



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5826/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 47/95
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Yandi Rail Spur Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
107		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 June 2015

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):

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*

The application area contains thirteen vegetation associations, as described by Astron Environmental Services (Astron, 2010):

Triodia Hummock Grasslands -

1a: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) and *Triodia pungens* with open shrubland of *Acacia tenuissima*, *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* and *Acacia dictyophleba* and scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamerslyana*, *Hakea chordophylla* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* on fine red-brown clayey loams on some open plains;

1b: Open hummock grassland to hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with very open herbs of mixed species, and scattered low trees of *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Corymbia hamerslyana* over low scattered shrubs to scattered tall shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula*, *Hakea Chordophylla* and mixed *Acacia* and *Senna* species on fine redbrown clayey loams on some plains and slopes;

1c: Open hummock grassland to closed hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia pungens* with low scattered shrubs to open shrubland of *Acacia hilliania*, *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxo* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* with scattered low trees to low open woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Hakea chordophylla* and *Corymbia hamerslyana* on fine red-brown sandy to clayey loams on hill crests, slopes and some plains;

1d: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with low open woodland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Corymbia deserticola* and *Hakea chordophylla* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* and mixed *Senna* species on red-brown fine clayey loams on low stony hills;

1e: Very open hummock grassland to hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with occasional *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), with low scattered shrubs to shrubland of mixed *Acacia* species and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula*, with scattered low trees to open woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Hakea chordophylla* and occasionally associated with *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and *Eucalyptus deserticola* on fine clays to clayey loams on typically rocky upperslopes and some plains;

1f: Closed hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with scattered low

trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Eucalyptus trivalva* with scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia sibirica* and *Acacia bivenosa* on orange-brown fine clayey loams on low open plains/overflow drainage flat;

1g: Open hummock grassland to hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* on red-brown fine clayey loams on upper, mid and lower slopes;

2 Eucalyptus Woodlands -

2a: Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* over tussock grassland of *Eulalia aurea*, *Eriachne mucronata* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* with scattered shrubs of *Tephrosia rosea* var. *glabrior*, *Gossypium robinsonii* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* on orange-brown fine clayey loams in some major incised creeklines;

2b: Woodland of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus victrix* over tussock grassland of *Eulalia aurea*, *Cyperus vaginatus* and *Cymbopogon* sp. indeterminate over high open shrubland of *Melaleuca glomerata*, *Gossypium robinsonii* and *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* on brown coarse sands and sandy loams in some major incised creeklines;

Acacia Open Heath -

3a: Open heath of *Acacia maitlandii* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* with high open shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Acacia inaequilatera* over scattered hummock grass of *Triodia wiseana* on red-brown fine clayey loams in some minor creeklines;

Petalostylis Heath -

4a: Open heath to closed heath of *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* with scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over scattered hummock grass of *Triodia pungens* on red-brown fine clayey loams in minor drainage lines;

Themeda Tussock Grasslands -

5a: Very open tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus* with scattered hummock grass of *Triodia pungens* with open shrubland of *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* with low open woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in some minor incised drainage gullies; and

5b: Very open tussock grassland of *Themeda triandra* with scattered hummock grasses of *Triodia pungens*, with low open woodland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* with high open shrubland of *Acacia maitlandii*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* on redbrown clayey loams in some minor drainage gullies.

A consolidated vegetation survey conducted by Onshore Environmental in April 2013 (Onshore Environmental, 2014), identified six broad floristic communities with 13 vegetation associations within the amendment application area:

Acacia Open Scrub

MIAtpPIAmoTpTs ChEI: Open Scrub of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Acacia monticola* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S.van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* on red brown sandy loam on minor drainage lines.

Eucalyptus Low Open Forest

MAEcEvExApyAtpGrTtEaCpr: Low Open Forest of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *refulgens*, *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* over High Shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Gossypium robinsonii* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Cymbopogon procerus* on red brown clay loam on major drainage lines.

Eucalyptus Low Woodland

METtEaEteApyAtpPIEvCh: Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* with High Shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* and Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* on red brown silty loam on medium drainage lines and flood plains.

