessed as potentially occurring within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2012). These habitats are common throughout the region and it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of any of these species.

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

Methodology	CALM (2002) Rio Tinto (2012) GIS Database: - IBRA WA (regions – subregions) - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
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(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**

A fauna survey of the application area conducted by Rio Tinto (2012) in July 2011 identified the following two fauna habitats:

Undulating Plains – Shrublands on undulating plains (with scattered small patches of cracking clays) of *Acacia aneura* and *Acacia xiphophylla* over *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Senna* spp.; and

Small Rocky Rises – Shrublands on small rocky rises of *Acacia aneura* over *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Senna* spp.

Based on the habitats present and the results of a desktop survey, the following seven conservation significant fauna species were considered to potentially occur within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2012):

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Schedule 4 – this species is generally found along rocky ledges, cliffs, watercourses or margins with cleared land but may also be found in forests, woodlands and wetlands. While there is a small chance this species inhabits the application area, it is highly mobile and the region contains vast areas of the preferred habitat types. It is therefore considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of this species.

Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) Priority 4 – this species inhabits chenopod flats and plains and lightly wooded grasslands. This habitat is present within the application area, however it is well represented throughout the greater Paraburdoo area and Hamersley subregion. As this species is also highly mobile, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will significantly impact on the conservation of this species.

Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) Priority 4 – this species is mainly found in areas where annual average rainfall is less than 500 millimetres and is likely to breed throughout the arid zone under suitable conditions. As the habitat for this species is widespread in the region and this species is highly mobile, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of this species.

Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) Priority 4 – this species is typically found on stony colluvial hillsides and slopes with hummock grasslands and is common to very common within suitable habitat within the Hamersley and Chichester subregions. Given the common nature of suitable habitat, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing of 25 hectares of native vegetation will impact the conservation of this species.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Migratory – inhabits waters of lakes, swamps, rivers and dams throughout Australia. Suitable habitat may be present within the application area from water pooling as a result of significant rainfall events. At such times, this habitat is likely to be widespread throughout the Ashburton River Catchment. It is therefore considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of this species.

Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) Migratory - inhabits waters of lakes, swamps, rivers and dams throughout Australia. Suitable habitat may be present within the application area from water pooling as a result of significant rainfall events. At such times, this habitat is likely to be widespread throughout the Ashburton River Catchment. It is therefore considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of this species.

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) Migratory – this species prefers lightly wooded, sandy country and is found in a wide variety of habitats within the Pilbara. It is therefore considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation of this species.

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

Methodology Rio Tinto (2012)

(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

There are no known records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012) in July 2011 did not identify any DRF species.

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

Methodology Rio Tinto (2012)

GIS Database:

- Threatened and Priority 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.

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

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is approximately 65 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). At this distance there is little likelihood of any impact to the TEC as a result of the proposed clearing.

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

Methodology 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 is located within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). Shepherd (2009) reports that approximately 99.89% of the pre-European vegetation remains within the Pilbara bioregion.

The vegetation in the application area has been broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association:

181: Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub.

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 100% of Beard vegetation association 181 remains within the Pilbara bioregion (see table below).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,804,193	17,785,001	~99.89	Least Concern	~6.32
Beard vegetation associations - State					
181	1,697,291	1,697,291	~100	Least Concern	~2.39
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
181	65,090	65,090	~100	Least Concern	~4.87

* Shepherd (2009)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

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 is not at variance to this Principle

There are no known wetlands or watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012) in July 2011 did not identify any vegetation associated with wetlands or watercourses.

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

Methodology Rio Tinto (2012)
GIS Database:
- 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

The application area intersects one land system, Paraburdoo (GIS Database). This land system is characterised by basalt derived gilgai plains and stony plains supporting snakewood and mulga shrublands with spinifex and tussock grasses and is inherently resistant to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

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

Methodology 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 at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database). The nearest conservation reserve is Karijini National Park, located approximately 25 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database). At this distance it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.

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

Methodology 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). The nearest PDWSA is the Millstream Water Reserve, approximately 97 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). At this distance it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the water quality of the Millstream Water Reserve.

The groundwater salinity within the application area is between 500 – 1,000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of 25 hectares for the purpose of upgrade and maintenance work on an airstrip is not likely to cause the salinity levels within the area to increase significantly.

There are no wetlands or watercourses within the application area, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of any surface water (GIS Database).

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Goundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA)

(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 application area experiences a semi-desert tropical climate with an average annual rainfall of approximately 319 millimetres recorded at Paraburdoo Aero weather station (BoM, 2012; CALM, 2002). The majority of rainfall in this area usually falls in summer cyclonic and thunderstorm events (CALM, 2002). Large runoff along with localised and regional flooding can occur following intense rainfall events and, given its non contiguous nature, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will 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 BoM (2012)
CALM (2002)

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

Comments

There is one Native Title Claim (WC10/116) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the 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 Site 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 19 March 2012 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received raising concern over the potential impacts to Threatened and Priority Flora, and biodiversity within the Paraburdoo area. A letter of reply was sent advising these issues are taken into consideration during the clearing permit assessment process.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims – Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- BoM (2012) BoM Website - Climate Averages by Number, Averages for PARABURDOO AERO.
www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables.shtml (Accessed 4 April 2012)
- Department of Conservation and Land Management (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions.
- 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.
- Rio Tinto (2012) Flora and Vegetation Assessment of the Paraburdoo Airport - Including Supporting Documentation for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. Unpublished Report dated February 2012.
- 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., 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
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.