



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5266/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Robe River Limited**

### 1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964*, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton  
Colloquial name: Mesa B Drilling Program

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 1 November 2012

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
<p>Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area:</p> <p><b>583:</b> Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji and <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> over hard spinifex <i>Triodia basedowii</i> and <i>T. wiseana</i> (GIS Database).</p> <p>A large flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounding mesas by Biota Environmental Sciences in October 2010 (Biota, 2011a). The application area comprised of one vegetation type:</p> <p><b>AarTw:</b> <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>conifera</i> low open woodland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland (Biota, 2011a).</p> <p>The following two vegetation types occur on the edges of the application area and may encroach into the application area in parts:</p> <p><b>AiAarTw:</b> <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia arida</i> open shrubland to open heath over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland.</p> <p><b>EIAarTw:</b> <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> scattered low trees over <i>Acacia arida</i> shrubland to tall shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland (Biota, 2011a).</p>	<p>Robe River Ltd has applied to clear up to 11 hectares of native vegetation, within an application area of approximately 83 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The clearing is for evaluation drilling on Mesa B in the Robe Valley. The application area is approximately 85 kilometres west of Onslow.</p> <p>Vegetation will be cleared by dozers using a raised blade where possible. Vegetation will be stockpiled and used in rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p>To:</p> <p>Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition was assessed by botanists from Biota (2011a). The vegetation conditions were described using a scale based on Trudgen (1988) and have been converted to the corresponding conditions from the Keighery (1994) scale.</p>

### 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 Hamersley (PIL3) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) subregion (GIS Database). This subregion is generally described as Mulga low woodland over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors, and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002).

A large flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Biota Environmental Sciences (Biota) that covered the application area on Mesa B and the surrounding mesas (Biota, 2011a). The survey for Mesas B, C, F and other neighbouring mesas was undertaken in October 2010. A total of 206 native flora species were recorded from the Robe Valley Mesas survey area (Biota, 2011a). The total flora species is lower than expected for an area with the size and habitat diversity of the Robe Valley survey area but this result is likely to be a reflection of the poor growing conditions at the time of the survey, rather than an indication of low floristic richness (Biota, 2011a). The genera with the highest number of taxa recorded were *Acacia*, *Senna*, *Sida* and *Triodia*. This is typical of vegetation in the Pilbara (Biota, 2011a).

No Threatened Flora, Priority Flora or Threatened Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area (Biota, 2011a; GIS Database). The Priority Flora species *Triodia* sp. Robe River (Priority 3) was recorded along the rocky edges of Mesas C, D, F, H and I but was not recorded from Mesas B and E despite extensive foot traverses (Biota, 2011a).

Vegetation types corresponding to the Priority Ecological Community (PEC) '*Triodia* sp. Robe River assemblages of mesas of the Robe Valley area (Pilbara)' have been mapped in the surrounding area as part of the larger survey but the mapped vegetation type within the application area, AarTw, does not correspond to the PEC (Biota, 2011a). This PEC occurs at the edges of the mesas and the application area has been set back from the edges of Mesa B which avoids the PEC (Biota, 2011a; GIS Database).

A total of 15 introduced flora species were recorded during the flora and vegetation survey (Biota, 2011a). Six of these species are considered serious environmental weeds: Birdwood Grass (*Cenchrus setiger*), Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Kapok Bush (*Aerva javanica*), Mimosa Bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*), Ruby Dock (*Acetosa vesicaria*) and Stinking Passion Flower (*Passiflora foetida* var. *hispidula*) (Biota, 2011a). While not all of the weed species present within the survey area are likely to occur within the application area, there are some weeds present due to previous disturbances in the application area. 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.

A large fauna survey was undertaken in October 2010 over several of the mesas within the Robe Valley, including the application area (Biota, 2011b). A total of 128 vertebrate species were recorded, comprising 48 reptile, one amphibian, 61 avifauna, 17 native mammal and one introduced mammal species (Biota, 2011b). The species recorded are representative of the taxa commonly recorded in the Hamersley subregion and are consistent with the available habitat data (Biota, 2011b).

There are occurrences of the PEC 'Subterranean invertebrate communities of mesas in the Robe Valley region' on Mesa B within the application area (GIS Database). The habitat of the troglobitic faunal communities is the humidified pisolitic strata (DEC, 2010) and this subterranean habitat is unlikely to be affected by the small amount (11 hectares) of clearing above ground.

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

##### Methodology

Biota (2011a)  
Biota (2011b)  
CALM (2002)  
DEC (2010)  
GIS Database:  
- IBRA WA (Regions - Subregions)  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- Threatened Ecological Communities  
- Yarraloola 2054 Aug 2007 Mosaic

#### (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 targeted fauna survey was undertaken over the application area and its surrounds; the Robe Valley Mesas B, C, D, E, F, H and I. The Robe Valley Mesas survey was undertaken in October 2010 by Biota Environmental Sciences (Biota, 2011b).

Five habitat types were described during the Robe Valley Mesas survey and one of these was recorded within

the application area: *Acacia* spp. shrubland over *Triodia* sp. hummock grassland on mesa plateau or plain (Biota, 2011b). This habitat type is well represented in the locality and wider region and not of elevated conservation significance (Biota, 2011b).

One conservation significant vertebrate species has been recorded within the application area (Biota, 2011b). The Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) is a Migratory species, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, that was recorded on Mesa B as well as the surrounding mesas (Biota, 2011b). The Rainbow Bee-eater is widely distributed throughout Australia and uses a variety of habitats (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2011) so the clearing of 11 hectares of potential habitat is unlikely to impact on the species.

