



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5898/3  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 39/1116  
Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton  
Colloquial name: Sunrise Dam Gold Mine

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
340.89		Mechanical Removal	Tailings Storage Facility and associated activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 14 December 2017

## 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. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area:

89: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*)

389: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush

A flora and vegetation survey has been conducted over the application area by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (Mattiske, 2013). This survey identified the following vegetation communities within the application area (Mattiske, 2013):

A1: Low Woodland of *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia craspedocarpa* and *Acacia ayersiana* over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla*, *Acacia burkittii*, *Sida calyxhymenia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* on sandy-loam soils.

A2: Open Low Woodland to Woodland of *Acacia aneura* and *Acacia ayersiana* over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla*, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Hakea preissii*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei*, *Eremophila* spp., *Maireana* spp., *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* and *Eragrostis eriopoda* on sandy-loam soils.

A3: Open Low Woodland of *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia aneura* over *Grevillea sarissa* subsp. *sarissa*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *glabra* over *Rhagodia drummondii* and denser patches of *Triodia* spp. on sandy-loam soils.

A12: Low Woodland of *Acacia ayersiana*, *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla*, *Acacia aneura* over *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, over *Sida calyxhymenia*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *glabra*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Maireana pyramidata* over *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* over *Triodia* spp. on red clay-loam soils.

C1: Shrubland of Chenopod species dominated by *Maireana sedifolia*, *Maireana pyramidata*, *Maireana glomerifolia* and *Atriplex vesicaria* with occasional emergent *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia aneura* over *Acacia ? kalgoorliensis* and *Hakea preissii* and patches of *Cratystylis subspinescens* on clay loam soils.

E1: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus horistes*, *Brachychiton gregorii*, *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pteraneura*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* over *Duboisia hopwoodii*, *Eremophila longifolia*, *Eremophila margarethae* over *Maireana* spp., *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *partothamnella teucriffora* over *Triodia* species on red clay loams.

#### Clearing Description

Sunrise Dam Project. Anglogold Ashanti Australia Limited (Anglogold) proposes to clear up to 340.89 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary area of approximately 340.89 hectares for the purpose of a tailings storage facility and associated activities. The proposal is approximately 52 kilometres south of Laverton, in the Shire of Laverton.

<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994)
	To
	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)
<b>Comment</b>	The vegetation condition was assessed by botanists from Mattiske (2013).  Clearing Permit CPS 5898/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)(now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) on 9 January 2014 and authorised the clearing of up to 275.89 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 275.89 hectares. The clearing was for the purpose of a tailings storage facility and associated activities. AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited applied to amend CPS 5898/1 for the purpose of updating tenure and extending the life of the permit. This permit amendment application was withdrawn on 13 October 2017.  The permit holder has applied to amend CPS 5898/2 to increase the amount of approved clearing from 275.89 hectares to 340.89 hectares, increase the permit boundary, extend the permit duration and to update the tenure.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

<b>Comments</b>	<p><b>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</b></p> <p>The amendment application area falls within the Eastern Murchison (MUR01) subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by its internal drainage and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga Woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and Halosarcia shrublands (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey has been conducted over the amendment application area by Mattiske (2013). A total of 80 plant taxa from 21 families were recorded within the survey area (Mattiske, 2013). The vegetation communities recorded are well represented within the surrounding areas and are therefore not considered to be significant on a regional scale (Mattiske, 2013).</p> <p>No Threatened or Priority Flora or Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the amended application area during the flora and vegetation survey (Mattiske, 2013).</p> <p>A total of 19 introduced plant taxa were recorded within Sunrise Dam operational areas since 1994 (Mattiske, 2013). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by maintaining the current weed management condition.</p> <p>A targeted fauna survey has not been undertaken over the amendment application area. A database search indicates that there are approximately 43 bird, six invertebrate and two reptile species occurring within 10 kilometres of the application area (DPaW, 2017). The diversity of avi-fauna species appears to be high; however this is likely to be attributed to the adjoining salt lake system. The remaining fauna diversity does not appear to be high. Given the vegetation within the application area is considered typical of the region (Mattiske, 2013), it is considered unlikely that the amendment application area contains higher faunal diversity than the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>CALM (2002) DPaW (2017) Mattiske (2013)</p> <p>GIS Database: - IBRA Australia</p>

