



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5856/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Silver Lake Resources Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 20/55
Mining Lease 20/111
Local Government Area: Shire of Cue
Colloquial name: Tuckabianna Project - Big John / Little John

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
80		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 December 2013

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
<p>The clearing permit application area has been broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:</p> <p>18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey conducted over the application area by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd (Coffey, 2013) identified the following three vegetation communities:</p> <p>MW2: Low open woodland dominated by the <i>Acacia aneura</i> complex (<i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>A. fuscaneura</i>, <i>A. incurvaneura</i>, and <i>A. pteraneura</i>) over an open shrubland dominated by <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> species over scattered low shrubs dominated by <i>Sclerolaena</i> and <i>Maireana</i> species over scattered grasses dominated by <i>Aristida contorta</i>, <i>Monachather paradoxus</i> and <i>Enneapogon caerulescens</i> on red, silty clay sand.</p> <p>MW1/MW2: Mosaic of MW1 (low open woodland dominated by the <i>Acacia aneura</i> complex (<i>A. aptaneura</i>, <i>A. fuscaneura</i>, <i>A. incurvaneura</i> and <i>A. pteraneura</i>) over scattered tall shrubs of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Acacia</i> spp. (<i>A. grasbyi</i>, <i>A. ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>) over open shrubland of <i>Eremophila</i> spp. over scattered low chenopod shrubs dominated by <i>Maireana</i> spp. and <i>Sclerolaena</i> spp. over grassland of <i>Aristida contorta</i> on red, silty, clay loam with a stony surface) and MW2.</p> <p>MW4: Low woodland dominated by the <i>Acacia aneura</i> complex (<i>A. aptaneura</i>, <i>A. fuscaneura</i>, <i>A. incurvaneura</i> and <i>A. pteraneura</i>) over scattered tall shrubs of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> over scattered shrubs dominated by <i>Eremophila</i> spp. and <i>Ptilotus</i> spp. over grassland dominated by <i>Aristida contorta</i> on red, silty clay and/or river sand within drainage lines (Coffey, 2013).</p>	<p>Tuckabianna project - Big John / Little John.</p> <p>Silver Lake Resources (Silver Lake) proposes to clear up to 80 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 202 hectares, for the purpose of extending the existing Big John / Little John gold mine open pits, and construction of mining related infrastructure. The project is located approximately 23 kilometres southeast of Cue, in the Shire of Cue.</p>	<p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition was derived from vegetation surveys conducted by Coffey (2013).</p> <p>Mining related infrastructure will include: ROM pad, waste dump, access tracks, road realignment, and lay-down areas (Silver Lake, 2013).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The clearing permit application area is located within the East Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The East Murchison subregion represents a total area of approximately 7.8 million hectares, and is characterised by an arid climate with a mainly winter rainfall of approximately 200 millimetres (CALM, 2002). The flora and fauna of the subregion is rich and diverse, however, most species are wide ranging and usually occur in at least one, and often several adjoining subregions (CALM, 2002). Vegetation in the subregion is dominated by mulga woodlands, often rich in ephemerals, hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and samphires (CALM, 2002).

The application area is located within the Yarraquin pastoral station (GIS Database), and previous vegetation disturbance has occurred from grazing activities. The region also has a long mining history, and historical disturbance within the application area includes two existing mine pits, access tracks, and extensive mineral exploration activities (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database).

Coffey (2013) undertook a desktop review of available databases and identified three Priority Flora species of conservation significance with the potential to occur within the application area, based on known distributions. A further 10 Priority Flora species were recorded in recent surveys conducted over the broader Tuckabianna project area (Coffey, 2013). However, no species of Declared Rare Flora or Priority Flora were recorded within or in close proximity to the Big John Little John application area, in either the database searches or the on-site surveys (Coffey, 2013).

A desktop review of available databases identified a total of 23 species of conservation significant fauna with the potential to occur within the application area, based on known distributions (Coffey, 2013).

Coffey (2013) conducted an on-site flora and fauna survey of the Big John / Little John application area during August and September 2013. The survey area was broadly mapped for vegetation types and fauna habitat types, and restricted habitat types such as rocky outcrops, breakaways, and drainage lines were identified (Coffey, 2013). The survey included comprehensive traverses of the project area on-foot, including all identified vegetation and fauna habitat types, and specifically searching for signs of conservation significant fauna including nests, burrows, scats, tracks and sightings. No conservation significant flora, fauna, or fauna habitats were identified within the application area during the on-site survey (Coffey, 2013).

A small section at the south-eastern corner of the application area falls within the buffer zone of a Priority Ecological Community (PEC), the Priority 1 Lake Austin banded ironstone formation vegetation complexes (GIS Database). However, no banded ironstone formation (BIF) outcrops were recorded within the application area during the site assessment, and the vegetation types within the application area are not consistent with the vegetation types associated with the PEC (Coffey, 2013).

