Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5635/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Regional Resources NW Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 08/469
Miscellaneous Licence 08/56
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Timbuck Creek Rock and Sand Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
36		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and Associated Activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 11 July 2013

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 are located within the application area (GIS Database):

93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and
103: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over soft spinifex and *Triodia wiseana*.

Newland Environmental Pty Ltd (Newland) conducted a flora and vegetation survey over the application area. This was undertaken over two survey periods (Newland, 2012). The first was undertaken between 19 and 21 June 2010 and focused primarily on Mining Lease 08/469 with a reconnaissance assessment of Miscellaneous Licence 08/56 (Newland, 2012). The second was conducted on 16 and 17 December 2011 and focussed in detail on Miscellaneous Licence 08/56. Newland (2012) identified the following 11 vegetation associations within the application area:

1. Open Shrubland on Granite Hills
Mixed Open Shrubland to Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa, Corchorus* sp*, Eremophila fraseri* subsp*. fraseri* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp*. pruinosa* (0.5 – 2 metres by 2 - 15%) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* (0.3 metres by 10 - 25%) on Rocky Granite Outcrop.

2. Outcropping Dyke Ridgeline
Low Shrubland of *Corchorus* sp*.* and *Eremophila fraseri* subsp*. fraseri* (0.75 – 1 metres by 10 - 25%) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* (0.3 – 0.5 metres by 15 - 30%) on Outcropping Dyke Ridgeline.

3. Baron Granite Dome
Scarce mixed Low Scattered Shrubs of *Corchorus* sp*., Senna notabilis* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* (0.5 metres by <1%) over a Scattered Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne mucronata* (0.3 metres by <1%) with Scattered Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* (0.3 metres by <1%) on a Granite Dome Outcropping.

4. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* on Sand Plains
Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* (3 – 6 metres by 0 – 5%) over High open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* (2 – 5 metres by <5%) over Scattered Shrubs to Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* (1 – 2 metres by <3%) over Open Hummock Grassland to Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia wiseana* (0.3 – 0.5 metres by 25 – 35%) on Sand Plains.

5. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia lanigera* on Sand Plains
High Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* with scattered *Acacia ancistrocarpa* (2 – 3 metres by <3%) over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia lanigera,* occasionally with *Triodia epactia* (<1 metres by 20 – 35%) on Sand Plains.

6. Low Open Woodland Floodplains
Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* (5 – 3 metres by 3%) over Open Shrubland of *Acacia*

bivenosa, Acacia sclerosperma subsp. *sclerosperma* and *Acacia inaequilatera* (2 metres by 2 - 5%) over Open Hummock Grassland to Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia wiseana* (0.3 – 0.5 metres by 30 - 32%) on Flood Plain.

7. *Acacia* sp. Shrubland on Pebble Plains
Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Acacia inaequilatera* (4 metres by <2%) over Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* (1.5 – 2 metres by 10 - 15%) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia lanigera* (0.5 metres by 20%) on Plains.

8. *Acacia xiphophylla* High Open Shrubland on Pebble Plains
Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Grevillea berryana* (5 – 6 metres by 2%) over High Open Shrubland of *Acacia wanyu* and *Acacia xiphophylla* (3 metres by 5%) over Open Shrubland of *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *x luerssenii* (1 – 2 metres by 5%) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia lanigera* (0.4 metres by 10%) on Pebble Plain.

9. Low Open Woodland Moderate Drainage Lines
Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Melaleuca glomerata* (3 – 8 metres by 6 - 10%) over High Open Shrubland of *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (3 – 4 metres by 4 – 7%) over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia bivenosa, Acacia inaequilatera* and / or *Acacia ligulata* (1.5 – 2 metres by <2%) over Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* (0.3 – 1 metres by 5 – 10%) with Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (0.2 – 0.4 metres by 2 - 5) in Moderate Drainage Lines.

10. *Acacia* sp. Minor Drainage Line
Mixed shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa, Acacia ligulata* and / or *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* (1.5 metres by 20%) over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia epactia* with *Triodia wiseana* (0.5 – 0.75 metres by 50%) in Minor Drainage Lines.

11. *Corymbia hamersleyana* Upland Drainage Channel
Low Open Woodland to Low Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* (3 – 5 metres by 5 - 20%) over Open Shrubland to High Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia trachycarpa* (1.5 – 4 metres by 10%) over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* (0.5 – 0.75 metres by 40 – 50%) in Upland Drainage Channel.

Clearing Description

Regional Resources NW Pty Ltd has applied to clear 36 hectares within an application area of approximately 119 hectares (GIS Database). The application area is located approximately 110 kilometres south east of Onslow (GIS Database).

The purpose of the application is to commence a rock and sand quarrying operation. The proposed clearing includes approximately 16.33 hectares for the mining area, 11.57 hectares for ancillary works such as processing and stockpiling areas and 7.7 hectares for roads (Rocla Resources (Rocla), 2013). The majority of the proposed clearing is on Mining Lease 08/469, along the eastern half of the tenement, across what are mostly sparsely vegetated granite hills and sand plains (Rocla, 2013).

