



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5222/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Carrick Gold Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 27/169  
Local Government Area: Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder  
Colloquial name: Linday's Gold Project

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 18 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 and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area:

**Beard vegetation association 20:** Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Allocasuarina cristata* & *Eucalyptus* sp. (Government of Western Australia, 2011; GIS Database).

Botanica Consulting (2012) conducted a vegetation and flora survey of the application area during 28 to 29 November 2011 and 12 January 2012, and described nine broad vegetation communities within the application area:

- Low woodlands of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris* over heath of mixed chenopods;
- Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris* over low scrub of *Maireana sedifolia*;
- Scrub of *Acacia ramulosa* over low scrub of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *S. artemisioides* subsp. *x artemisioides*;
- Very open mallee of *Eucalyptus oleosa* over low woodland of *Acacia aneura*, *A. oswaldii*, *A. ramulosa* and *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode;
- Open low woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over low scrub of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and dwarf scrub of *Ptilotus obovatus*;
- Low woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over low scrub of *Maireana sedifolia* and dwarf scrub of *Ptilotus obovatus*;
- Low woodland of *Acacia anura*, *A. burkittii* and *A. ramulosa* in drainage area;
- Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over low scrub of *Maireana sedifolia* on rocky rise; and
- Cleared/Rehabilitated vegetation.

**Clearing Description** Carrick Gold Limited is proposing to clear up to 46 hectares of native vegetation within a larger application area of 155 hectares to open a small scale open-pit gold mining operation at the Lindsay's Project. Carrick Gold Limited intends to commence open pit mining operations in four open pits. The clearing of native vegetation is required for the open pits, haul roads, ore pads, waste dumps and infrastructure.

The vegetation will be cleared using a bulldozer. The vegetation and topsoil will be stockpiled separately for use in rehabilitation.

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

To:

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

**Comment** The application area is located in the Murchison subregion of Western Australia and is situated approximately 32

kilometres north-east of the Kanowna town site (GIS Database).

The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2012).

### 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 areas occur within the East Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by its internal drainage, and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development. The salt lake systems associated with the occluded Paleodrainage system. Vegetation is dominated by Mulga Woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and Halosarcia shrublands (CALM, 2002).

Botanica Consulting (2012) conducted a level two vegetation and flora survey of the application area during 28 to 29 November 2011 and 12 January 2012. The flora and vegetation survey identified nine vegetation communities within the application area. The area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be remnant vegetation. The vegetation of the wider Murchison region remains largely undisturbed despite widespread pastoral activities, feral grazing and weed invasion (CALM, 2002). The condition of the vegetation types were classified as 'very good' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994; GIS Database). The flora survey identified a total of 100 vascular plant taxa from 46 genera and 26 families within the application area. The application area has a moderate species richness and the application area does not support a high diversity of flora or vegetation units which may be important for the locality or the subregion (Botanica Consulting, 2012).

A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Threatened and Priority Flora databases revealed two records of Priority Flora species within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2012). No Threatened Flora species were identified (DEC, 2012). Botanica Consulting (2012) identified no Threatened Flora and no Priority Flora species within the application area.

There are no Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities recorded within the application area (GIS Database).

There was one weed species identified during the survey; Maltese Cockspur (*Centaurea melitensis*) (Botanica Consulting, 2012). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

There were eight faunal habitats identified within the application area, one of which was considered to be of significance due to the presence of riparian vegetation, however the habitat is common throughout the local and regional area (Harewood, 2012; Botanica Consulting, 2012; GIS Database). All of the remaining habitats within the application area are considered to be common and widespread within the subregion and faunal assemblages are unlikely to be different to that found in similar habitat located elsewhere in the region (Harewood, 2012). The clearing of 46 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to have a significant impact on faunal diversity in a regional and local context.

