



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5875/4
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Goldfields Gas Pipeline Agreement Act 1994
Pipeline Licence No 24
Local Government Area: Shires of Roebourne, Meekatharra, Ashburton, Wiluna, Leonora, Menzies, East Pilbara and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Goldfields Gas Pipeline Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2000		Mechanical Removal	Pipeline access, operations and maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 27 August 2020

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*);
- 10: Medium woodland; red mallee group;
- 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*);
- 20: Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Allocasuarina cristata* & *Eucalyptus* sp.;
- 28: Open low woodland; mulga;
- 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups;
- 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub;
- 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;
- 84: Hummock grasslands, open low tree & mallee steppe; marble gum & mallee (*Eucalyptus youngiana*) over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* between sandhills;
- 93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex;
- 103: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over soft spinifex & *Triodia wiseana*;
- 107: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and *Eucalyptus kingsmillii* over hard spinifex;
- 109: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus youngiana* over hard spinifex;
- 111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over hard spinifex;
- 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana*;
- 162: Shrublands; snakewood scrub;
- 163: Shrublands; *Eremophila* and cassia dwarf scrub;
- 169: Shrublands; mulga & minnieritchie scrub;

- 175: Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara);
- 181: Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub;
- 204: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered mulga & *Acacia sclerosperma* over saltbush & bluebush;
- 228: Shrublands; *Acacia quadrimarginea* scrub;
- 389: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush;
- 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt;
- 483: Hummock grasslands, mixed sandplain - open mallee over sparse dwarf shrubs with spinifex; red mallee & mixed sparse dwarf shrubs over *Triodia basedowii*;
- 484: Shrublands; jam thicket;
- 529: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga & sheoak over bluebush;
- 540: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; sheoak over saltbush;
- 555: Hummock grasslands, mallee steppe; red mallee over spinifex, *Triodia scariosa*;
- 601: Mosaic: Sedgeland; various sedges with very sparse snakewood / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over soft spinifex;
- 603: Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex;
- 605: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Acacia pachycarpa* & waterwood over soft spinifex;
- 620: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over soft spinifex;
- 676: Succulent steppe; samphire; and
- 1294: Medium woodland; coral gum (GIS Database).

A level 1 flora and vegetation survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012) during 3 to 8 October 2011 identified 23 vegetation communities within the Pilbara section of the application area:

Boonamichi Well MLV

1 - *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Grevillea berryana* Scattered Tall Shrubland over *Eremophila longifolia* Shrubland over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs including *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over Scattered Tussock Grasses and Herbs.

Newman Lateral MLV

1. *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia synchronicia* and *Acacia bivenosa* Open Shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Open Tussock Grassland;
2. *Acacia aneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* Scattered Low Trees over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland.
3. *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia bivenosa* Scattered Shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland. Small flow lines within this vegetation association supported *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *A. ancistrocarpa* Tall Open Scrub;
4. *Acacia aneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Acacia synchronicia*, *A. tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland and *Triodia wiseana* Open Hummock Grassland;
5. Quartz and ironstone pebble veneer flat on east side of track supporting mixed species Low Shrubland and Herbland;
6. *Corymbia hamersleyana* Open Woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *A. aneura*, *A. inaequilatera* Tall Open Shrubland over *Triodia biflora* and *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;
7. *Acacia inaequilatera*, *A. tetragonophylla* and *Eremophila fraseri* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Tribulus suberosus* Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia biflora* (*Triodia wiseana*) Hummock Grassland;
8. *Eucalyptus leucophloia* Scattered Low Trees over *Eucalyptus gamophylla* Scattered Low Mallee's over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *A. inaequilatera*, *A. synchronicia*, *A. bivenosa* Shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;
9. *Acacia aneura* Low Open Forest over *Eremophila forrestii*, *Exocarpos aphyllus* Open Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* and *T. biflora*;
10. *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *A. synchronicia* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Hakea lorea*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over *Maireana planifolia*, *Salsola tragus*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus exaltatus* Low Shrubland and Herbland;
11. *Eucalyptus socialis* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia synchronicia* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;

12. *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *A. pteraneura* Tall Open Scrub over **Cenchrus ciliaris* Tussock Grassland;
13. *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* x *helmsii* and *S. artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* Low Shrubland over *Ptilotus exaltatus* and *Salsola tragus* Scattered Herbs;
14. *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Acacia aneura* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Senna artemisioides* Scattered Shrubs over **Malvastrum americanum* Open Herbland;
15. *Acacia aneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs to Tall Shrubland over *Acacia synchronicia* Scattered Shrubs to Tall Shrubland over patchy *Senna glutinosa* subsp. x *luerssenii* Open Shrubland;
16. *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Corymbia candida* Open Forest over *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Tall Open Shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Shrubs over *Themeda triandra* Open Tussock Grassland and **Malvastrum americanum* Open Herbland;
17. *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Open Woodland to Tall Open Woodland over *Eucalyptus candida*, *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *A. coriacea* subsp. *pendans* Low Woodland to Low Open Forest over *Acacia tetragonophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia biflora* Very Open Hummock Grassland;
18. *Acacia aneura*, *A. pruinocarpa* and *Hakea lorea* Tall Open Shrubland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa* Open Shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland;
19. *Acacia aneura* and *A. pruinocarpa* Scattered Low Trees over *Grevillea berryana* and *Acacia paraneura* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Eremophila fraseri*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* Scattered Shrubs. Quartz and ironstone pebbles scattered on surface;
20. *Acacia aneura*, *A. citrinoviridis*, *A. pruinocarpa* Scattered Low Trees over *Eremophila fraseri* and *Acacia rhodophloia* Scattered Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;
21. *Eucalyptus victrix* Tall Open Woodland over *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *A. aneura*, *Corymbia candida* Open Forest over **Setaria verticillata* Grassland and **Bidens bipinnata* and **Malvastrum americanum* Herbland; and
22. *Eucalyptus victrix* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia aneura* and *A. citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over *Themeda triandra* Open Tussock Grassland and *Triodia epactia* Very Open Hummock Grassland.