Themeda Open Tussock Grassland

METtAinCaChEIAMOPIAlu: Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida inaequiglumis* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus* with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Androcalva luteiflora* on red brown alluvium on minor and medium drainage lines.

Themeda Tussock Grassland

ME TtCfEaExEvChPIApaApy: Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Eulalia aurea* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* and Shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia pachyacra* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* on red sandy loam on medium drainage lines.

Triodia Hummock Grassland

HSTsTwTpEiChAhiAad: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia hilliana* and *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxo* on red brown sandy loam on hill slopes.

FS TsCdHcAanAiGw: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola* and *Hakea chordophylla* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *hispidula* on red brown sandy loam on footslopes and stony plains.

FSTsTpTw EIAbApaAan: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia wiseana* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia pachyachra* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on red brown loam on footslopes and low undulating hills.

HC TwAiAb IrSao: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Acacia bivenosa* over Low Open Shrubland of *Indigofera rugosa* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* on red silty loam on dolerite hill crests.

HSTwTbrTsEIExChPcaPasAhi: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Low Open Shrubland of *Ptilotus calostachyus*, *Ptilotus astrolasius* and *Acacia hilliana* on brown loam on eroded outcropping upper slopes and crests.

HSTwTpTs EIAprAaAan: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on red brown loam on plains and low hills.

ME TpTIExAciChPIApyGr: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia longiceps* with Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over High Shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Gossypium robinsonii* on red brown clay loam on medium drainage lines and surrounding floodplains.

SPTsTwTpEgEtAbApaApr: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia pungens* with Very Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and *Eucalyptus trivalva* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia pachyachra* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* on red brown sandy loam and clay loam on stony plains.

Clearing Description	<p>Yandi Rail Spur Project.</p> <p>BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd has applied to clear 107 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 2177.811 hectares, for the purpose of rail maintenance, construction, and associated activities. The application area is located approximately 85 kilometres north-west of Newman, in the Shire of East Pilbara.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p>to</p> <p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	<p>Clearing will be by mechanical means. Vegetation condition was determined by Astron Environmental Services (Astron, 2010). In pre-existing cleared areas, vegetation condition is Completely Degraded (Astron, 2010). The flora and vegetation survey by Astron (2010) indicated that the vegetation associations present in the application area range from high to low local conservation significance due to their representation within the Pilbara region. Annual and herbaceous flora were largely absent in the survey, or not identifiable, due to poor seasonal conditions.</p> <p>BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 5826/1 on 16 April 2015, to extend the expiry date of the permit to 30 November 2028, change the final reporting date to 30 November 2028, and to amend the permit boundary to include two additional areas that were previously excluded from the application boundary. The amended permit boundary has decreased the permit boundary from 2180.24 hectares to 2177.811 hectares.</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd has applied to include two additional areas in the permit boundary that were previously excluded from the original permit, however has decreased the permit boundary by 2.429 hectares, extend the duration of the permit to 30 November 2028, and change the final reporting date to 30 November 2028.

A consolidated flora and vegetation survey by Onshore Environmental (2014) of the amendment area identified six broad floristic communities with 13 vegetation associations within the amendment application area. The vegetation types are not considered to be of higher diversity than those assessed within clearing permit

decision report CPS 5826/1, and the vegetation types are not considered to be remnant locally or regionally (Onshore Environmental, 2014). None of these vegetation associations are representative of a Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community (Onshore Environmental, 2014). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact.

No priority flora species have been recorded within the amendment application area, however one species of Threatened Flora has been recorded within the amendment application area (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015):

- *Lepidium catapycnon*

Mattiske (2009) recorded a single plant of *Lepidium catapycnon* during a previous survey. The area within 50 metres of this record was searched by BHP Billiton Iron Ore environmental advisors on the eighth of April 2015. One record of *Lepidium catapycnon* was identified, however the original plant identified by Mattiske (2009) was not recorded. *Lepidium catapycnon* has been identified as a pioneer species that responds rapidly to disturbance, especially fire (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015). More than 8,000 records have been identified of *Lepidium catapycnon* at a regional scale through numerous surveys undertaken between 1998 and 2011 (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015). Where practicable, BHP Billiton Iron Ore have advised that they will avoid the disturbance of the one current record of *Lepidium catapycnon* within the Amendment Application Area. However, BHP Billiton Iron Ore (2015) have advised that an application for a Permit to take Threatened Flora has been submitted to the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) in case of this requirement. The removal of one specimen is unlikely to impact on the conservation significance of this species.