Five species of conservation significance were recorded during the Robe Valley Mesas survey but not within the application area: Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*), Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), *Notoscincus butleri* and Star Finch (*Neochmia ruficauda*) (Biota, 2011b). While the application area may provide foraging habitat for some of these species, it is unlikely to represent core habitat for any of them.

Short range endemics (SREs) were targeted in the Robe Valley Mesas survey and specimens from invertebrate groups considered to potentially support SREs were recorded in the application area and the surrounds (Biota, 2011b). Nearly all the specimens recorded during the survey are unlikely to represent SREs because for the majority of specimens recorded during the surveys, similar representative taxa and morphospecies have been recorded at other locations in the vicinity and within the Pilbara region in general (Biota, 2011b). Two species of mygalomorph spiders were collected in the application area with one of these potentially representing an SRE while the other species was also recorded outside the application area (Biota, 2011b). Further study is needed before the mygalomorph spider species status as a SRE can be confirmed or refuted (Biota, 2011b).

According to Biota (2011b), the fauna habitats available within the application area are well represented in the locality and wider region. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the application area represents significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

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

**Methodology** Biota (2011b)  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities (2011)

**(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 known records of Threatened Flora within the application area (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Biota botanists in October 2010 over the application area and its surrounds (Biota, 2011a). No Threatened Flora species were recorded during the survey (Biota, 2011a).

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

**Methodology** Biota (2011a)  
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 available databases revealed there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest recorded TEC, Themeda grasslands on cracking clays, is located approximately 145 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database).

No TECs were identified during the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Biota botanists over the application area (Biota, 2011a).

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

**Methodology** Biota (2011a)  
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 clearing application area falls within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 99.6% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table) (Government of Western Australia, 2011; GIS Database). This gives it a conservation status of 'Least Concern' according to the Bioregional Conservation Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The vegetation of the clearing application area has been broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 583 'Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji and *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* and *T. wiseana*' (GIS Database). Approximately 100% of this Beard vegetation association remains at the state and bioregional levels (Government of Western Australia, 2011). This vegetation association would be given a conservation status of 'Least Concern' at both a state and bioregional level (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The vegetation under application is not a remnant of 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 – Pilbara	17,804,427	17,729,352	~99.6	Least Concern	6.3
Beard Veg Assoc. – State					
583	243,112	243,112	~100	Least Concern	35.2
Beard Veg Assoc. – Bioregion					
583	243,112	243,112	~100	Least Concern	35.2

\* 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no watercourses or wetlands mapped within the application area (GIS Database). The vegetation type within the application area, AarTw, and the vegetation types on the edges of the application area, AiAarTw and EIAarTw, are associated with the landforms mesas, hills and slopes (Biota, 2011a). Vegetation associated with creeks and rivers is mapped in the surrounding areas but not within the application area (Biota, 2011a).

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

**Methodology** Biota (2011a)  
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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The application area is within the Robe Land System (GIS Database). The Robe Land System is characterised by low limonite mesas and buttes supporting soft spinifex (and occasionally hard spinifex) grasslands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The system is not generally susceptible to vegetation degradation or erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

Robe River Ltd has applied to clear up to 11 hectares within an application area totalling approximately 83 hectares. Disturbance will be for exploration activities using machinery with the blade up where practicable to

ensure soil is not removed (Robe River Ltd, 2012). The proposed clearing activities are not likely to result in large areas of disturbed or open land. Given the small size of the proposed activities, the clearing is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation.

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

**Methodology** Robe River Ltd (2012)  
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)  
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 proposed clearing is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Cane River Conservation Park, which is located approximately 35 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database). A large proportion of the vegetation in the Pilbara bioregion remains uncleared, approximately 99.6% (Government of Western Australia, 2011), so it is unlikely that the application area provides an important buffer or ecological linkage for the conservation park.

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

**Methodology** Government of Western Australia (2011)  
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**

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). Robe River is the major drainage feature in the locality and it is in close proximity to the application area, less than 1 kilometre to the east (GIS Database). However, the small scale of the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

According to the available databases the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The nearest PDWSA is Cane River Water Reserve, which is approximately 53 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to affect the water quality of the water reserve due to the large distance between it and the application area.

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 (PDWSAs)

**(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 is within the Robe River catchment area of the Onslow Coast basin (GIS Database). Given the size of the area to be cleared (11 hectares) in relation to the size of the catchment areas (757,138 hectares) (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the potential of flooding on a local or catchment scale.

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

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

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

**Comments**

There is one Native Title Claim (WC99/12) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with 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 multiple registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance in the vicinity of 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 1 October 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 - Registered with the NNTT

## 4. References

- Biota (2011a) Baseline Flora and Vegetation Assessment of Robe Valley Mesas (Mesas B, C, D, E, F, H and I). Report by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd for Rio Tinto Iron Ore, April 2011.
- Biota (2011b) Robe Valley Mesas Fauna Survey. Report by Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd for Rio Tinto Iron Ore, March 2011.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Pilbara 3 (PIL3 - Hamersley Subregion). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2010) Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, December 2010.
- 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.
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (2011) *Merops ornatus* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra. <http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat> (Accessed 18 July 2011).
- 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.
- Robe River Ltd (2012) Documentation Accompanying Clearing Permit Application for CPS 5266/1. Prepared by Robe River Ltd, September 2012.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1988) A Report on the Flora and Vegetation of the Port Kennedy Area. Unpublished Report Prepared for Bowman Bishaw and Associates, West Perth.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) Technical Bulletin - An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, No. 92. Department of Agriculture, Government of Western Australia, Perth, 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

**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.