The vegetation associations and fauna habitat types found in the application area are well represented and widespread within the region (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database). Considering the previous disturbance within the application area, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to represent a higher level of biodiversity than surrounding undisturbed areas.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

CALM (2002)
Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pastoral Leases
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Reedy 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Wynyangoo 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Coffey (2013) identified the following two main fauna habitats within the application area:

1. Acacia Shrubland: Moderate to sparse shrubland of mixed acacias on level or undulating stony or sandy clay plain, with very little understory vegetation and very little leaf litter. The condition of this habitat type ranged from good to highly degraded. Most areas showed evidence of cattle grazing, and many areas show considerable signs of clearing and vegetation degradation from historical mineral exploration and mining activities; and
2. Mulga Woodland: Low open to moderately dense Mulga woodland on sandy-clay or stony plains, with little complex understory and little leaf litter other than under denser clumps of trees. This habitat type was generally

in good condition showing some signs of grazing. However, some areas were disturbed or highly degraded due to clearing associated with historical mineral exploration and mining activities (Coffey, 2013).

Coffey (2013) reported that both habitats are well represented in the surrounding landscape, and are widespread within the Murchison Bioregion. No significant habitat features such as water holes, perennial drainage lines, mountains, escarpments, caves or gorges were identified within the application area (Coffey, 2013).

The application area is sparsely vegetated, and the habitat value of the application area has been degraded by multiple disturbance and is unlikely to represent significant habitat for fauna (Coffey, 2013).

The proposed clearing of up to 80 hectares of native vegetation within a total area of approximately 202 hectares and immediately adjacent to existing mining related disturbance is unlikely to have any significant impact on available fauna habitats at either a local or regional scale.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Fauna

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Flora surveys conducted over the application area and surrounding areas did not record any species of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) (Coffey, 2013). The nearest known threatened flora (DRF) are populations of *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* and *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *trifida*, located north of the town of Cue, approximately 23 kilometres from the clearing application area (Coffey, 2013).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of rare flora.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List
- Pre-European Vegetation

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) located within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Surveys of the application area and nearby areas did not identify any Threatened Ecological Communities (Coffey, 2013).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The area applied to be cleared is located within the Murchison IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). There is approximately 100% of Pre-European vegetation remaining within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association: 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). Approximately 100% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregion level (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Hence, the area proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared, at either the local or regional scale.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~ 100	Least Concern	1.05
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,305	19,843,727	~ 100	Least Concern	2.1
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~ 100	Least Concern	0.37

* Government of Western Australia (2013)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal is at variance to this Principle

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS database).

There are two minor, non-perennial watercourses passing through the application area (GIS Database). These drainage lines are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly following significant rainfall events (Coffey, 2013). The vegetation associated with these drainage lines is the same as that of adjacent areas, and is not considered to be riparian (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. However, the proposed clearing of 80 hectares of native vegetation within a total application area of approximately 202 hectares is unlikely to result in any significant impact on the ephemeral watercourses or any other watercourses or wetlands.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear
- Reedy 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Wynyangoo 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Pre-European Vegetation

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The majority of the application area is broadly mapped as falling within the Violet land system, with a very small section on the western edge of the application area (approximately 7.7 hectares of the total 202 hectare application area) mapped as the Yanganoo land system (GIS Database).

The Violet Land System is characterised by gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting mulga and bowgada-dominated shrublands, with dense mulga groves and patchy halophytic shrublands. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion (Curry et al., 1994).

The Yanganoo Land System is characterised by almost flat hardpan wash plains, supporting mulga shrublands. Drainage tracts within this land system are locally susceptible to erosion when vegetation cover is removed, however other land units within this land system are generally not susceptible to erosion (Curry et al., 1994). There are no major drainage tracts within the application area (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database).

Clearing will be kept to the minimum possible and erosion control measures will be utilised to minimise potential erosion (Coffey, 2013). The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
Curry et al. (1994)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The nearest conservation area to the application area is the former Lakeside pastoral station, which is now managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and is located approximately 29 kilometres west of the application area, at its nearest point (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any impacts on the environmental values of this or any other conservation area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- DEC proposed 2015 pastoral lease exclusions
- DEC Tenure

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database).

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). There are two minor, non-perennial watercourses passing through the application area (GIS Database). These seasonal drainage lines are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly following significant rainfall events (Coffey, 2013). Due to the very low rainfall of the region, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in increased sedimentation of any watercourse, and is unlikely to have any significant impact on surface water quality.

Groundwater within the application area occurs at a depth of approximately 8-11 metres (Coffey, 2013). The application area falls within the Murchison River catchment area which covers a total area of approximately 10,380,649 hectares (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of 80 hectares of vegetation within this catchment area is unlikely to have any significant impact on groundwater levels or quality.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The climate of the region is arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 200 millimetres per year (Curry et al., 1994). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Curry et al., 1994).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (Coffey, 2013; GIS Database). Temporary localised flooding may result from occasional heavy rainfall events (Curry et al., 1994). However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Coffey (2013)
Curry et al. (1994)

GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 28 October 2013 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are two native title claims (WC1999/010 and WC1999/046) over the area under application (GIS Database). 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 is one registered Aboriginal Site 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 (formerly 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.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Coffey (2013) Targeted Conservation Significant Flora and Fauna Surveys. Murchison Operations - Tuckabianna Project. Prepared by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd for Silver Lake Resources Ltd, November 2013.
- Curry, P.J., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A., Hennig, P., and Blood, D.A. (1994) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Murchison River catchment, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- 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 (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Silver Lake (2013) Application for a Clearing Permit (purpose permit). Silver Lake Resources Limited, Western Australia.

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.