

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	5333/4
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Dampier Salt Limited
Application received:	27 August 2024
Application area:	50 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of temporary campsite, borrow pits and other associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	<i>Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966</i> , Mineral Lease 250SA (AML 70/250)
Location (LGA area):	Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:	Port Hedland Salt Operations

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Dampier Salt Limited proposes to clear up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 74 hectares, for the purpose of constructing a temporary campsite, borrow pits, and other associated activities (Dampier Salt Limited, 2024). The project is located approximately 7 kilometres northeast of the town of South Hedland, within the Town of Port Hedland (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 5333/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 13 December 2012 and was valid from 5 January 2013 to 5 January 2023. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 17.24 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 74 hectares, for the purpose of construction of a temporary campsite, borrow pits, and other associated activities.

CPS 5333/2 was granted on 30 May 2019, amending the permit to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 50 hectares, and to extend the period of which clearing is authorised to 5 January 2028.

On 3 January 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5333/2, creating application CPS 5333/3. However, the application was withdrawn as no surveys had been conducted over the application area. CPS 5333/3 remains in the system as a withdrawn application.

On 27 August 2024, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5333/2 to extend the permit duration and the date permitted to clear.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	30 January 2025
Decision area:	50 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit amendment application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 5333/2, except in the case of principle (g). A more detailed assessment of the application area determined that although the Uaroo land system has a slight susceptibility to erosion (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004), this susceptibility is only present in drainage lines, which are absent from the application area (GIS Database). For this reason, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this clearing principle. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

While no evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application, noting the small scale and low impact of the clearing it was deemed that no further consideration is required to minimise impacts on environmental values. Avoidance and minimisation measures are in place in the clearing permit.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

Clearing within the application area has been limited. To date 18 hectares of the permitted 50 hectares has been cleared under clearing permit CPS 5333/2 and previous versions of the permit. However, there are still areas that required to be disturbed to access suitable borrow material to support ongoing operational activities (Dampier Salt Limited, 2024). Given the extent of the clearing and the avoidance and mitigation measures conditioned on the permit, the proposed clearing is not considered to result in significant impacts to the environmental values of the application area.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 6 December 2024 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2018/015) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Kariyarra People). 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 (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is adjacent to the Port Hedland Salt Operations which contains various disturbed areas (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, located approximately 90 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 589: Short bunch-grass savanna / Grass-steppe; and 647: Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee <i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea</i> spp. <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Rio Tinto during April, 2024. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> and/or <i>Triodia secunda</i> open hummock grassland; and • <i>Tecticornia</i> sp. 1 and <i>Tecticornia</i> sp. 2 low shrubland over <i>Triodia secunda</i> hummock grassland. <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix C.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2024) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Completely Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B. Vegetation condition mapping is available in Appendix C.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with low rainfall (BoM, 2016). The annual average rainfall (Port Hedland) is of 314.2 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soil within the permit area is described as mostly red deep sandy duplex, red sandy earth, and calcareous shallow loam (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Uaroo land system which is described as broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrubs (DPIRD, 2025). Occasionally some erosion and pasture decline is evident on drainage tracts, but generally the system is not susceptible to erosion or significant vegetation degradation (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared.
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within the Pilbara Groundwater Area, legislated under the RIWI Act 1914 (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity of the application area is of 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids (GIS Database).
Flora	No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded in the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024). There are no records of conservation significant flora species in the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area is not located within any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (GIS Database). The vegetation present in the application area is not characteristic of any know PECs or TECs (Rio Tinto, 2024).
Fauna	A targeted greater bilby survey was undertaken across the application area based on the presence of suitable habitat and recent records in the vicinity of the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024). The targeted greater bilby survey was designed to look for evidence of the species presence (diggings, burrows, scats and tracks) (Rio Tinto, 2024). No signs of the greater bilby were recorded during the survey (Rio Tinto, 2024).
Fauna habitat	Only one fauna habitat (Sandy Plain) has been identified in the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024). The Sandy Plain habitat was dominated by <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland with a distinct lack of mid story or canopy vegetation (Rio Tinto, 2024). The fauna habitat was heavily disturbed by grazing with cattle tracks and scats prevalent (Rio Tinto, 2024).

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.



Figure 1. *Acacia stellaticeps* low shrubland over *Triodia epactia* and/or *Triodia secunda* open hummock grassland (Rio Tinto, 2024).



Figure 2. *Tecticornia* sp. 1 and *Tecticornia* sp. 2 low shrubland over *Triodia secunda* hummock grassland (Rio Tinto, 2024).

