



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5220/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 59/45
Mining Lease 59/208
Miscellaneous Licence 59/40
Local Government Area: Shire of Yalgoo
Colloquial name: Western Queen South

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 25 October 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. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and
39: Shrublands; mulga scrub.

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a) in April 2012. This survey identified the following two vegetation communities within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012a):

- *Acacia aneura* and *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla* low woodland over *Eremophila fraseri* or *Eremophila exilifolia* open shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland; and

- *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia grasbyi* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* low woodland to low open woodland over *Eremophila fraseri* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* low open shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland.

Clearing Description Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd has applied to clear up to 25 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of mineral production.

Vegetation Condition Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994);

To

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Comment The application area is located within the Murchison region of Western Australia and is situated approximately 75 kilometres west of Cue.

The vegetation condition was derived from a survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is located within the Western Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim

Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by Mulga low woodlands, often rich in ephemerals (usually with bunch grasses), on outcrop and fine textured Quaternary alluvial and eluvial surfaces (extensive hardpan washplains that dominate and characterise the subregion) mantling granitic and greenstone strata of the northern part of the Yilgarn Craton. Surfaces associated with the occluded drainage occur throughout with hummock grasslands on Quaternary sandplains, saltbush shrublands on calcareous soils and *Halosarcia* low shrublands on saline alluvia (CALM, 2002).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a) in April 2012. This survey identified 80 plant taxa within the application area and in areas directly adjacent (Outback Ecology, 2012a). This is considered to be relatively low for this area however, given the close proximity to current mining operations this is not considered unusual (Outback Ecology, 2012a).

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

According to available databases there are no Threatened or Priority Flora species within the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a) did not identify any Threatened or Priority Flora species within the application area. One Priority 4 species, *Dodonaea amplisemina* was recorded in an area adjacent to the application area, however the habitat it occurs in is not present within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012a). Therefore, this species is considered unlikely to occur within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012a).

Two introduced flora species, *Cucumis myriocarpus* and *Solanum nigrum*, have been recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012a). 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. Neither 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 desktop fauna survey of the application area and surrounds was conducted by Outback Ecology (2012b). Based on a flora survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a), two broad fauna habitats, Sparse Mulga Woodland and Drainage Line, were identified within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012b). The Sparse Mulga Woodland habitat is common regionally (Outback Ecology, 2012) and the proposed clearing is not likely to contain a high level of fauna diversity. The Drainage Line habitat is similar to the Sparse Mulga Woodland, however it supports denser vegetation and has an increased water availability (Outback Ecology, 2012b). While the Drainage Line may contain a higher level of faunal diversity than the Sparse Mulga Woodland habitat, it comprises a relatively small section of the application area. The proposed clearing is therefore considered unlikely to significantly impact on faunal diversity within this community.

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
Outback Ecology (2012a)
Outback Ecology (2012b)
GIS Database:
- IRBA WA (regions – subregions)
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(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 desktop fauna survey of the application area and surrounds was conducted by Outback Ecology (2012b). Based on a flora survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a), two broad fauna habitats were identified within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2012b):

Sparse Mulga Woodland – dominant habitat type in the study area with two different soil types, sandy loam and rocky plains, likely to support different assemblages of fauna species (Outback Ecology, 2012). A small patch of senescent vegetation was recorded within the survey area which may contain higher habitat values than the surrounding areas. It is possible other such similar habitat is present in isolated patches throughout the area (Outback Ecology, 2012b).

Drainage Line - similar to the Sparse Mulga Woodland however, it supports denser vegetation and has increased water availability (Outback Ecology, 2012b). This habitat provides additional shelter, foraging, roost sites and potential habitat linkages (Outback Ecology, 2012b). The sheltered nature and potential higher moisture content of the drainage lines means this habitat has the potential to support short range endemic species (Outback Ecology, 2012b).

The fauna survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012b) identified the potential for seven conservation significant fauna species and one short range endemic to occur within the application area.

The Common Slender Blue-tongue (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*) (Schedule 1), Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*) (Endangered, Schedule 1, Threatened), Good-legged Lerista (*Lerista eupoda*) (P1), Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*) (P4) and Slender-billed Thornbill (Western) (*Acanthiza iredalei iredalei*) (Vulnerable), have all been recorded within 50 to 100 kilometres of the application area and the habitats within the application area are suitable to support these species.

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Schedule 1, Specially Protected Fauna) may intermittently occur within the application area however, suitable breeding habitat is largely absent (Outback Ecology, 2012b). The conservation of this species is therefore unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

The Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) (Migratory) has been recorded consistently around the area and may occur as a resident, breeding visitor, passage migrant or winter visitor (Outback Ecology, 2012b). The Rainbow Bee-eater occurs within numerous habitats including open woodlands, sandpits, riverbanks, road cuttings, beaches, cliffs, mangroves and rainforests (Outback Ecology, 2012b). Given the high mobility of this species, the broad range of preferred habitats and the small scale of the proposed clearing, it is considered unlikely that the conservation of the Rainbow Bee-eater will be impacted by the proposed activities.

The habitats within the application area are common throughout the Western Murchison Bioregion and given the relatively small scale of the proposed clearing (25 hectares) adjacent to existing mine operations, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will significantly impact any conservation significant fauna species.

