Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5617/5
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964*, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML 70/244)

Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/3687 (Document I 154279 L), Lease Extension K846790, Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 48921

Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/3685, (Lease K858923), Lot 17 on Deposited Plan 241430

Iron Ore (McCamey's Monster) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Mining Lease 266SA (AM 70/266)

Miscellaneous Licences 47/92, 52/99, 52/185

General Purpose Leases 52/19 to 52/256, 52/258 to 52/274, 52/276, 52/277, 52/279

Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Mt Whaleback Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2,010.3		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production, mineral exploration, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 11 April 2019

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. The following Beard vegetation associations have been broadly mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and
82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana.*

There have been numerous flora and vegetation surveys undertaken over the Mt Whaleback and surrounding areas since 1984. Based on those surveys the following 29 vegetation associations have been identified within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2013):

1. Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida inaequiglumis* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Rulingia luteiflora* in brown sandy loam on tributaries of major drainage lines and adjacent floodplains;

2. Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* (*Acacia ayersiana*) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Rhagodia eremaea* and *Psydrax latifolia* in red loamy sand on hardpan plains;

3. Low Open Forest of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Grevillea berryana* over Open Shrubland of *Eremophila latrobei*, *Acacia sibirica* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *luerssenii* over Open

Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia wiseana* in red sandy loam on valley floors and along incised drainage lines;

4. Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* in red brown loam on hardpan plains;

5. Low Woodland of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Ficus brachypoda* over Shrubland of *Eremophila tietkensii*, *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Acacia hamersleyensis* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* in red loamy sand in rocky gullies and small gorges;

6. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* and *Triodia wiseana* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and/or *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and Open *Shrubland* of *Acacia bivenosa* in light brown loamy sand on calcrete rises and plains;

7. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Hakea chordophylla* and Open Shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* and *Eremophila platycalyx* subsp. *pardalota* in red loamy sand on hill slopes;

8. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalvis* and/or *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* and *Petalostylis labicheiodes* in red loamy sand on plains;

9. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia brizoides* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Eremophila jucunda* subsp. *pulcherrima* and *Ptilotus obovatus* and Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia a*nd *Corymbia hamersleyana* in red loamy sand on flood plains adjacent to tributaries of major drainage lines;

10. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. Van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aptaneura* and High Open Shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* in red loamy sand on hill crests and upper hill slopes;

11. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia brizoides* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tenuissima* in red loamy sand on lower hill slopes and plains;

12. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia maitlandii* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *luerssenii* with Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* in brown sandy loam on undulating hills;

13. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia brizoides* with High Open Shrubland *Acacia dictyophleba*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia adsurgens* in red brown sand loam on hill crests and upper hill slopes;

14. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia brizoides* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Acacia maitlandii* and Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in red loamy sand on undulating hill slopes;

15. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* in red loamy sand on plains;

16. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Hakea chordophylla* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia acradenia*;

17. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxa* and *Gompholobium oreophilum* in red loamy sand on hill slopes;

18. Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* with Shrubland of Acacia *bivenosa, Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* and *Eremophila longifolia* and Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in brown loamy sand on levee banks of major drainage lines;

19. Tussock Grassland of Themeda *triandra*, **Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* with Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *refulgens*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over High Open Shrubland of *Santalum lanceolatum*, *Eremophila longifolia* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* in brown loamy sand on incised channels of major drainage lines;

20. Open Tussock Grassland of **Cenchrus ciliaris* with High Open Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aptaneura* in red loamy sand on rehabilitated waste dump batters;

21. Scattered Low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia monticola* over Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Eriachne mucronata*;

22. Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Low Open Forest of *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Hibiscus sturtii* var. *campylochlamys* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Enneapogon caerulescens* and *Eriachne mucronata* with Very Open Hummock Grass of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia pungens;*

23. Low Woodland *of* Acacia *aneura* var ?*pilbarana*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Open shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia*, *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, and *Eremophila latrobei* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens*;

24. Low Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia aneura* var ?*pilbarana* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Low Scattered Shrubs of *Anthobolus leptomerioides* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens* with Scattered Herbs of *Goodenia stobbsiana;*

25. Low Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis* over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia bivenosa* and P*tilotus calostachyus* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* with Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda* sp. and *Paraneurachne muelleri*.

26. Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis*, *Acacia tenuissima* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over Open Hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia angusta;*

27. Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over High Open Shrubland of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens;*

28. Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia dictyophleba* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides;*

29. Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus gamophylla*, *Eucalyptus kingsmillii* subsp. *kingsmillii* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Scattered Shrubs of Acacia pruinocarpa, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* and *Ptilotus obovatus* over Hummock Grasslands of *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia brizoides* and Very Open Tussock Grass of *Eriachne mucronata* and *Cymbopogon ambiguous*.

Clearing Description

Mt Whaleback Project
BHP Billiton Iron Ore Ply Ltd proposes to clear up to 2,010.3 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 8,885 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production, mineral exploration, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and associated activities. The project is located immediately to the west of the town of Newman, in the Shire of East Pilbara.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);

To

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

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a summary of vegetation surveys undertaken over the application area prepared by Onshore Environmental (2013).

The proposed clearing is for a wide range of purposes including mineral production, mineral exploration, maintenance of infrastructure, borrow areas, laydown areas, stockpiles, tailings storage facilities, ore processing and benefaction activities (BHP Billiton, 2019). The permit area covers 13 clearing permits that were previously granted over the area. These permits were revoked on 7 August 2014.

Clearing permit CPS 5617/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) on 31 October 2013 and authorised the clearing of 2,100 hectares within a boundary of 8,800 hectares.

Amended permit CPS 5617/2 was granted on 14 August 2014, increasing the permit boundary to 8,875 hectares and reducing the amount of clearing authorised to 2,010.3 hectares.

Amended permit CPS 5617/3 was granted on 7 April 2016, to remove Conditions 7 and 8 from the permit and extend the permit duration from 23 November 2030 to 30 November 2030.

On 14 January 2019, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5617/4 to update the tenure on the permit, and amend the area subject to Condition 7. The area of clearing authorised and permit boundary remain unchanged.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd has applied to amend the permit to include Miscellaneous Licence 52/185 in the tenure listed on the permit, due to a recent realignment of tenement boundaries related to the proponent's State Agreement Acts. The clearing permit boundary has not changed.

The permit holder has also applied to adjust the areas subject to permit Condition 7, which aims to minimise impacts to the Major Drainage Line habitat associated with Whaleback Creek.

The Major Drainage Line habitat comprises mature River Red Gums, Coolibahs and stands of Silver Cadjeput over river pools (Biologic, 2014). The habitat is characterised by open, sandy or gravelly creeks and riverbeds and is relatively narrow and linear in nature, following the alignment of watercourses. Although not uncommon in the region, this habitat is considered an important feature in the landscape as it provides a water source and movement corridor for fauna, including conservation significant species (Biologic, 2014).

A recent review and consolidation of previous fauna habitat mapping has more accurately identified the Major Drainage Line habitat occurring within the permit area (BHP Billiton, 2019; Biologic, 2014). Part of the application area previously mapped as Major Drainage Line habitat has been reclassified as Drainage Area habitat (BHP Billiton, 2019; Biologic, 2014). The Drainage Area habitat is common in the region and is characterised by *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* woodland over *Acacia* shrublands on sandy loam soils sometimes with exposed rocky areas (Biologic, 2014).

The refinement of the mapping of the Major Drainage Line habitat within the permit area has resulted in a reduction in the area subject to Condition 7 on the western side of the permit area by approximately 20 hectares. The area subject to Condition 7 on the eastern side of the permit area, remains unchanged. The reduction in the area subject to Condition 7 is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

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.

Methodology BHP Billiton (2019)
Biologic (2014)

GIS Database:
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened Fauna

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2005/006) over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). 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 several registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2019). 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 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.

The amendment application was advertised on 28 January 2019 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2019)

4. References

BHP Billiton (2019) Application to Amend Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 5617/4 Whaleback Strategic NVCP. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, January, 2019.

Biologic (2014) Consolidation of Regional Fauna Habitat Mapping. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd, May 2014.

DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/ (Accessed 05 April 2019).

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

Onshore Environmental (2013) Flora and Vegetation and Vertebrate Fauna Review - Mt Whaleback AML 7/244. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by Onshore Environmental, April 2013.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	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 indigenous to Western Australia.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare 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 clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.