



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5260/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Silver Lake Resources Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 26/642
Mining Lease 26/802
Local Government Area: Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Wombola Dam Open Pit

1.4. Application

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
| 18.05 | | Mechanical Removal | Mineral Production |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 8 November 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 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (Government of Western Australia, 2011; GIS Database).

van Etten (2010) conducted flora and vegetation survey of the application area. The vegetation survey identified and mapped three vegetation types within the application area:

- **Woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* on Greenstone hills and slopes with quartz and calcareous soils.**
Goldfield's blackbutt (*E. lesouefii*), sometimes mixed with coral gum (*E. torquate*) and *E. ravidia*, occurs throughout the small greenstone hills, rises and slopes of the application area. Understorey is remarkably sparse and generally consists of low cover of tall and medium sized shrubs such as *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Maireana triptera* and *Acacia colletioides*. Some *Casuarina pauper* and *Melaleuca pauperiflora* trees are also found;
- **Woodland of *Eucalyptus stricklandii* – *E. lesouefii* – *E. celastroides* on ironstone rises and hill tops.**
Consists of a complex mosaic of three eucalypts species (*E. stricklandii*, *E. lesouefii* and *E. celastroides* subsp. *celastroides*) with an understorey of *Dononaea lobulata* on shallow skeletal soils dominated by ironstone gravel and occasional lateritic outcropping. Other medium to tall shrubs such as *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* occur more sparsely; and
- **Open Woodland of Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*) with mixed chenopod understorey in broad valley systems.**
The most widespread community of the area, it consists of tall open woodland of *E. salmonophloia*, with patches of *E. celastroides* subsp. *celastroides* and *E. ravidia* in places. Understorey is relatively open and patchy and is dominated by chenopods and the most common being *Maireana sedifolia*, *Atriplex nummularia* and *M. Georgei*. Other *Maireana* spp., *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Olearia muelleri* also occur sporadically throughout this community.

Clearing Description Silver Lake Resources Limited is proposing to clear up to 18.05 hectares of native vegetation for the Wombola Open Dam Pit. The clearing of vegetation is required for the purpose of mineral production.

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

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

To:

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The application area is located in the Eastern Goldfields subregion of Western Australia and is situated approximately 26 kilometres north-east of the Kambalda town site (GIS Database).

The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by van Etten (2010).

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 occurs within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This subregion is characterised by gently undulating plains interrupted in the west with low hills and ridges of Archaean greenstones and in the east by a horst of Proterozoic basic granulite. A series of large playa lakes in the western half are the remnants of an ancient major drainage line. The vegetation is of Mallees, Acacia thickets and shrubheaths on sandplains, and diverse Eucalyptus woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges, and in valleys. Salt lakes support dwarf shrublands of samphire, while woodlands and Dodonaea shrubland occur on basic granuinites of the Fraser Range. The area is rich in endemic Acacias (CALM, 2002).

van Etten (2010) conducted a flora and vegetation survey over the application area on 17 October 2010. The survey identified 39 vascular plant taxa from 21 genera and 15 families within the application area and surrounding region. van Etten (2010) states that the application area does not support a high diversity of flora or vegetation units which may be important for the locality or the subregion. The flora and vegetation survey identified three vegetation communities within the application area and the condition of the vegetation type was classified from 'good' to 'completely degraded' (Keighery, 1994; van Etten, 2010). Vegetation condition was generally poor because of grazing and browsing impacts (particularly from feral goats), past cutting of trees (and some tall shrubs) and previous and current mining activity (shafts, pits, abandoned mine-workings, waste landforms, tracks and exploration lines) (van Etten, 2010).

There were no Priority Flora species recorded within the application area (van Etten, 2010). A search on the Department of Environment and Conservation's Threatened and Priority Flora databases revealed no Threatened Flora species and one Priority Flora species that may potentially occur in the application area (DEC, 2012). The potential Priority one species, *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera*, is known to occur in lands surrounding the study area (within a 20 km radius) (DEC, 2012). Despite specific searching for this taxon, it was not found within the application area (van Etten, 2010). No Threatened Flora, Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded during the botanical survey (van Etten, 2010; GIS Database).

No introduced flora species were recorded within the application area (van Etten, 2010). Care must be taken to ensure that the proposed clearing activities do not spread or introduce weed species to non-infested areas. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

Four fauna habitat types were identified within the application area, and are considered to be of low ecological significance (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). The degraded to good condition of the vegetation, close proximity to active mining and lack of vegetative cover and landforms makes the area unsuitable for any foraging or nesting habitat for potential fauna (Keighery, 1994; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010; GIS Database). The clearing of 18.05 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

CALM (2002)
DEC (2012)
Keighery (1994)
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010)
van Etten (2010)
GIS Database:
- Lake Lefroy 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- IBRA WA (Regions - Subregions)
- Pre-European vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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 four broad fauna habitat types recorded within the application area by Terrestrial Ecosystems

(2010);

- Eucalypt woodlands of varying densities, with an understorey of shrubs;
- Eucalypt woodlands over an understorey of chenopods;
- Eucalypt woodlands of varying densities, with almost no understorey; and
- Highly degraded areas including pits, waste dumps and remains of old mining infrastructure.

