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

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	5212/3
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Donald Kimberley North
Application received:	8 August 2022
Application area:	9.2 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 47/411
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Karratha

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Donald Kimberley North proposes to clear up to 9.2 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 43 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 30 kilometres north east of Karratha, within the City of Karratha.

The application is to allow for gravel extraction operations.

Clearing permit CPS 5212/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 11 October 2012 and was valid from 3 November 2012 to 3 November 2017. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 9.2 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 43 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

CPS 5212/2 was granted on 19 October 2017, amending the permit to extend the duration to 30 November 2022. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 8 August 2022, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5212/2 to extend the permit duration by five years.

Annual clearing reports and additional information provided by the applicant indicate that approximately 5.99 hectares was cleared under CPS 5212/1 from 3 November 2012 to 30 June 2015. Approximately 3.21 hectares of native vegetation clearing allowance remains.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	17 November 2022
Decision area:	9.2 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51KA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 8 August 2022. DMIRS 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 B), the results of a flora and vegetation survey (West Ecology, 2011), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Glossary), 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 for gravel mining.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values; and
- potential impacts to surface water flows causing land degredation and impacts to surface water quality.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- not clear trees over 50 centimetres in diameter at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree and native vegetation within the drip line of those trees.

The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly since the assessment for CPS 5212/2. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of permit duration by five years is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

It is noted that any further extension of permit duration will likely require further flora and fauna surveys.

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 (see 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)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3. Assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

No new biological information has been provided in support of the amendment application. The environmental values of the application area are described in previous versions of the decision report for CPS 5212/1 and CPS 5212/2. The previous assessment did not identify any significant environmental impacts from the clearing of 9.2 hectares of native vegetation. Based on the current environmental information, the extension of the permit duration by five years is unlikely to significantly change the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 5212/2.

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

The assessment has not changed except in the case of Principles (g) and (i). These have been reassessed from not likely to be at variance, to may be at variance. As the application area occurs over four kilometres of a minor, non-perennial creek, the clearing of any larger trees with significant root systems may destabilise the river bank. This would result in erosion, a form of land degradation, and cause increased sedimentation, negatively impacting surface water quality. This can be managed through a condition to not clear large trees or native vegetation within the drip line of those trees. Therefore, any large trees that are significant for bank stabilisation will be protected, reducing the risk of land degradation and negative surface water quality impacts. Large trees are also likely to be utilised for roosting and potentially nesting by fauna species in the area and the protection of these trees will also benefit any conservation significant or other native fauna species.

A review of updated environmental data (Appendix A) indicates that there are several conservation significant fauna species that may access the application area. While the application area may provide habitat for a variety of fauna species, the landforms providing habitat (plains, creek line and hills) are well-represented outside of the application area. These factors, combined with the small size of the application area, indicate that the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. However, with consideration of the precautionary principle and the lack of current biological survey data, the permit condition to restrict the clearing of any large trees has been implemented to minimise the risk of land degradation and impacts on fauna species.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 16 August 2022 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2022). 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 is one registered Aboriginal Site of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2022). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