One short range endemic, *Eucyrtops 'MYG131'*, a Myglamorph spider, is considered to potentially occur within the application area as it has been recorded approximately 20 kilometres north west of the application area (Outback Ecology). The habitat from which this species is known from is considered unlikely to be restricted in the landscape, therefore the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to 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 Outback Ecology (2012b)

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

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

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Flora species within the application area (GIS Database).

No Threatened Flora species were identified during a flora survey of the application area conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a).

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

Methodology Outback Ecology (2012a)
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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is located approximately 192 kilometres south south-west 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 Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). Approximately 99.73% of the pre-European vegetation remains within the Murchison bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

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

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and
 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub.

Approximately 99.68% and 99.1% of Beard vegetation associations 18 and 39 remain within the Murchison bioregion respectively (see table below) (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves (and post clearing %)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99.73	Least Concern	~1.05
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,305	19,843,823	~99.76	Least Concern	~2.13
39	6,613,569	6,602,580	~99.83	Least Concern	~7.25
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99.68	Least Concern	~0.37
39	1,148,400	1,138,064	~99.1	Least Concern	~0.02

* Government of Western Australia (2011)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be a remnant of 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)
 Government of Western Australia (2011)
 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 at variance to this Principle**
 According to available databases there are no permanent wetlands or watercourses within the application area however, several non-perennial watercourses are present (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area conducted by Outback Ecology (2012a) identified one vegetation community associated with non-perennial drainage lines. Only a small portion of this community occurs within the application area and it has been commonly identified in the surrounding areas (Outback Ecology, 2012a). It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will significantly impact upon this community.

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

Methodology Outback Ecology (2012a)
 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 may be at variance to this Principle**
 According to available databases the application area intersects the Challenge, Gabanintha and Jundee land systems (GIS Database).

The Challenge land system is characterised by gently sloping gritty-surfaced plains, occasional granite hills, tors and low breakaways, with acacia shrubland (Payne *et al.*, 1998). Two units within this land system are

slightly susceptible to erosion (Payne *et al.*, 1998).

The Gabanintha land system is characterised by greenstone ridges and hills supporting sparse acacia shrubland (Payne *et al.*, 1998). The stone mantles provide protection against erosion over most of this land system except for in one unit which is slightly susceptible to erosion (Payne *et al.*, 1998).

The Jundee land system is characterised by hardpan plains with ironstone gravel mantles supporting mulga shrublands (Payne *et al.*, 1998). Alterations to natural sheet flows can initiate soil erosion and cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope (Payne *et al.*, 1998).

All land systems have slight potential for soil erosion with alteration of natural sheet flow being a cause in the Jundee land system. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition and a watercourse management condition.

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

Methodology Payne *et al.* (1998)
GIS Database:
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

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

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

The application area is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database). The nearest conservation reserve is the Dalgaringa Former Leasehold located approximately 7 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be 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

According to available databases, the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The nearest PDWSA is the Mount Magnet (Lennonville) Water Reserve located approximately 760 kilometres south east of the application area (GIS Database).

Groundwater within the application area is 'brackish' with average salinity ranging from 1000-3000 milligrams per Litre Total Dissolved Solids (GIS Database). Average annual rainfall is low at approximately 300 millimetres (GIS Database), therefore surface water flow is likely to be low during normal seasonal rains. Furthermore, as the application area experiences an average annual evaporation rate of 3,600 millimetres (GIS Database), during normal rainfall events, surface water within the application area is likely to evaporate quickly and removal of vegetation is unlikely to contribute to a rising saline watertable.

There are no permanent wetlands or watercourses within the application area (GIS Database), therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause any deterioration in the quality of surface water.

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

Methodology GIS Database
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Groundwater Salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA's)
- Rainfall, Mean Annual (Rainfall)

(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 project area occurs within the arid climatic zone, with bimodal rainfall that usually falls in winter (CALM, 2002).

Average annual rainfall is low at approximately 300 millimetres (GIS Database), therefore surface water flow is likely to be low during normal seasonal rains. Furthermore, as the application area experiences an average annual evaporation rate of approximately 3,600 millimetres (GIS Database), during normal rainfall events, surface water within the application area is likely to evaporate quickly

The application area is within the Murchison River catchment area which covers approximately 10,380,649 hectares (GIS Database). Given the size of the area to be cleared (25 hectares) in relation to the size of the catchment area, the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
GIS Database
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Hydrographic Catchments - catchments
- Rainfall

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC04/10) over the application area (GIS Database). This claim has been registered within the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the Native Title Act 1993 and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the Native Title Act 1993.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponents' 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 17 September 2012 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

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

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management
- 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.
- Government of Western Australia (2011) 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology (2012a) Ramelius Resources Limited Western Queen South Gold Project - Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Assessment. Unpublished report dated June 2012.
- Outback Ecology (2012b) Ramelius Resources Limited Western Queen South Gold Project - Terrestrial Fauna Desktop Study. Unpublished report dated July 2012.
- Payne, A.L., Mitchell, A.A. and Holman, W.F. (1988). An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the Ashburton River catchment, Western Australia. Revised edition. Western Australian Department of Agriculture. Technical Bulletin No. 62.

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.