



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5893/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Shark Bay Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1983, Mining Lease 260SA (AM 70/260) Special Lease 3116/9187 (Document I126361 L), Lease Extension J 124041, Lot 61 on Deposited Plan 220252
Special Lease 3116/9188 (Document I126360 L), Lease Extension J 124042, Lot 62 on Deposited Plan 220252
General Purpose Lease 09/2
Miscellaneous Licence 09/2

Local Government Area: Shire of Shark Bay
Colloquial name: Useless Loop Operations

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 106.07 | | Mechanical Removal | Solar salt production and associated activities |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 17 December 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 (GIS Database):

112: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Acacia ligulata* over *Triodia plurinervata*;

1100: Hummock grassland; dwarf shrub Steppe; mixed ericoid shrubs & spinifex; and

1423: Shrublands; scrub-heath in Shark Bay area, mainly *Acacia* spp.

The vegetation within Mining Lease 260SA and associated Special Leases 3116/9187 and 3116/9188 was mapped by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (Mattiske) in 1996 at a scale of 1:25 000. Whilst the majority of the application area on General Purpose Lease 09/2 and Miscellaneous Licence 09/02 was not mapped, it is likely that these narrow sections are consistent with the adjoining parts that were surveyed. This survey was updated in 2010 to reflect changes in taxonomic nomenclature and in the conservation status of plants and plant communities. The survey identified and described 17 vegetation associations, with the following 10 associations included within with the current permit boundary and proposed amendment area (Mattiske, 1996; Mattiske 2010):

Association 1 : Closed to Open Tall Shrubland of *Melaleuca cardiophylla*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Alyogyne huegelii* thickets in deep sand on midslopes of sand dunes on the western side of the Useless inlet;

Association 3: Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia ligulata* on limestone plates above birridas;

Association 4: Shrubland of *Thryptomene baeckeacea* with scattered taller emergent shrubs dominated by *Acacia ligulata* on slopes of cream sand dunes;

Association 5: Closed to Low Shrubland of *Melaleuca huegelii* subsp. *pristicensis* thickets fringing inlets and birridas;

Association 7: Closed to Open Low Shrubland of *Thryptomene baeckeacea*, *Salsola karl*, *Rhagodia preissii* subsp. *obovata*, *Atriplex bunburyana* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* with occasional emergent *Acacia ligulata*, *Acacia rostellifera* and / or *Acacia sclerosperma* on mid to upper slopes of sand dunes of Useless inlet;

Association 8: Low Shrubland of *Thryptomene baeckeacea* with *Plectrachne bromoides*, *Melaleuca cardiophylla* and emergent *Acacia ligulata* on the slopes of cream to red sand dunes;

Association 9: Low closed to open shrubland with occasional emergent *Acacia ligulata* over *Triodia plurinervata*

and/or *Triodia bromoides* on red sand dunes, occasionally with limestone pebbles larger than 20 centimetres, on the lower to upper slopes above birridas;

Association 11: Low Closed Shrubland of *Melaleuca* sp. Shark Bay and *Triodia plurinervata* with mixed shrubs, on midslopes to upper slopes of sand dunes on Freycinet Reach with exposed limestone rocks outcropping;

Association 12: Closed to Open Low Heath dominated by *Melaleuca cardiophylla* with scattered emergent taller shrubs of *Acacia* species with large areas of mixed Asteraceae species, in creamy-yellow sand on upper slopes of dunes; and

Association 15: Halophytic Complex dominated by *Tecticornia* species.

Clearing Description

Useless Loop Operations.

The proposal is to clear up to 106.7 hectares of native vegetation within an application area of 1048.5 hectares for the purpose of salt production and associated activities. The project is located within the Yalgoo region of Western Australia at Useless Loop, Shark Bay.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);

