



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	5676/4
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Evolution Mining (Phoenix) Pty Ltd
Application received:	13 January 2023
Application area:	152.5 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure	Mining Lease 16/344
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Red Dam Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Evolution Mining (Phoenix) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 152.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 208 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. According to the latest Annual Clearing Report submitted by Evolution Mining (2022), as of 30 June 2022, no clearing has occurred under any of the previous clearing permits (CPS 5676/1, CPS 5676/2, or CPS 5676/3).

Clearing permit CPS 5676/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 22 August 2013 and was valid from 14 September 2013 to 14 September 2018. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 152.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 208 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure.

CPS 5676/2 was granted on 22 September 2016, amending the permit to change the permit holder name from Phoenix Gold Limited to Evolution Mining (Phoenix) Pty Ltd. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 5676/3 was granted on 13 September 2018, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 14 September 2023. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 13 January 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5676/3 to extend the permit duration to 14 September 2028. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries are to remain unchanged.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	6 April 2023
Decision area:	152.5 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 13 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, supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a desktop flora and fauna survey, 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 is unlikely to cause significant impacts on habitat for flora, fauna and ecological communities, conservation areas or wetlands.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, 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 standard and non-standard management conditions.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that disturbance works have been planned in a way such that key environmental values are avoided, or impact is reduced to be as low as reasonably practicable (Evolution Mining, 2023). The applicant also advised that the clearing will be conducted on an "as required" basis and survey pickups will be carried out before clearing (Evolution Mining, 2023).

The applicant adequately demonstrated that reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A desktop survey was conducted by Botanica Consulting (2023) to identify if any environmental values changed since the 2013 flora and vegetation and fauna surveys. The desktop survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2023) identified that there are no Threatened or Priority flora known to occur within the application area. It is unlikely that any fauna of conservation significance would use the survey area for breeding, however they may be considered occasional transients only (Botanica Consulting, 2023). 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; does not contain, or form a part of a threatened or priority ecological community (Botanica Consulting, 2013; Botanica Consulting, 2023; GIS Database). Although the desktop survey did not indicate any conservation significant flora occur within the application area, there has not been a field survey conducted in almost 10 years. For this reason a flora management condition has been placed in the clearing permit to conduct a targeted flora survey prior to commencing clearing activities.

At the bioregion (Coolgardie) and local scale (20 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area), over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The nearest conservation area is located over 18 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database) and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impacts surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding (GIS Database).

Although there are records of malleefowl within 6 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database), the application area is unlikely to contain significant habitat for malleefowl given the low scrub vegetation in the application area is relatively sparse, and leaf litter is not abundant and can be found only in small concentrations (Harewood, 2014). Additionally, aerial imagery shows the vegetation where the records are located is denser than the vegetation within the application area (GIS Database). A malleefowl survey was conducted by Greg Harewood during October 2014. The only observation made during the course of this survey was of a single very old, possible nest mound (estimated to have been inactive for at least 20 years, if in fact a mound at all) (Harewood, 2014). The presence of a possible extinct nest mound would suggest that habitat within sections of the application area was once suitable for malleefowl to utilise, however, given the area has been subject to grazing livestock (and possibly more frequent fire events) for many years a change in the density of shrub species may have occurred as a consequence (Harewood, 2014). This could have resulted in the area becoming unsuitable habitat subsequent to the construction of this particular mound (assuming it is an extinct nest mound) (Harewood, 2014). For these reasons, the clearing permit has been updated to reflect the substitution of the fauna management condition requiring a malleefowl survey prior to conducting any clearing by a fauna management condition requiring the permit holder to conduct clearing in one direction towards adjacent native vegetation and allow reasonable time for fauna present to move into adjacent native vegetation.

The application area does not contain any permanent watercourses or wetlands (GIS Database). However, two minor non-perennial drainage lines are present in the application area (GIS Database). Botanica Consulting (2013) identified one vegetation community growing in association with the stream channel and drainage depression. Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with watercourses within the application area may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition to avoid clearing within drainage lines where possible and maintain waterflows.

