Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	5919/3
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Process Minerals International Pty Ltd
Application received:	27 November 2023
Application area:	30 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Haul road construction and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 47/643
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name:	Phil's Creek Haul Road

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Process Minerals International Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 30 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 40 hectares, for the purpose of haul road construction and associated activities. The project is located approximately 100 kilometres northwest of Newman, within the Shire of East Pilbara.

Clearing permit CPS 5919/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 30 January 2014 and was valid from 22 February 2014 to 22 February 2019. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 30 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 40 hectares, for the purpose of haul road construction.

CPS 5919/2 was granted on 22 February 2019, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 21 February 2024 and change the authorised purpose of clearing to haul road construction and associated activities. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

On 27 November 2023, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5919/2 to extend the permit duration to 21 February 2026. However, after the Environmental Officer informed the applicant the permit could be extended until 21 February 2029, the applicant decided to take that option. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries are to remain unchanged.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	18 January 2024
Decision area:	30 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51KA(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on 27 November 2023. DEMIRS advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix C), supporting information provided by the applicant including information from flora and vegetation and fauna surveys, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 2.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 2.3).

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 5919/2. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application. While no evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures was provided to support the application, noting the low impact of the proposed clearing it was deemed that no further consideration is required to minimise impacts on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 5919/2.

The flora and vegetation and fauna surveys used to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed amendments are from 2013. Given these surveys are over a decade old, an assessment of likelihood of change since 2013 was undertaken by Mineral Resources Limited (Mineral Resources, 2023). This assessment considered factors such as fire, weeds, grazing pressure, and occurrence of conservation significant ecological communities, flora, and fauna species (Mineral Resources, 2023). This assessment concluded that the vegetation types and native flora species currently found in the application area are likely to be consistent with what was recorded in 2013 and that the vegetation condition in the application area may have decreased since 2013 (Mineral Resources, 2023). This assessment is consistent with aerial imagery and records available in GIS Databases. Noting the flora and vegetation and fauna surveys were conducted over ten years ago, any subsequent amendments should be supported by new environmental surveys.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 12 December 2023 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2014/001) over the area under application (DPLH, 2023). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Banjima). 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 no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2023). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

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.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by native vegetation and landscapes of the Pilbara bioregion and is adjacent to a railway line (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known conservation areas. The closest record is of Unallocated Crown Land proposed for conservation is located 4.5 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups; and 111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over hard spinifex (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Astron Environmental Services during July 2013. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Astron, 2013): • **PI01:** *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* open shrubland over *Triodia lanigera* hummock grassland and **Cenchrus ciliaris* scattered tussock grasses. • **PI02:** *Acacia fuscaneura* and *A. aptaneura* low open woodland over *A. tumida* and *A. ancistrocarpa* open shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* very open tussock grassland. • **PI03:** *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* low woodland to woodland over *Atalaya hemiglauca* low open woodland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* tussock grassland. • **PI04:** *Acacia aptaneura* low open woodland over *A. sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* and *A. synchronicia* scattered shrubs over **Cenchrus ciliaris* very open to open tussock grassland. • **MD01:** *Acacia tumida* tall open shrubland over *A. ancistrocarpa* and *A. coriacea* open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* scattered low shrubs over **Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Eulalia aurea* very open tussock grassland. • **MD02:** *Eucalyptus victrix*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* (*Acacia aptaneura*) woodland over *Atalaya hemiglauca* scattered low trees over **Malvastrum americanum* low shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* scattered tussock grasses. • **LR01:** *Acacia dictyophleba* open shrubland over *Corchorus sidoides* and *Sida* sp. *Pilbara* (A.A. Mitchell PRP 1543) low open shrubland over *Triodia melvillei* very open hummock grassland over **Cenchrus ciliaris* very open tussock grassland. *denotes weed species
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Astron, 2013) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in poor to very good (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.
Climate and landform	The application area falls within an arid zone with an annual average rainfall (Marillana Station) of 324.1 millimetres (BoM, 2023).
Soil description	The soil within the application area is mapped as soil units Oc71 and Ja1 (GIS Database). These soil units are described as (Northcote et al., 1960-68): **Ja1:** Extensive valley plains largely associated with the Fortescue River: chief soils are earthy clays. Small areas of calcrete occur also. **Oc71:** Outwash plains with much coarse surface gravel: chief soils are hard alkaline red soils.
Land degradation risk	The application area falls within the Divide and Fortescue land systems (DPIRD, 2023). The Divide land system is described as sandplains and occasional dunes supporting shrubby hard spinifex grasslands. Some susceptibility to wind erosion immediately following burning but stabilisation occurs rapidly after rain. The Fortescue land system is described as alluvial plains and flood plains supporting patchy grassy woodlands and shrublands and tussock grasslands. Alluvial plains and levees are highly susceptible to erosion if vegetative cover is lost (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area which is legislated by the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* and contains a mapped groundwater salinity of 500-1,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal water quality (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Flora	There were no recorded conservation significant flora species within the application area despite thorough searches and reasonable pre-survey climatic conditions (Astron, 2013; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area overlaps with 16.8 ha of the buffer of the 'Fortescue Marsh (Marsh Land System)' ecological community (P1) and 6.45 hectares of the buffer of the 'vegetation of sand dunes of the Hamersley Range/Fortescue Valley' ecological community (P3) (GIS Database). Astron (2013) found that no vegetation analogous to the Fortescue Marsh (Marsh Land System) was recorded within the application area.
Fauna	There were no recorded conservation significant fauna species within the application area (Astron, 2013). Given that the application area is in close proximity to a major road and rail line, Astron (2013) found that the area was unlikely to serve as a corridor for faunal movement, or support conservation significant fauna that were resident in or relied on the application area.
Fauna habitat	Four broad fauna habitats were recorded within the application area (Astron, 2013): • Plains of *Acacia* species (spp.) open shrubland over *Triodia* hummock grassland. • Minor depression of *Acacia* spp. shrubland over **Cenchrus* and *Eulalia* very open tussock grassland. • Gently undulating plains/floodplains of mulga low open woodland over *Acacia* spp. scattered shrubs over **Cenchrus* very open tussock grassland. • Low rise of *Acacia* shrubland over *Triodia* very open hummock grassland and **Cenchrus* very open tussock grassland.

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix C. Sources of information

C.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)

- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

C.2. References

Astron Environmental Services (Astron) (2013) Phil's Creek Haul Road – Level 1 Flora and Fauna Survey, July 2013.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2023) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Marillana Station. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 11 December 2023).

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2023) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 11 December 2023).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2023) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 11 December 2023).

Mineral Resources (2023) Phil's Creek Haul Road: Clearing Permit CPS 5919/2 Extension, November 2023.

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.

3. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened 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 the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.