Newman Lateral Off-Bay 1

1. *Acacia pruinocarpa* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* Tall Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta*, *Eulalia aurea*, *Eriachne aristidea* Scattered Tussock Grasses.

Newman Lateral Off-Bay 2

1. *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* Tall Shrubland (regrowth) over Scattered Shrubs.

Newman Lateral Off-Bay 3

1. *Acacia pteraneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia ayersiana*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Grevillea berryana* Tall Open Shrubland over *Eremophila exilifolia* Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Open Hummock Grassland.

Paraburdoo Compressor Station

1. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Frankenia setosa* Low Open Shrubland over *Triodia longiceps* Scattered Hummock Grassland; and
2. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs.

Turee Creek Scrapper Station

1. *Acacia aneura*, *Grevillea berryana* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* Low Open Forest over *Eremophila* sp. Shrubland in undefined flow lines;
2. *Acacia aneura* Low Woodland over *Acacia rhodophloia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* Shrubland in damplands;
3. *Acacia aneura* and *A. ayersiana* Low Woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *E. fraseri* Open Shrubland on hardpan plains;
4. *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Senna artemisioides* and *Acacia synchronicia* Open Shrubland over *Aristida contorta* Very Open to Open Tussock Grassland; and
5. *Acacia aneura* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* Tall Open Shrubland over *Senna artemisioides* and *Acacia synchronicia* Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* Open Hummock Grassland on a low rise.

Yarraloola Compressor Station

1. *Acacia xiphophylla* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Scattered to Hummock Grassland;
2. *Acacia citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland;
3. *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. trachycarpa* and *A. citrinoviridis* Tall Shrubland over mixed Scattered Low Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland); and

4. *Corymbia candida* Scattered Low Trees over *Acacia aneura* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *A. citrinoviridis* Scattered Tall Shrubs over *Triodia epactia* Hummock Grassland.

* denotes weed species

Clearing Description	Goldfields Gas Pipeline Project. Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 2,000 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 4,500 hectares, for the purposes of pipeline access, operation and maintenance. The project spans along a 1,378 kilometre long pipeline which is located across the Shires of Roebourne, Meekatharra, Ashburton, Wiluna, Leonora, Menzies, East Pilbara and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
Vegetation Condition	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994). to Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The vegetation condition was derived from a survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2012). Clearing of native vegetation is predominately through rolling and slashing, but pruning to a minimum of 300 millimetres may also occur, as may mulching (to be left in situ), and selective removal of larger trees (APA Group, 2013). Clearing permit CPS 5875/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 16 January 2014 and was valid from 8 February 2014 to 8 February 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 2,000 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 4,500 hectares, for the purposes of pipeline access, operation and maintenance. CPS 5875/2 was granted on 25 June 2015, amending the permit to remove condition 4 from the clearing permit to allow clearing to occur within the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and the Goongarrie Nature reserve. On 30 June 2020, Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 5875/2 to change Condition 6(b). The current permit condition requires the permit holder to remove or kill Saffron Thistle (<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>) in August, and Mexican Poppy (<i>Argemone mexicana</i>) and Thornapples (<i>Datura</i> sp.) in January. The permit holder wishes to change Condition 6(b) to kill or remove any weeds at least once in each 12 month period for the term of the permit to allow for more effective weed control. No other changes are proposed. An error with the clearing permit system has resulted in the granted permit becoming CPS 5875/4, as opposed to CPS 5875/3.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Southern Cross Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd (Southern Cross) has applied to alter Condition 6(b) on the clearing permit (weed control).

The permit holder consulted with a weed control specialist that recommends weed control be conducted in October to November rather than August and January as stated on CPS 5875/2 (APA Group, 2020). Heat extremities in January would not allow for adequate uptake of herbicides by the targeted weed species due to stress and high soil temperatures resulting in evaporation of herbicides and water. Additionally, Saffron Thistle are yet to emerge in August as they are a spring growing plant and will not grow in cool soils. Many weed species have already produced seeds by January, resulting in further spread of these species (APA Group, 2020). DMIRS has considered the proposed change and has no objections to modifying the weed control condition to allow the permit holder to undertake more effective weed control of the target species.

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 decision reports CPS 5875/1 and 5875/2.

Methodology APA Group (2020)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands

- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Soils, Statewide
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are multiple native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal and/or determined by the Federal Court 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 multiple registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The amendment application was advertised on 20 July 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

4. References

- APA Group (2013) Application for a Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit), Goldfields Gas Pipeline Operations Supporting Documentation. Internal Document, October 2013.
- APA Group (2020) Application for an Amendment to a Clearing Permit, Goldfields Gas Pipeline Operations Supporting Documentation. Internal Document, July 2020.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 6 August 2020).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology (2012) Goldfields Gas Pipeline Pilbara Facilities - Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Survey. Prepared for APA Group, February 2012.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DoEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DoEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
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
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of ‘Rare Flora’ listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

CR **Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

EN **Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

VU **Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

EX **Extinct species**

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

Specially protected species:

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

MI

Migratory species

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD

Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS

Other specially protected species

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P

Priority species:

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1

Priority One - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2

Priority Two - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature

reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.