#### (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.

<b>Comments</b>	<p><b>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</b></p> <p>A fauna survey has been undertaken over the greater Sunrise Dam Gold Mine (SDGM) which included the permit area (Ninox, 1995; 2005). The fauna habitats recorded were found to be typical of the area and not considered to be significant (Ninox, 1994; 2005).</p>
-----------------	---

The fauna surveys conducted by Ninox (1995, 2005) did not record any conservation significant fauna species. A database search recorded the following conservation significant species within 20 kilometres of the application area (DPaW, 2017 -):

- *Calidris ruficollis* - Red-necked Stint (Migratory)
- *Falco peregrinus* subsp. *macropus* - Australian Peregrine Falcon (Migratory)
- *Merops ornatus* - Rainbow Bee-eater (Migratory)

These three species are highly mobile with large home ranges and are not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

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

**Methodology** Ninox (1995)  
Ninox (2005)  
DPaW (2017)

**(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**

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Flora within the amended application area (GIS Database).

The flora survey undertaken by Mattiske (2013) did not identify any Threatened Flora species within the amendment area.

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

**Methodology** Mattiske (2013)

GIS Database:  
- 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.**

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

According to available databases there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the amendment application area (GIS Database). The nearest recorded TEC is located approximately 260 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).

No TECs were identified during the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Mattiske (2013).

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

**Methodology** Mattiske (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 amendment application area is located within the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). Approximately 99.73% of pre-European vegetation remains within the Murchison bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2015).

The vegetation within the amendment application area has been broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database):

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

389: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush

More than 99% of these two Beard vegetation associations remain within the Murchison bioregion (see below) (Government of Western Australia, 2015).

	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	~99.73	Least Concern	~7.78
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,305	19,843,727	~99.76	Least Concern	~2.13
389	642,357	640,469	~99.71	Least Concern	~0.32
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99.68	Least Concern	~4.96
389	493,978	492,089	~99.62	Least Concern	~4.65

At a local context, the proposed clearing is adjacent to an existing TSF. It does not appear to be a remnant of native vegetation or form a linkage between areas of significant vegetation (GIS Database).

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

**Methodology** Government of Western Australia (2015)

GIS Database:  
- IBRA Australia  
- Imagery

**(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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands mapped within the amendment application area (GIS Database).

Some minor creek channels exist within the amended application area but only flow following sporadic rainfall events (Mattiske, 2013). Mattiske (2013) has advised that vegetation occurring within these creek channels only form a small part of the application area, and that there are larger areas of creek line vegetation in the surrounding areas. The potential impacts to creek line vegetation are not considered to be significant.

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

**Methodology** Mattiske (2013)

GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, Linear

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

**Comments** **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**

The amendment application area intersects the Carnegie, Gundockerta, Kirgella and Rainbow land systems (GIS Database):

Carnegie Land System - salt lakes with fringing saline flats and dunes. Lack of slope renders most of this system generally not susceptible to soil erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

Gundockerta Land System - extensive gently undulating plains on deeply weathered greenstone with stony lag, less extensive alluvial plains with duplex soil profiles and occasional rises of greenstone. May be susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

Kirgella Land System - extensive sandplain, with scattered granite outcrop, supporting mainly spinifex hummock grasslands and mulga and mallee shrublands. Sands may become unstable immediately following fires; regrowth after rains usually restores stability (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

Rainbow Land System - hardpan plains supporting mulga shrublands. This system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

Of these land systems, Gundockerta is the most likely to be susceptible to soil erosion. The potential impacts of soil erosion may be minimised by maintaining the current staged clearing condition.