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

##### Methodology

Botanica Consulting (2012)  
CALM (2002)  
DEC (2012)  
Harewood (2012)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Database:  
- IBRA WA (Regions - Subregions)  
- Pre-European vegetation  
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered  
- Gindalbie 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2009

#### (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**

There were eight broad fauna habitat types recorded within the survey area which correspond to the vegetation survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2012).

Botanica Consulting (2012) and Harewood (2012) identified the vegetation condition to be 'very good' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994). The landforms and habitat found within the application area is considered as being well represented in the East Murchison subregion (Botanica Consulting, 2012; GIS Database). The application area does not contain habitats or faunal assemblages that are ecologically significant except for one of which was considered to be of significance due to the presence of riparian vegetation, however, the habitat is common throughout the local and regional area (Harewood, 2012; Botanica Consulting, 2012; GIS Database). The

clearing of 46 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to contain significant habitat for fauna.

Harewood (2012) conducted a fauna survey of the application area on 11 January 2012. Harewood (2012) recorded 25 native fauna species within the application area. There were no species of conservation significance recorded within the application area. There are four species of conservation significance which are likely to occur in the application area; the Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*), Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) (DEC, 2012; Harewood, 2012). These species may use the study area for foraging as part of a larger territory area and are considered highly mobile and/or have a wide distribution. Due to the widespread nature of the available habitats, it is unlikely there will be a significant impact on these species (Harewood, 2012). The habitat present within the application areas is not considered significant habitat for other conservation significant species (Harewood, 2012). The proposed clearing of 46 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to impact critical feeding or breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species as the application area does not contain significant habitat for the potential species (Harewood, 2012).

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

**Methodology** Botanica Consulting (2012)  
DEC (2012)  
Harewood (2012)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Database:  
- Gindalbie 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2009

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

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

According to available databases, there are no records of Threatened Flora species within the application area (GIS Database). A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Threatened and Priority Flora databases identified no Threatened Flora species as occurring within a 10 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2012).

Botanica Consulting (2012) conducted a vegetation and flora survey of the application area during 28 to 29 November 2011 and 12 January 2012, during which no Threatened Flora species were recorded within the survey area.

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

**Methodology** Botanica Consulting (2012)  
DEC (2012)  
GIS Database:  
- Threatened and Priority Flora

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

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

A search of the available databases shows that there are no Threatened Ecological Communities situated within 100 kilometres 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  
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

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

The application area falls within the Murchison IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application area is recorded as:

**Beard vegetation association 20:** Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Allocasuarina cristata* & Eucalyptus sp (Government of Western Australia; GIS Database).

According to the Government of Western Australia, Beard vegetation association 20 retains approximately 99% of its pre-European extent. Therefore, the area proposed to be cleared is not a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	20,120,587	20,044,823	~99.73	Least Concern	1.05
Beard vegetation associations - State					
20	1,295,103	1,292,475	~99.80	Least Concern	13.32
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
20	1,174,259	1,171,631	~99.78	Least Concern	8.89

\* Government of Western Australia (2011)

\*\* Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

**Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
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**

Based on vegetation mapping by Botanica Consulting (2012), there is one vegetation type associated with drainage lines:

- Low woodland of *Acacia anura*, *A. burkittii* and *A. ramulosa* in drainage area.

The condition of the riparian vegetation type is classified as 'good' (Keighery, 1994; GIS Database).

A site survey by Carrick Gold (2012) found no evidence of major drainage channels within the application area, however, there is some evidence of minor drainage patterns around the ground disturbance within the application area. Surface water flow within the application area is through the minor ephemeral drainage lines, and only occurs after heavy rains (Carrick Gold, 2012; CALM, 2002; GIS Database).

Provided disturbance to riparian habitats is avoided or minimised where possible, and strict weed hygiene procedures are followed, the proposed works are not expected to substantially impact these vegetation units. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management condition.

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

**Methodology** Botanica Consulting (2012)  
Carrick Gold (2012)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Database:  
- Geodata, Lakes  
- Hydrography, Linear  
- Gindalbie 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2009

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

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

The application area is within the Helag, Latimore and Moriarty land systems (GIS Database).

