Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	4921/4
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Application received:	9 July 2025
Application area:	25 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Airstrip maintenance and upgrade works
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	*Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963*, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/4585 (N104721), Lot 33 on Deposited Plan 47458
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name:	Paraburdoo Airstrip Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Hamersley Iron proposes to clear up to 25 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 150 hectares, for the purpose of airstrip maintenance and upgrade works (Rio Tinto, 2025). The project is located approximately 6 kilometres east North-east of Paraburdoo, within the Shire of Ashburton (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for an extension of the duration of the permit to 31 December 2035, and an extension of the period in which clearing is authorised to 31 December 2030. No other changes are proposod to the permit.

Clearing permit CPS 4921/3 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 6 January 2022, amending the permit to extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 31 December 2025, and to extend the duration of the permit to 31 December 2030. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 25 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 150 hectares, for the purpose of airstrip maintenance and upgrade works. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 9 July 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 4921/3 to extend the duration of the permit to 31 December 2035, and to extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 31 December 2030.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	16 December 2025
Decision area:	25 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix C), supporting information provided by the applicant (Rio Tinto, 2012; 2016) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2012), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate airstrip maintenance and upgrade works.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation or have long-term adverse impacts on environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant the clearing permit amendment maintaining conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weed; and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit within 12 months of clearing.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 4921/3. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of the Permit duration to 31 December 2035, and extension of the period in which clearing is authorised to 31 December 2030 is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963*

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016b)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The initial assessment of CPS 4921/1 against the clearing principles showed that the planned clearing activities would either not be or not likely to be at variance with the clearing principles and have a negligible effect on the local environment. There has been no new information or changes identified that alter this assessment, as such the delegated officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values through the stockpiling and planned usage of cleared vegetation in rehabilitation activities.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The permit holder has applied to extend the period in which clearing is authorised (pursuant to permit condition four) from 31 December 2025 until 31 December 2030. Furthermore, the permit holder has applied to extend the duration of the permit from 31 December 2030 to 31 December 2035. No other changes are proposed to the permit. As of 2 October 2025, 0.37 hectares has been cleared pursuant to permit 4921/3 since it was issued (DMPE, 2025).

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the site conditions have not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 4921/3. The vegetation survey conducted for the application CPS 4921/1 (Rio Tinto, 2012) did not identify any threatened or priority flora. A review of current information has shown that there is unlikely to have been any change in flora assemblages within the area proposed to be cleared since the initial survey due to the sparse nature of the vegetation within the area and the usage of the area as an active aerodrome.

No fauna surveys have been provided as part of CPS 4921/1, 4921/2, or 4921/3, however a review of current environmental information (GIS Database) shows there are no threatened or priority fauna within or immediately adjacent to the area proposed to be cleared and that the area does not represent significant habitat for conservation significant species. Due to the usage of the area as an aerodrome this is unlikely to change during the lifetime of the permit. While only 0.37 hectares have been cleared within the application area to date, the sparsity of vegetation in the area combined with the disturbance caused by aircraft operations results in a low probability of fauna species not already present within the application area utilising the area.

On 28 August 2025 DMPE Environmental Officers conducted an environmental inspection for CPS 4921/3. The inspection concluded that clearing carried out to date was compliant with the clearing permit, with 0.37 hectares cleared out of the 25 hectares authorised under the permit.

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*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision reports CPS 4921/1, 4921/2, and 4921/3; the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (i), (j) and is not at variance to principles (e), (f), and (h).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 9 July 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2010/016) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are 11 registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). 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.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is located approximately three kilometres east north-east of the Paraburdoo Townsite (GIS database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record is the Hammersley Range National Park (1977 Boundary), located approximately 25 kilometres east of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • 181: Scrub, open scrub or sparse scrub (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the amended application area was conducted in July 2011 by botanists from Rio Tinto (2012; 2016). This survey identified the following five vegetation communities within the application area: **D-RG** Previously Disturbed Areas – Historical disturbance which typically consisted of regrowth vegetation of little to no identifiable structure and often including significant proportions of weed growth; **UP2-AaAw** *Acacia aneura var. pilbarana* low open woodland, 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; **UP1-AxEc** *Acacia xiphophylla* scattered low trees, over *Acacia xiphophylla* tall shrubland, over *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *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; **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 aequisepala* 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. *Denotes weed species
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2012; 2016) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good (Keighery, 1994) to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. As the area proposed to be cleared is located within the Eremaean Botanical Province, these condition ratings have been converted to the Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale (GIS Database). Therefore the vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from good to excellent (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Keighery (1994) and Trudgen (1991) condition rating scales are provided in Appendix B.
Climate and landform	The application area is mapped within elevation areas of 410 to 430 meters Australian height datum (GIS Database). The climate for Hammersley Ranges region is Summer-Dominant with an annual rainfall of 312.4 millimetres recorded at Paraburdoo (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as a part of the following land system (DPIRD, 2025; GIS Database): • **Paraburdoo System (285Pa):** basalt derived stony gilgai plains and stony plains supporting snakewood and mulga shrublands with spinifex, chenopods, and tussock grasses.
Land degradation risk	The Paraburdoo System (285Pa) is generally considered to be resistant to erosion with the exception of drainage zones which are moderately susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al. 2004).

Characteristic	Details
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the area proposed to be cleared is bounded by two minor, non-perennial watercourses to the North-west and south respectively (GIS Database). The hydrography of the surrounding area feeds into the Ashburton River, a major non-perennial river located approximately 60 kilometres South-west of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Paraburdoo water reserve (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Pilbara Ground Water Area and Pilbara Surface Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The application area occurs within the Ashburton River catchment (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is of 500-1000 milligrams per total dissolved solids which is described as Marginal (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 16 priority flora within 50 kilometres, with 2 instances falling within 10km of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no Priority Ecological Community/Threatened Ecological Community (PEC/TEC) records in local area, however there are potential BIF approximately 5 kilometres to the East of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of 19 conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres and four known Pilbara Leaf-Nosed Bat roost sites within 50 kilometres (GIS Database).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	65,090.45	63,204.50	97.10	4,957.36	7.62
Beard vegetation associations - State					
181	1,697,291.35	1,695,240.74	99.88	278,890.98	16.43
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
181	65,090.45	63,204.50	97.10	4,957.36	7.62

Government of Western Australia (2019)

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Province (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.

Condition	Description
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

The vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2012; 2016) received from Rio Tinto utilised the below scale to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix C. Sources of information

C.1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

C.2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Paraburdoo. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 18 November 2025).

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Mines, Petroleum, and Exploration (DMPE) (2025) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit CPS 4921/3 - Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd. Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, Perth, Western Australia, October 2025.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 18 November 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 18 Novermber 2025).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

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 (2016) Additional Information Received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 4921/2. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia

Rio Tinto (2025) Application to amend a clearing permit, Form C4. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia.

Rio Tinto (2012) Flora and Vegetation Assessment of the Paraburdoo Airport, Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia, February, 2012.

Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.

Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
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)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)

DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth 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:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR **Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN **Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU **Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be "*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*".

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

EX **Extinct species**

Species where "*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

Species that *"is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

MI **Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P **Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status 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 – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

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. These species need 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 a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

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.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened 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 the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.