To

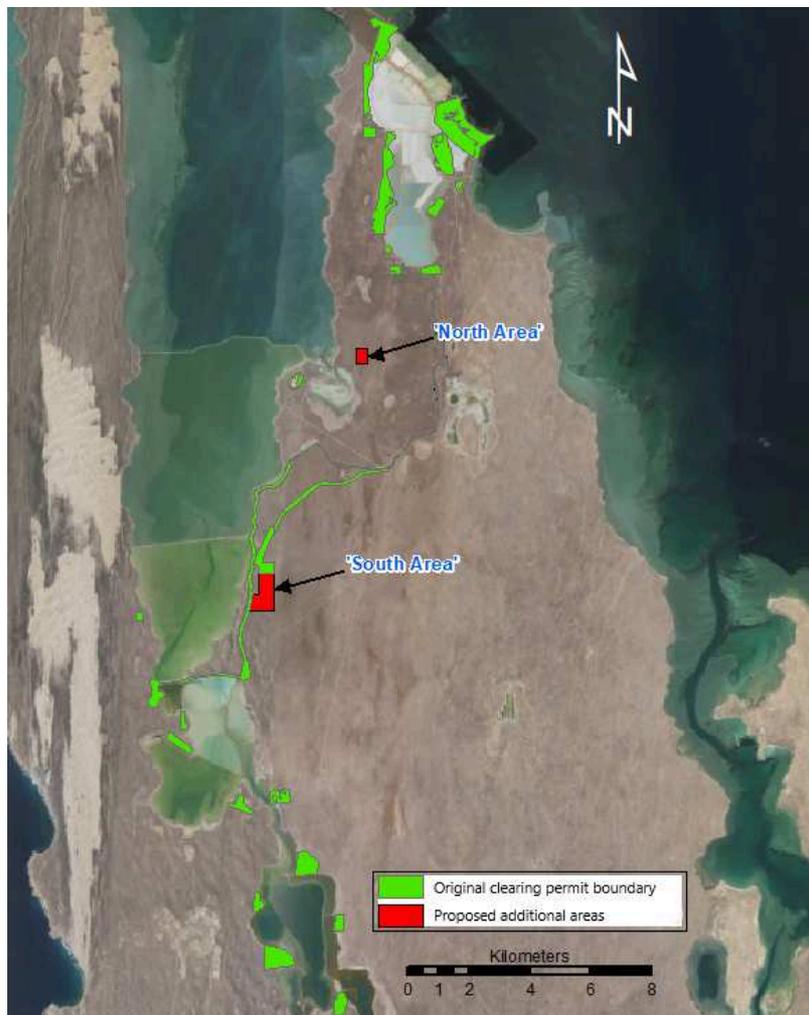
Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition has been inferred from orthophotos and historical land uses classified using the Keighery (1994) scale.

Clearing permit CPS 5893/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 13 February 2014 and was valid from 8 March 2014 to 8 March 2031. This clearing permit consolidated previously approved clearing permits for the operation and authorised the clearing of up to 106.7 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 967.8 hectares for the purpose of solar salt production and associated activities. This included in majority operational areas that have already been disturbed, and the rehabilitation of pre-existing borrow pit areas.

On 17 September 2020, Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd (Shark Bay Resources) applied to amend CPS 5893/1 to increase the permit boundary by approximately 80.6 hectares, an area comprised of two sections ('North Area' and 'South Area').



3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Shark Bay Resources have applied to increase the permit boundary by approximately 80.6 hectares, to provide more flexibility in accessing borrow pit material, which is used for ongoing maintenance of the project's evaporation ponds, roads and transport corridors. No increase to the total area of clearing permitted within this amended boundary is being requested (Agreco, 2020).

The application area occurs within the Edel subregion of the Yalgoo Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion (GIS Database). This bioregion is characterised by sand and alluvial plains, low ranges and lakes. Mulga or bowgada shrublands dominate in the east. Western parts include sand plains, heathlands and some Eucalypt shrublands (CALM, 2002).

Current aerial imagery indicates that the vegetation associations relating to the new areas ('North Area' and 'South Area') are consistent with those in the original assessment, completed for CPS 5893/1 (Mattiske 1996; Mattiske, 2010; GIS Database).

The South area (approximately 53.92 hectares) is composed of surveyed vegetation associations 7 and 9 (Agreco, 2020). This area is also mapped out as Beard vegetation association 1423 (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of Beard vegetation association 1423 remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The North area (approximately 26.67 hectares) only comprises surveyed vegetation association 9, which is also mapped out as Beard vegetation association 112 (Agreco, 2020; GIS Database). Approximately 95% of the pre-European extent of Beard vegetation association 112 remains uncleared at state level, and approximately at 83% at bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. The vegetation associations and landform types occurring within the amendment area are similar to those occurring within the original permit boundary, and are well represented in the region (Agreco, 2020; GIS Database). The amendment areas are unlikely to represent an area of higher floristic biodiversity than the original permit boundary or surrounding areas.