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 project is located approximately 30 kilometres north east of Karratha. 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).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Murujuga National Park which is located approximately 30 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex *Triodia wiseana* (GIS Database). Over 99 percent of the pre-European extent of vegetation association 157 remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by West Ecology during April, 2011. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (West Ecology, 2011): 0: Disturbed area; 1: High open shrub land of *Acacia pyrifolia* var *pyrifolia* over open hummock grassland on hills; 2: Open shrub land of *Acacia synchronicia* over open hummock grassland on plains; 3: Low open woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over mosaic shrubland of *Acacia* species and hummock grassland on plains; and 4: Scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia tumida* var *pilbarensis* in creek lines. The vegetation survey was conducted within the tenement boundary for M 47/411, which aligns with the boundary for the application area (West Ecology, 2011).
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (West Ecology, 2011) indicated the vegetation within the application area ranges from completely degraded to excellent condition (Trudgen, 1991), described as: • Excellent: No introduced species or disturbances recorded (2.01%) • Very Good: Occasional patches of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (buffel grass), no disturbances recorded except for signs of previous excavation in one area (23.02%) • Poor: Occasional patches of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (buffel grass), many access tracks and areas of exploration disturbances and excavation (71.40%) • Completely degraded: Previously cleared areas such as roads and tracks, no vegetation (3.57%)
Climate and landform	West Ecology (2011) identified three landforms within the application area; hills, plains and creek line. The majority of the application area consisted of plains (79.2%) surrounding the creek line (15.3%), with a small area of hills (2.0%) in the northern section and small disturbed areas throughout the tenement (3.5%). The application area is mapped at an elevation of between 20 to 40 metres AHD. The mean annual rainfall for the area is approximately 300 millimetres (GIS Database).
Soil description	The soils of the application are broadly mapped as soil types: • 289Rt: Hills and ridges of volcanic and other rocks supporting shrubby hard spinifex and occasionally soft spinifex grasslands • 289Bg: Stony lower slopes and plains below hill systems supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands or mulga shrublands • 289Rk: Basalt hills, plateaux, lower slopes and minor stony plains supporting hard spinifex and occasionally soft spinifex grasslands with scattered shrubs (DPIRD, 2022).
Land degradation risk	The majority of the application area is mapped within the moderate to low risk category for Acid Sulphate Soils (GIS Database). According to photos included in the vegetation survey, the creek bed within the application area contains large amounts of gravel, reducing the risk of erosion in the watercourse (West Ecology, 2011). However, clearing native vegetation along the bank of the creek may result in erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the area proposed to be cleared occurs over a minor, non-perennial watercourse for an approximate length of four kilometres (GIS Database). Surface water quality within the watercourse may be impacted if the clearing of native

Characteristic	Details
	vegetation results in erosion of the creek bank and the sediment load entering the water is increased.
Hydrogeography	The application area is not within any public drinking water source areas. The mapped groundwater salinity is 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre of total dissolved solids, which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).
Flora	No species of conservation significance were recorded during the flora survey by West Ecology (2011). A search of available databases showed records of two Priority flora within 50 kilometres of the application area, *Stackhousia clementii* (Priority 3) and *Terminalia supranitifolia* (Priority 3) (GIS Database). Given the distance to the nearest records of both of these species (over 30 kilometres) and that they were included in the Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey in 2011 and not found, it is considered unlikely that they occur (West Ecology, 2011).
Ecological communities	There are no records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities located within the application area (GIS Database). There are 129 records of Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within 50 kilometres of the application area. The nearest PEC to the application area is the Horseflat Land System of the Roebourne Plains. No species indicative of this PEC were recorded in the flora survey (West Ecology, 2011).
Fauna	There are records of 27 conservation significant fauna species within five kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Species considered to potentially occur within the application area include (ALA, 2022; Australian Government, 2022a, 2022b, 2022c): • *Dasyurus hallucatus* (northern quoll) (Endangered, BC Act and EPBC Act) • *Leggadina lakedownensis* (northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga) (Priority 4, BC Act) • *Lerista nevinae* (Nevin's slider) (Endangered, BC Act and EPBC Act) • *Pseudomys chapmani* (western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji) (Priority 4, BC Act) The search area includes a range of landforms including coastline, which are not present within the application area (GIS Database). The majority of recorded species are migratory birds listed under both the BC Act and EPBC Act, which may potentially occur within the application area during seasonal inundation, however it is unlikely to be significant habitat.

Appendix B. Sources of information

B.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

B.2. References

Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) (2022) *Leggadina lakedownensis*. URL: https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/642a7a82-363b-4775-b165-1d93e0ef2d9b (Accessed 6 October 2022).

Australian Government (2022a) *Dasyurus hallucatus* — Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. URL: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=331 (accessed 6 October 2022).

Australian Government (2022b) *Lerista nevinae* — Nevin's Slider. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. URL: https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=85296 (accessed 6 October 2022).

Australian Government (2022c) Species *Pseudomys chapmani* Kitchener. Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. URL: https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/Pseudomys_chapmani (accessed 6 October 2022).

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2022) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 3 October 2022).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2022) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/ (Accessed 3 October 2022).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available from: 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

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.

West Ecology (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Welcome Exploration Tenements M47/411, M47/524, M47/556, M47/442 and M45/1195. Report Prepared by West Ecology for Welcome Exploration Pty Ltd, September 2011.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
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* (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**

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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

CR **Critically endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be "*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild 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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

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).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and 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.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**
Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS **Other specially protected species**
Fauna 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).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P **Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1 **Priority One - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

P4 **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

(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.