The proposed clearing for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure may result in degradation of the land in the form of soil erosion, as it will involve the removal of vegetation. Given the size of the proposed clearing (152.5 hectares) it is important to minimise the amount of time the land is left open. Potential degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continuous implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principles (b) and (g), is not at variance to principle (e) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the permit area, are well represented in surrounding areas and the region remains largely uncleared (Botanica Consulting, 2013; Botanica Consulting, 2023; Harewood, 2013). The extension of duration is unlikely to result 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.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 24 January 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 are two native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). These claims have been registered with the National 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*.

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.

End

Appendix A – 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. It is surrounded by native vegetation and mining developments (GIS Database). The dominant land uses of the application area are pasture land (38%), Nature Reserves (4.5%) with the remaining areas used for mining, exploration activities and freehold (Botanica Consulting, 2013).
Ecological linkage	According to available aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas located within the application area. The nearest conservation area is the Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve and it is located over 18 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database)
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>460: Succulent steppe; bluebush with saltbush in depressions; and 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum and goldfields blackbutt (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during November, 2012. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2013):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> and <i>Eremophila longifolia</i> over low scrub of <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i>, <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> in drainage line; • Low woodland of <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over low scrub of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> and <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>; and • Low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> over low scrub of <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>.
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2013) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good (Keighery, 1994) condition.</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located in a zone with wet winters and low summer rainfalls where the annual rainfall average is of 264.6 millimeters (BoM, 2023).
Soil description	The soil in the application area is mapped as soil unit Mx40 (DPIRD, 2023). This soil unit is described as flat to undulating valley plains and pediments; some rock outcrop: chief soils are alkaline and neutral red earths, often with a surface scatter of gravel. Associated are soils on pediments and some plains flanking ultrabasic rocks. Red-brown hardpan frequently occurs beneath the soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68).
Land degradation risk	The Department of Agriculture of Western Australia (DAWA) (now Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)) has provided advice on adjacent clearing permit CPS 369/1. According to the decision report for CPS 369/1, DAWA (2005) advised that the proposed clearing for mining purposes is not liable to cause appreciable on and off site land degradation, provided the soil erosion risk is managed through sound surface water management and maximising vegetative cover.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that two minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914 (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as highly saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There are no records of Priority or Threatened flora in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2013; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2013; GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	There are no records of conservation significant fauna within the application area (GIS Database) and there were no conservation significant fauna recorded within the application area during the fauna survey conducted by Harewood (2013).

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

1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from 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)

2. References

- BoM (2023) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 30 January 2023).
- Botanica Consulting (2013) Level 2 Flora & Vegetation Survey for the Red Dam Project. Report prepared for Phoenix Gold Limited by Botanica Consulting, January 2013.
- Botanica Consulting (2023) Red Dam Project Desktop Flora and Fauna Assessment. Prepared for Evolution Mining Limited. March 2023
- Department of Agriculture Western Australia (DAWA) (2005) Land degradation assessment advice. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref NI 1025.
- 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 31 January 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 30 January 2023).
- Evolution Mining (2022) Annual Clearing Report for clearing permit 5676/3. Report prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by Evolution Mining (Mungari) Pty Ltd, July 2022.
- Evolution Mining (2023) Red Dam Project application for clearing permit within Mining Lease 16/344. Evolution Mining (Phoenix) Pty Ltd, January 2023.
- 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>
- Harewood, G. (2013) Terrestrial Fauna Assessment (Level 1) of Red Dam Project Area. Report prepared for Phoenix Gold Limited by Greg Harewood, February 2013.
- Harewood, G. (2014). Clearing Permit CPS 5676/1 Malleefowl Assessment, Red Dam Project Area. Unpublished report prepared for Phoenix Gold Ltd., October 2014.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

3. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Western Australia</i>
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)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
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)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
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, Western Australia</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)</i>
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 (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.