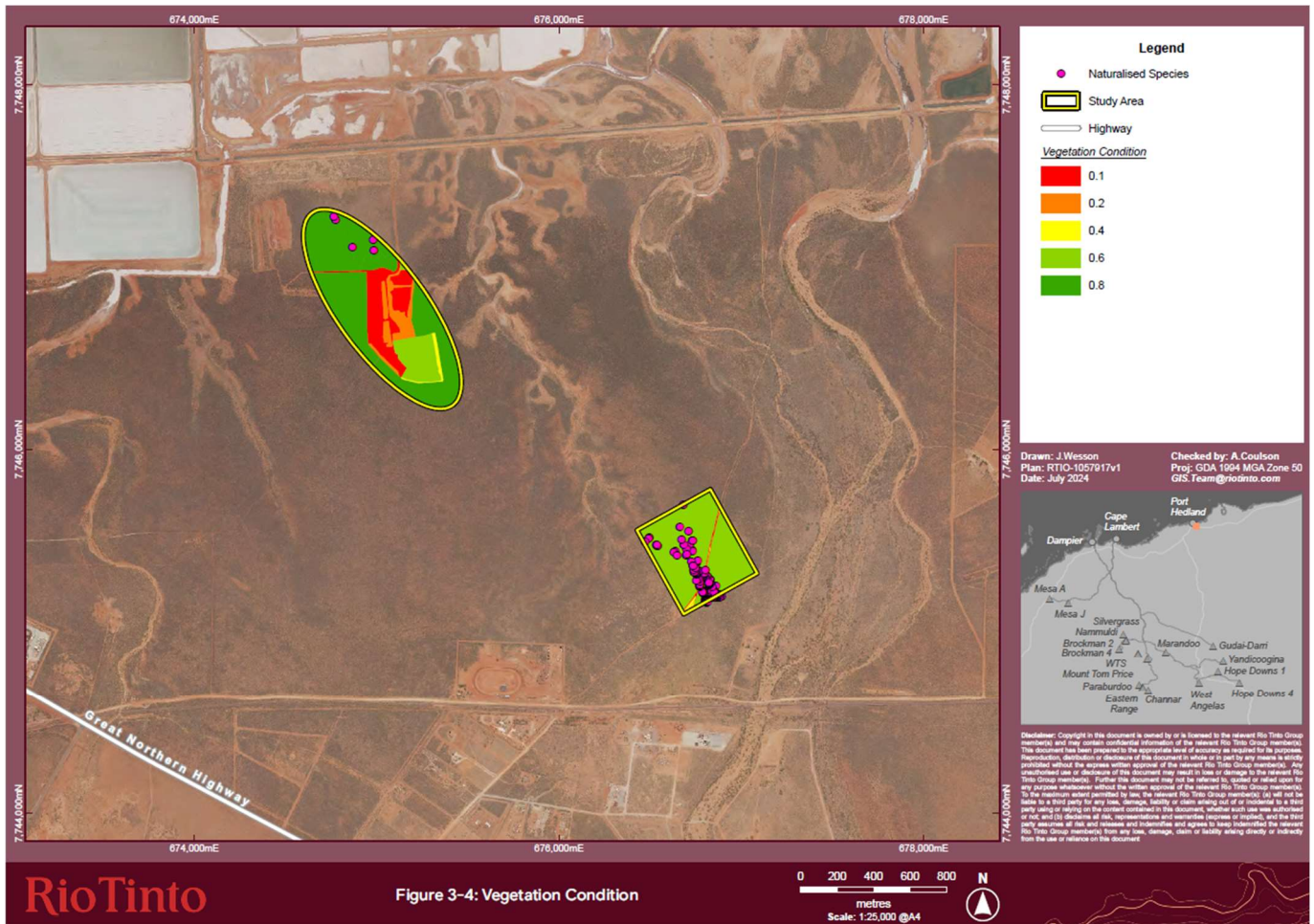


Figure 3. Vegetation Condition mapping (Rio Tinto, 2024).

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Esri World Imagery
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate classification maps, Seasonal rainfall. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/climate-classifications/ (Accessed 9 January 2025).
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Port Hedland. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 9 January 2025).
- Dampier Salt Limited (2024) Clearing permit application form, CPS 5333/4, received 27 August 2024.
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 10 January 2025).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 9 January 2025).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Rio Tinto (2024) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment, CPS 5333, Port Hedland. Prepared for Dampier Salt Limited, July 2024.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia):

T Threatened species:

Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR Critically endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN Endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU Vulnerable species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct Species:

EX Extinct species

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

EW Extinct in the wild species

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species:

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

MI Migratory species

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

- CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**
Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).
Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.
- OS Other specially protected species**
Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).
Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.
- P Priority species:**
Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.
All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).
Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.
Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.
Assessment of priority status is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.
Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.
Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**
Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.
Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are

close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.