Vegetation Condition

Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);

To

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)

Comment

The vegetation condition of each vegetation association was determined by Newland (2012) using a scale based on Trudgen (1988). These condition ratings were converted to the Keighery (1994) scale. The majority of the application area (96.23%) was in either ‘pristine’ or ‘excellent’ condition (Newland, 2012). Generally, the application area was relatively weed free, with occasional occurrences at low densities and no areas of dense infestation (Newland, 2012). The ‘very good’ rating was applied to one vegetation association (vegetation association 9) due to the presence of weeds and some overgrazing.

The majority of the application area occurs within the Nanutarra Pastoral Lease with a small section occurring within the Mt Stuart Pastoral Lease (Rocla, 2013).

Two Level 1 fauna surveys were conducted by Rapallo; the first on 27 November 2010 over Mining Leases 08/469 (application area) and 08/455 (approximately 35 kilometres south east of the application area) and the second on 14 to 15 December 2011 over Miscellaneous Licences 08/56 (application area) and 08/098 (approximately 4 kilometres north west of the application area) (Rapallo 2010; Rapallo 2011).

The 2010 year was extremely dry throughout the Pilbara, however, there was some rain in January 2010 and minor rain in May 2010 prior to the June 2010 survey (Newland, 2012). Poorer rainfall could have impacted on the effectiveness of this survey by restricting the growth of annuals and forbs, therefore, lowering the overall species diversity. However, the majority of this survey occurred over rocky upland areas and these areas are considered as being unlikely to provide the seasonally wet environments that some annuals and forbs have specificity for (Newland, 2012). Additionally, Newland (2012) notes the conservation taxa that could potentially occur in the survey area on rocky upland areas are likely to be woody perennials and unaffected by rainfall seasonality. An increase in rainfall occurred in the wet season prior to the December 2011 survey and it was considered that this increase in average rainfall led to favourable conditions for a dry season survey. The entire survey area was traversed during the December 2011 survey and unrecorded specimens were collected. The December 2011 survey may, therefore, have compensated for the less than ideal conditions experienced during the June 2010 survey (Newland, 2012).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Three landforms were identified within the application area including hills (approximately 38.39% of the application area), plains (approximately 5.01%) and drainage (approximately 5.01%) (Rocla, 2013). None of the 11 vegetation associations or landforms identified were considered as being restricted or unique (Newland, 2012). The surrounding area is largely uncleared and the application area is not considered a remnant of vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared (GIS Database, Government of Western Australia, 2013).

A total of 79 vascular taxa from 44 genera and 21 families were recorded within the application area (Newland, 2012). The floristic diversity was considered as being representative of the expected diversity for this region, given the relatively small area of the survey and the seasonal conditions (Newland, 2012). No known Threatened Ecological Communities, Priority Ecological Communities, Threatened Flora or Priority Flora have been recorded within the application area or were recorded during the flora and vegetation survey (Newland, 2012; GIS Database). Two introduced species were recorded including Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) and Mimosa Bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*). Potential impacts from weeds as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The Level 1 fauna surveys identified six broad habitat types within the application area. These are:
- Rocky outcrops - sparsely vegetated dolomite and granitoid outcrops. Heavily bouldered with occasional caves;
- Flood plains - Sandy plains associated with drainage systems, usually covered with *Triodia*;
- Creek lines - Sandy alluvial creek beds supporting a range of *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* species;
- Tor fields - Flat plains strewn with large granitoid boulders;
- Stony plains - Stony plains and hills with fine red loams and sands supporting *Acacia* and *Triodia* vegetation associations and alluvial sand/loam plains adjacent to ephemeral creek lines with quartz pebbles; and
- Sand plain (with tor fields) - Sandy loam plains supporting *Acacia* species, including *Acacia inequalataria* over soft *Triodia* (Rapallo 2010; Rapallo 2011).

According to Rapallo (2010, 2011), these habitats are common outside the application area.

The November 2010 fauna survey recorded ten reptile, 14 bird and evidence of two introduced and one native mammal species whereas the December 2011 fauna survey recorded 11 reptile, 22 bird and evidence of one native and one introduced mammal species (Rapallo 2010; Rapallo 2011). One conservation significant fauna species, the Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) (Priority 4), was recorded. Based on known habitat preferences, Rocla (2013) also identified the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) (Marine; Migratory under *EPBC Act*; Schedule 3) and Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*) (Priority 4) as having a high likelihood of occurrence within the application area and the Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (Schedule 1), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Schedule 4) and Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*) (Priority 4) as having a medium likelihood of occurrence within the application area. There are vast areas of undisturbed habitat for the Australian Bustard, Rainbow Bee-eater and Bush Stone-curlew both locally and regionally and these species are considered highly mobile (Rocla, 2013). The Grey Falcon and Peregrine Falcon are also highly mobile and there is unlikely to be nesting habitat types within the application area (Rocla, 2013). The sand plains within Miscellaneous Licence 08/56 were considered moderately suitable for the Brush-tailed Mulgara (Rapallo, 2011). These sand plains comprised of very small patches of suitable habitat, however, these areas were investigated on foot and no burrows or tracks were located. Rapallo (2011) considered it unlikely that the species occupies habitat of the application area. Rocla (2013) also adds there are expansive areas of other suitable habitat occurring locally or regionally. Based on the above, it is unlikely the application area comprises significant fauna habitat for any conservation significant species.