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010) identified the vegetation condition to be 'completely degraded' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994). The landforms and habitats identified within the application area are considered as being well represented in the Eastern Goldfields subregion (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010; GIS Database).

There are no conservation significant species listed as Threatened Species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or protected under Western Australian legislation (*Wildlife Conservation Act, 1950*), that may potentially occur within the application area (DEC, 2012). Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010) conducted a fauna survey over the application area on 20 September 2010 and recorded no species of conservation significance. The clearing of native vegetation within the application area could potentially disturb the Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus* subsp. *leucogaster*) (DEC – Priority 4) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (WC Act – Schedule 4), which may infrequently be found in the vicinity of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). It is more probable that the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) (EPBC Act – Migratory species) will be seen in the area during spring and summer. These birds will move to adjacent areas once vegetation clearing commences. This might result in a period of instability in these assemblages until new territories are resolved for the sedentary species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). All these species, however, are considered highly mobile and/or have a wide distribution so the clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on the species. The habitat present within the application areas is not considered significant habitat for these species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). The proposed clearing of 18.05 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.

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

Methodology DEC (2012)
Keighery (1994)
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010)
GIS Database:
- Lake Lefroy 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Pre-European Vegetation
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)

(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 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 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2012).

van Etten (2010) conducted a vegetation and flora survey of the application area during 17 October 2010. No Threatened Flora was recorded within the survey area.

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

Methodology DEC (2012)
van Etten (2010)
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 Coolgardie IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application area is recorded as:

Beard vegetation association 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (Government of Western Australia, 2011; GIS Database).

Beard vegetation association 468 retains approximately 93% of its pre-European extent respectively, within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2011). The area proposed to be cleared is not a significant remnant of native vegetation.

| | Pre-European area (ha)* | Current extent (ha)* | Remaining %* | Conservation Status** | Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| IBRA Bioregion - Coolgardie | 339,875 | 328,891 | ~96.77 | Least Concern | 0.19 |
| Beard vegetation associations - State | | | | | |
| 468 | 592,022 | 583,903 | ~98.63 | Least Concern | 4.11 |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion | | | | | |
| 468 | 66,475 | 62,253 | ~93.65 | Least Concern | - |

* 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 not at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). van Etten (2010) did not identify any riparian vegetation growing within the application area.

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

Methodology van Etten (2010)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- 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

The application area is broadly mapped as the Gumland and Moriarty land systems (GIS Database).

The Gumland land system is described as depositional surfaces, broad shallow valley plains with restricted areas of slightly more elevated stony surface and central drainage tracts (occasionally with shallow channels) receiving more concentrated through flow (Payne et al., 1998). The Moriarty land system is described as low rises to 20 metres relief, locally with ferruginous duricrust, gently undulating lower plains with pebble mantles and level to very gently inclined loamy plains; poorly defined, sparse drainage patterns (Pringle et al., 1994). The Moriarty land system is susceptible to water erosion, and the vegetation of this land system is highly preferred for grazing, rendering it susceptible to overgrazing and degradation (Pringle et al., 1994). 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 may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Payne et al. (1998)
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 areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Majestic Timber Reserve, located approximately 11 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance separating the Majestic Timber Reserve and the application area, the proposed clearing 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 1914* (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 or water bodies within the application area (GIS Database). 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 areas.

The proposed clearing of 18.05 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any underground water.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- 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 to semi-arid climate, with an annual average rainfall of approximately 264.6 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 (18.05 hectares) compared to the size of the Lake Lefroy catchment area (2,488,250 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 is one Native Title claim over the area under application. The claim WC97/72 was registered at the

National Native Title Tribunal on 12 December 2011. 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 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 28 September 2012 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- BoM (2012) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, viewed 2 November 2012, <http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_012038.shtml>.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Coolgardie 3 (COO3 - Eastern Goldfields subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2012) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity, Department of Environment and Conservation, viewed 2 November 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Payne, A.L., Mitchell, A.A., & Henning, P (1998) Land systems of the Kambalda area and surrounds, Unpublished report prepared for Western Mining Corporation Resources Ltd, Natural Resource Management Services, Agriculture Western Australia.
- Pringle, H.J.R., Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., & Gilligan, S.A. (1994) An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the northeastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture. South Perth.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for Silver Lake Resources Ltd Wombola Dam Project. Unpublished Report, October 2010.
- van Etten, E (2010) Flora & Vegetation of Silver Lake Resource's Wombola Dam Project Area, near Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Report prepared for Silver Lake Resources, October 2010.

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 |

| | |
|----------|--|
| RIWI Act | Conservation Union |
| s.17 | Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia |
| TEC | Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia |
| | 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.