Based on the above the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Van Vreeswyk et al. (1994)

GIS Database:  
- Rangeland Land Systems

**(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 proposed clearing is not located within a conservation area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is an unnamed C Class Nature Reserve (Crown Reserve 46847), which is located approximately 103 kilometres to the west of the amendment application area (GIS Database).

Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- DPaW 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 amendment application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database).

There are no permanent watercourses or water bodies within the amendment area (GIS Database). There are some minor creek channels but these only flow following sporadic rainfall events (Mattiske, 2013). Given the infrequent flow of these drainage lines, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact surface flow.

The amended application area is approximately one kilometre east of Lake Carey, a naturally occurring salt lake. The Lake is approximately 75,000 hectares in area and for months at a time forms a dry, hypersaline lake bed (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is for the extension of an existing TSF and associated infrastructure. The TSF will be expanded to the south, south-east and east. There is only marginal clearing proposed that is closer to Lake Carey than the existing cleared areas. It is therefore considered unlikely that the proposed clearing would have a significant impact on the water quality of Lake Carey.

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

**Methodology** Mattiske (2013)

GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, Linear  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

**(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 amendment application area is located within the Lake Carey catchment area (GIS Database). Given the size of the area to be cleared (340.89 hectares) in relation to the size of the catchment area (11,378,213 hectares) (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the potential of flooding on a local or catchment scale.

The amendment application area experiences an arid climate with mainly winter rainfall (200 millimetres) (BoM, 2017; CALM, 2002). Based on an average annual evaporation rate of 3,200 millimetres (GIS Database), there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains.

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

**Methodology** BoM (2017)

CALM (2002)

GIS Database:

- Evaporation Isopleths
- Hydrographic Catchments

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

### Comments

There is one Native Title Claim (WC2010/018) over the area under application (DPLH, 2017). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal 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 Aboriginal Sites of Significance located within the application area (DPLH, 2017). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no sites of Aboriginal 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 was advertised on 23 October 2017 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

**Methodology** DPLH (2017)

## 4. References

- BoM (2017) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Southern Cross, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, Viewed 4 December 2017.  
[http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw\\_012320.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_012320.shtml)
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPaW (2017) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. Viewed 4 December 2017 <https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/default.aspx>
- DPLH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.  
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 11 December 2017).
- Government of Western Australia (2015) 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2015. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- Mattiske (2013) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Sunrise Dam Gold Mine Proposed CTD Expansion. Prepared for AngloGold Ashanti by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, November 2013.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (Ninox) (1995) Survey Report - A Vertebrate Fauna Assessment of the Sunrise Dam Project Area. Unpublished Internal Document.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (Ninox) (2005) Vertebrate Fauna Survey Results 2004 Sunrise Dam Gold Mine. Unpublished Internal Document.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (1994) Technical Bulletin - An Inventory and Condition Survey of the North-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia, No. 87. Department of Agriculture, Government of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
<b>DEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia

<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DSEWPac</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

## Definitions:

{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

<b>T</b>	<p><b>Threatened species:</b> Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).</p> <p><b>Threatened fauna</b> is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>.</p> <p><b>Threatened flora</b> is flora that has been declared to be ‘likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection’, pursuant to section 23F(2) of the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>CR</b>	<p><b>Critically endangered species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
<b>EN</b>	<p><b>Endangered species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
<b>VU</b>	<p><b>Vulnerable species</b> Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
<b>EX</b>	<p><b>Presumed extinct species</b> Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.</p>
<b>IA</b>	<p><b>Migratory birds protected under an international agreement</b> 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 the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.</p>
<b>CD</b>	<p><b>Conservation dependent fauna</b> Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.</p>
<b>OS</b>	<p><b>Other specially protected fauna</b></p>

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

- P**            **Priority species**  
Species which are poorly known; or  
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and 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.