No conservation areas occur within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known conservation area is the former Nanutarra leasehold, located approximately 3.5 kilometres north west of the application area at its closest point (GIS Database). Based on this distance and given the surrounding area is largely vegetated it is unlikely the application area provides an important ecological linkage or that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the environmental values of the former Nanutarra leasehold.

There are no permanent watercourses within the application area, however, several minor, non-perennial watercourses cross through the application area (GIS Database). Available databases show that numerous minor drainage lines occur in the local area (GIS Database). Newland (2012) identified one vegetation association along moderate drainage lines (vegetation association 9) (3.77% of the application area), one along minor drainage lines (vegetation association 10) (0.75%) and a third along upland drainage channels (vegetation association 11) (0.49%). There are two moderate drainage lines within the application area that intersect and occur in the northern portion of Mining Lease 08/469. These are between five and ten metres in width, non-incised with shallow sandy creek beds and flow intermittently for several days to weeks of each year after larger rainfall events (Rocla, 2013). A map of the proposed project layout indicates that mine roads will impact on vegetation association 9 and stockpiling and processing areas will impact on vegetation associations 10 and 11. Rocla (2013) states care will be taken to avoid large trees where possible. Potential impacts to watercourses within the application area may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

The application area has been mapped as occurring on the Boolaloo and Stuart land systems (GIS Database). Drainage tracts within the Boolaloo land system are prone to erosion (Payne et al., 1988). Potential impacts of erosion may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Based on the above, the application to clear up to 36 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of mineral

production and associated activities is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

The assessment of the application identified that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (g), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Methodology

Government of Western Australia (2013)
Newland (2012)
Payne et al. (1988)
Rapallo (2010)
Rapallo (2011)
Rocla (2013)
GIS Database:
- Cane River 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- DEC Tenure
- Hydrography, linear
- IBRA WA (Regions – Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Rangeland Land System Mapping
- Rivers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

Comments

There is one native title claim over the area under application: WC05/4 (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. 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.*

According to available databases, there are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 17 June 2013 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims – Registered with the NNTT

4. References

Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.

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

Newland (2012) Flora and Vegetation Survey for the Timbuck Creek Rock Project on M08/469 and L08/56. Unpublished report prepared by Newland Environmental Pty Ltd for Onslow Resources Ltd dated September 2012.

Payne et al. (1988) An inventory and condition survey of the rangelands in the Ashburton River Catchment, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin 62, revised edition 1988.

Rapallo (2010) Level 1 Fauna Survey of the Rock Project Areas for Onslow Resources Ltd. Unpublished report prepared by Rapallo for Onslow Resources Ltd dated November 2010.

Rapallo (2011) Level 1 Fauna Survey of the Mount Stuart Road Project Area for Onslow Resources Ltd. Unpublished report prepared by Rapallo for Onslow Resources Ltd dated December 2011.

Rocla (2013) Timbuck Creek Rock and Sand Project Supporting Information for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application – Purpose Permit. Unpublished report prepared by Simon Pigozzo (Newland Environmental Pty Ltd) dated 30 May 2013.

Trudgen, M.E. (1988) A Report on the Flora and Vegetation of the Port Kennedy Area. Unpublished Report Prepared for Bowman Bishaw and Associates, West Perth.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC), Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
DEP	Department of Environment Protection (now DEC), Western Australia
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs
DLI	Department of Land Information, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC), Western Australia
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources (now DMP), Western Australia
DOLA	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia
DoW	Department of Water
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
RIWI Act	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{Atkins, K (2005). *Declared rare and priority flora list for Western Australia, 22 February 2005*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1	**Priority One - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P2	**Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P3	**Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.
P4	**Priority Four – Rare taxa**: taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.
R	**Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa** *(= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable)*: taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.
X	**Declared Rare Flora - Presumed Extinct taxa**: taxa which have not been collected, or otherwise verified, over the past 50 years despite thorough searching, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

{Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005} [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950] :-

Schedule 1	**Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct:** being fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 2	**Schedule 2 – Fauna that is presumed to be extinct:** being fauna that is presumed to be extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 3	**Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement:** being birds that are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 4	**Schedule 4 – Other specially protected fauna:** being fauna that is declared to be fauna that is in need of special protection, otherwise than for the reasons mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

{CALM (2005). *Priority Codes for Fauna*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1 **Priority One: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, active mineral leases. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P2 **Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P3 **Priority Three: Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P4 **Priority Four: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and which are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands.

P5 **Priority Five: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Categories of threatened species (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)*

EX **Extinct:** A native species for which there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

EX(W) **Extinct in the wild:** A native species which:
(a) is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or
(b) has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

CR **Critically Endangered:** A native species which is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

EN **Endangered:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered; and
(b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

VU **Vulnerable:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered or endangered; and
(b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

CD **Conservation Dependent:** A native species which is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.

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.