The Helag land system is described as hardpan plains and central drainage tracts with mulga shrublands and minor chenopod shrublands. The alluvial plains are susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed. Impedance of natural water flows can initiate soil erosion and cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope (Pringle et al., 1994).

The Latimore land system is described as gently undulating gravelly plains and low rises on laterite with acacia tall shrublands and occasional eucalypt trees (GIS Database). This land system is not generally susceptible to erosion.

The Moriarty land system is described as low greenstone rises and stony plains supporting halophytic and acacia shrublands with patchy eucalypt overstoreys. This land system is moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994).

Due to the large area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared (46 hectares) potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

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

**Methodology** Pringle et al (1994)  
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 any conservation area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Goongarrie National Park, located approximately 30 kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database).

Given the distance of the application area from Goongarrie National Park, the proposed clearing is not likely to provide a significant ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor and is not likely to impact the environmental values of the conservation area.

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**

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the proclaimed Goldfields groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1994* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water.

There are no permanent watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). There is a minor ephemeral drainage line within the application area which only flows after heavy rainfall (Carrick Gold Limited, 2012; CALM, 2002). Any surface water within the application area is likely to only remain for short periods following significant rainfall events. The proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any surface water within or outside of the application area.

The application area has a groundwater salinity that ranges from saline to hypersaline (14,000 - 35,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved solids (TDS) (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of 46 hectares of native vegetation over an application area of 155 hectares is unlikely to further deteriorate the quality of underground water (GIS Database).

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

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Geodata, Lakes  
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide  
- Hydrography, Linear  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas  
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas

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

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

The application area experiences an arid climate, with an annual average rainfall of approximately 264.9

millimetres per year (CALM, 2002; BoM, 2012). Based on an average annual evaporation rate of 2,400 - 2,800 millimetres (BoM, 2012), any surface water resulting from rainfall events is likely to be relatively short lived.

Given the size of the area to be cleared (46 hectares) compared to the size of the Raeside-Ponton catchment area (11,589,532 hectares) (GIS Database) it is not likely that the proposed clearing will lead to an appreciable increase in run off, and subsequently cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

**Methodology** BoM (2012)  
CALM (2002)  
GIS Database:  
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

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

##### **Comments**

There are two Native Title claims over the area under application (WC99/30 and WC10/14). The claim WC99/30 was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on 4 October 1999. The claim WC10/14 was filed at the Federal Court on 14 October 2010. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 10 September 2012 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to the proposed clearing.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT  
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court

#### **4. References**

- BoM (2012) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, viewed 12 October 2012, <[http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw\\_012038.shtml](http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_012038.shtml)>.
- Botanica Consulting (2012) Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Lindsay's Project, Final Report. Prepared for Carrick Gold Limited.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Murchison 1 (MUR1 - East Murchison subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Carrick Gold (2012) Clearing Permit, Lindsay's Gold Project M27/169. Internal Report.
- DEC (2012) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity, Department of Environment and Conservation, viewed 12 October 2012, <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>>.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Harewood, G (2012) Terrestrial Fauna Survey (Level One) of the Lindsay's Project, Carrick Gold Limited. Prepared for Carrick Gold Limited, February, 2012.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Pringle, H. J. R., Van Vreeswyk, A. M. E. & Gilligan, S. A (1994) An inventory and condition survey of the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No.90. Department of Agriculture Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>CALM</b>	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC), Western Australia
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
<b>DEH</b>	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
<b>DEP</b>	Department of Environment Protection (now DEC), Western Australia
<b>DIA</b>	Department of Indigenous Affairs
<b>DLI</b>	Department of Land Information, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Environment (now DEC), Western Australia
<b>DoIR</b>	Department of Industry and Resources (now DMP), Western Australia
<b>DOLA</b>	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water
<b>EP Act</b>	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>RIWI Act</b>	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia
<b>s.17</b>	Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	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.