Two introduced flora species (weeds) were recorded within the Amendment Application Area: *Acetosa vesicaria* (Ruby Dock) and *Argemone ochroleuca* (Mexican Poppy). One weed species *Argemone ochroleuca* (Mexican Poppy) is listed as a Declared Pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act, 2007*. Care must be taken to ensure clearing activities do not introduce weed species to non-infested areas. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

Therefore, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principles (a) and (c).

Biologic (2014) undertook a project to consolidate all fauna mapping undertaken on BHP Billiton Iron Ore tenure. Based on the Biologic (2014) consolidation project, the following five fauna habitat types occur within the Application Area:

1. **Gorge / Gully**
2. **Crest / Slope**
3. **Stony Plain**
4. **Minor Drainage Line**
5. **Drainage Area**

There is one major gorge located in the central section of the amendment application area. This gorge, which is crossed by the existing rail line, occurs along a tributary to Marillana Creek and includes Yandicoogina gorge (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015). All other Gorge / Gully habitat has been excluded from the amendment application area (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015). BHP Billiton Iron Pty Ltd (2015) has advised that clearing within the Gorge / Gully habitat of the amendment application area will be restricted to maintenance clearing, which will include any regrowth of vegetation along the existing rail and access tracks. Three caves have been identified adjacent to the amendment application area. All three caves have been excluded using a 50 m buffer.

Two fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded from within the Amendment Application Area (Biologic, 2011):

- Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) (Priority 4, DPAW);
- Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) (Priority 4, DPAW).

The Australian Bustard is typically widespread and nomadic, but locally scarce. This species is distributed across most of Western Australia, although is most prevalent in grasslands, especially tussock grasses, arid scrub and dry open woodlands (Morcombe, 2000). Potential impacts on this species are considered to be low as this species is widespread throughout Western Australia, and similar habitat in similar condition is available adjacent to and in the vicinity of the amendment application area (BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 2015).

The Western Pebble-mound Mouse is restricted to the Pilbara region, where it is recognized as an endemic species. Abandoned mounds to the east of its current range indicate a decline in distribution (Menkhorst and Knight, 2004). The preferred habitat for this species is considered to be common and widespread throughout the area surrounding the Amendment Application Area, and BHP Billiton Iron Ore (2015) has advised that active Western Pebble-mound Mouse mounds will be avoided using a 10 m buffer, where practicable.

Therefore, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b).

Current environmental information has been reviewed and the assessment of clearing principles (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) is consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 5826/1.

Biologic (2014)
Mattiske (2009)
Menkhorst and Knight (2004)
Morcombe (2000)
Onshore Environmental (2014)

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

Comments There is one native title claim over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim (WCD2014/001) has been registered with the Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (GIS Database). However, 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 numerous 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 Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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 11 May 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology DAA (2015)
GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Astron (2010) Area C to Yandi Flora and Vegetation Survey. Unpublished Report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd prepared by Astron Environmental Services.
- BHP Billiton Iron Ore (2005) Application to Amend CPS 5826/1: Yandi Rail Spur Project. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Amendment Application Supporting Document, April 2015.
- Biologic (2011) Area C to Yandi Fauna Survey. Unpublished Report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd prepared by Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd, August 2011.
- Biologic (2014) *Consolidation of Regional Fauna Habitat Mapping BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pilbara Tenure*. Internal Report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore prepared by Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd.
- DAA (2014) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Government of Western Australia, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, viewed 08 June 2015 < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/>>.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske (2009) *Flora and Vegetation of the Hope Downs 1 Area*. Unpublished Report for Pilbara Iron prepared by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd.
- Menkhorst, P and F., Knight (2004) *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Second edition*.
- Morcombe, M (2000) *Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Steve Parish Publishing. Archerfield, Queensland.
- Onshore Environmental (2014) *Area C West to Yandi Flora and Vegetation Survey*. Prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)

GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T Threatened species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.
Rankings:
CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities 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 localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- 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 do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5 Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five 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.