According to Mattiske (2010), six Priority flora species were recorded during the vegetation survey, however only one of these, *Triodia bromoides* (previously '*Plectrachne bromoides*'), is likely to occur within both of the proposed amendment areas, as part of vegetation association 9. The taxa was classified as Declared Rare Flora when recorded by Mattiske (1996), however was subsequently reclassified as a Priority 4 (Mattiske, 2010). This taxa and its vegetation association are well represented within the mining lease and around the Shark Bay area (Agreco, 2020; Mattiske, 1996; Mattiske, 2010; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation significance of this species.

According to available databases, no Threatened Flora, Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities are located within the amendment application area (GIS Database), and none were found during the previous vegetation survey conducted (Mattiske, 1996; 2010).

There were no targeted fauna surveys undertaken within the application areas and the fauna habitats present have not been mapped. However, the vegetation associations and landform types occurring within the amendment area are similar to those occurring within the original permit boundary, and are regionally well represented (Mattiske, 1996; Mattiske 2010; GIS Database). The amendment areas are unlikely to contain higher habitat diversity than the original permit area or surrounding areas.

The reptile assemblages of islands, gulfs and peninsulas of Shark Bay as a whole are of conservation significance, as noted in the Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions (CALM, 2002). Several fauna species of conservation significance have the potential to occur or have been recorded within 5 kilometres of the amendment application area, based on available distribution records (DAWE, 2020; DBCA, 2020). This includes numerous marine and migratory birds, four species of marsupial mammals and a skink species (DAWE, 2020; DBCA, 2020). However, these identified fauna species are mobile with wider distribution ranges, and their habitats not unique or restricted (Agreco, 2020). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation significance of these species.

The additional clearing for borrow pit activities is unlikely to result in any significant impact on watercourses, wetland, surface or groundwater quality, or on the incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database).

The amendment areas is mapped as occurring on the Edel land system (GIS Database), and is characterised by features that can be susceptible to wind erosion when locally over-used (Payne et al., 1987). The nature of the proposed additional clearing for borrow pit activities, may result in localised land degradation if not adequately managed. Potential impacts due to land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

The application area is located adjacent to the DBCA Managed A Class Shark Bay Marine Park, an area of high biological diversity that has been listed on the World Heritage list (GIS Database). However tenure associated with the Shark Bay Resources Useless Loop salt operations have been excised from this area (Agreco, 2020). The nature of the proposed additional clearing areas for borrow pit activities is unlikely to pose

any increased environmental impacts upon the adjacent conservation areas over and above those of the existing approved salt mining operations.

Weeds have the potential to out-compete native vegetation and reduce biodiversity. Continued implementation of the existing weed management condition may minimise the risk of spread of weeds into the area.

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

Methodology Agreco (2020)
CALM (2002)
DAWE (2020)
DBCA (2020)
Government of Western Australia (2019)
Mattiske (1996)
Mattiske (2010)
Payne et al. (1987)
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

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 and buffers
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

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

Comments

The amendment application was advertised on 2 November 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public.

One submission was received in relation to this clearing permit amendment application on 30 November 2020 and has been taken into account during the assessment, as required by section 51E(5) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the EP Act). The submission recommended a number of heritage management measures be applied to the clearing permit. DMIRS responded directly to the submission on 4 December 2020.

There is one native title claim (WC1998/017) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. 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 several 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.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

4. References

- Agreco (2020) Supporting document for Clearing Permit Amendment Application CPS 5893/2 (Doc No.2020-SBR001-dvb). Document prepared for Shark Bay Resources Ltd, by Agreco Integrated Solutions, October 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DAWE (2020) EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool. Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool> (Accessed 6 December 2020).
- DBCA (2020) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 19 November 2020).
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 18 November).
- 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, Perth. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- 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 (1996) Flora and Vegetation - Useless Loop Shark Bay. Unpublished report for John Consulting Services, by Mattiske Consulting, September 1996.
- Mattiske (2010) Amendments of the Flora and Vegetation Survey of Useless Loop - Shark Bay. Unpublished report for Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd, by Mattiske Consulting, August 2010.
- Payne, A.L., Curry, P.J., & Spencer, G.F (1987) Technical Bulletin No. 73 An Inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 6 December 2020).

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| BC Act | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia |
| 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</i> , Western Australia |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Authority, 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.