



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	5334/3
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Dampier Salt Limited
Application received:	11 January 2023
Application area:	15.91 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Purpose of mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966, Mining Lease 269SA (AM 70/269)
Location (LGA area/s):	Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:	Port Hedland Salt Operations

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Dampier Salt Limited proposes to clear up to 15.91 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 20 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 31 kilometres east of Port Hedland, within the Town of Port Hedland.

Clearing permit CPS 5334/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 20 December 2012 and was valid from 12 January 2013 to 12 January 2023. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 15.91 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 20 hectares, for the purpose of a borrow pit to assist with repairs to roads and levees as a result of ongoing cyclone activity. This permit was to replace the expired permit CPS 2263/2, which permitted the clearing of 20 hectares of native vegetation over the application area. 4.09 hectares of native vegetation was cleared under CPS 2263/2, therefore the amount of clearing permitted has been reduced to 15.91 hectares.

Clearing Permit CPS 5334/2 was granted on 1 February 2028 to extend the permit duration to 12 January 2028. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 11 January 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5334/2 to extend the permit duration, and the period in which clearing is authorised by five years. Therefore, the current amendment application will extend the permit duration to 12 January 2033 and extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 12 January 2028. Given the age of the last flora and vegetation survey, conducted in 2008, any future amendment to this permit will require updated biological surveys in order to reflect the current biological features and potential risks associated with clearing activities. The total area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	2 May 2023
Decision area:	15.91 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 11 January 2023. DMIRS advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment. The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will have negligible impact on habitat for flora, fauna and ecological communities, conservation areas.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with the existing management conditions.

## 2. Assessment of application

### 2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

While no evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application, noting the small scale remaining for clearing (approximately seven hectares remaining out of 15.91 hectares) and reasonably low impact of the clearing it was deemed that no further consideration is required to minimise impacts on environmental values.

### 2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The proponent has reported that there were no clearing activities in their last annual clearing report for the period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022; however, 8.86 hectares has been cleared historically since the first approval.

No new biological information has been provided in support of the amendment application. The environmental values of the application area are described in previous versions of the decision report, based on desktop assessments undertaken by Dampier Salt Limited (2008). The environmental impacts of the proposed clearing have been previously assessed and conditionally approved via clearing permits CPS 5334/1 and 5334/2.

There are numerous records of conservation significant fauna species within 20 kilometres of the application area, but none of them occur within (GIS Database). Most of these records are comprised of migratory birds, and the remaining are mammals and reptiles, including marine turtles due to the proximity to the coast (GIS Database). All mammal records, mainly consisting of Northern Quolls, occur approximately 16 kilometres south of the application area, where more suitable habitats are present (GIS Database). Furthermore, most of the avifauna records are historical (dated since 1998), hence, they might not reflect the current status of occurrence. Therefore, given the migratory nature of the present avifauna, their historical registers, the scale of the remaining clearing activities, and the close proximity of the application area to existing disturbance operations, the application area is unlikely to support preferential habitats for conservation significant species and more suitable habitats for these fauna occur outside of the application area.

Four records of Priority flora species were identified within the local area (20 kilometres), however none occur within the application area (GIS Database). The Priority species are *Atriplex eremitis* (P1), *Eragrostis crateriformis* (P3) and *Euploca mutica* (P3).

A single record of *Atriplex eremitis* was identified approximately 18 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database). According to the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-), there are currently seven records of this species in Western Australia. However, the only record around Port Hedland is not in close proximity to the application area whereas the remaining records occur closer to Broome, and the records of this species normally occurs in saline plains close to the coast (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Therefore, due to these factors and the absence of saline plains within the application area, suitable habitat for this species is unlikely to occur within this area.

One record of *Eragrostis crateriformis* and two records of *Euploca mutica* were identified within 5 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database). However, there are 53 and 76 records in the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) database, respectively. Therefore, given the distance from the closest records and that more suitable habitat are present in the local and regional areas (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), it is unlikely that these species occur within the application area, and even if present, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the status of these species.

The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna; does not contain, or form a part of a threatened or priority ecological community. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impact surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to an increase in flooding.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in previous versions of the decision report.

### 2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 7 February 2023 by the Department of 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 (WC1999/026) over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2023). 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.

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is located approximately 31 kilometres east of Port Hedland, within the Town of Port Hedland in the extensive land use zone (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is grazing of native pastures, conservation and mining activity.
Ecological linkage & Conservation areas	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages neither it is located within or in close proximity to any conservation areas (50 kilometres radius) (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:</p> <p>647: Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora survey of the application area was conducted by Dampier Salt Limited (2008) in September 2007. This survey identified the vegetation within the application area consists of <i>Triodia secunda</i>, <i>Triodia epactia</i>, <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> hummock grassland, over very open <i>Pluchea rubelliflora</i>, <i>Pluchea tetranthera</i> herbland with scattered <i>Rhynchosia minima</i> and <i>Trianthema turgidifolia</i>.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Dampier Salt Limited, 2008) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good to very good condition (Keighery, 1994), described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.</li> </ul> <p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very Good: Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.</li> </ul> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is mapped with an elevation of 10 metres AHD. The annual average rainfall (Port Hedland Airport) is 318.5 millimetres (BoM, 2023).
Soil description & Land degradation risk	<p>The soils is mapped as part of the Uaroo system (281Ua), described as broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrubs (DPIRD, 2023).</p> <p>The mapped land system within the application area has extremely low risk of soil erosion (99% nil), hence, it presents low risk of wind or water erosion (van Vreeswyk, 2004).</p> <p>The application area is adjacent to existing mining activities (GIS Database).</p>
Waterbodies & Hydrogeography	There are no waterbodies or ephemeral drainage lines within the application area (GIS Database). The application area is not within any public drinking water source areas, and the mapped groundwater salinity is greater than 1000 - 3000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There are four records of Priority flora species within the local area (20 kilometres); however, no records are within the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no records of any Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) within the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are several records of conservation significant fauna species within the local area (20

Characteristic	Details
	kilometres radius) (GIS Database).

## 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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

### Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

## Appendix C - References and databases

### C.1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### C.2. References

BoM (2023) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Port Hedland Airport. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 22 March 2023).

Dampier Salt Limited (2008) Additional information provided in support for an application for a purpose clearing permit on Mining Lease (State Agreement Act) M269SA, Dampier Salt Ltd, Western Australia.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2023) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 22 March 2023).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2023) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (Accessed 22 March 2023).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: [https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure\\_Native\\_vegetation\\_clearing\\_permits\\_v1.PDF](https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF).

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

van Vreeswyk, A M, Leighton, K A, Payne, A L, and Hennig, P. (2004), An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 92

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 22 March 2023).

### 3. Glossary

#### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Western Australia</i>
<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DAWE</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia</i>
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)</i>
<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>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia</i>
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

#### Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) 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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

**Threatened flora** is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

#### 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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

**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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

**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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

**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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

**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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

**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).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and 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.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**OS Other specially protected species**

Fauna 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).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

**P Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of Priority codes 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**

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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species**

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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species**

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. Such species are in need of 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 Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**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.