



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5925/3  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (McCamey's Monster) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Mining Lease 266SA (AM70/266)  
Exploration Licence 52/21  
Exploration Licence 52/23  
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara and Shire of Meekatharra  
Colloquial name: Prairie Downs Exploration Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
150		Mechanical Removal	Mineral exploration, hydrogeological investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated works

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 17 October 2019

## 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:  
**18:** Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*);  
**82:** Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*; and  
**175:** Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara) (GIS Database).

Onshore Environmental Pty Ltd (Onshore) conducted a one season Level 2 flora and vegetation survey over the original permit area in July 2009. Onshore (2010) identified 23 vegetation associations, described below.

#### Eucalyptus Open Woodland

- Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *obtusa* with Low Woodland of *Acacia citrinoviridis* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne tenuiculmis*, *Themeda triandra* and *Eulalia aurea*.

#### Acacia Low Open Forest

- Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* with Low Open Shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus*, \**Malvastrum americanum* and *Sida fibulifera* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Chrysopogon fallax*, *Aristida contorta* and *Digitaria ammophila*.
- Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* with Open Shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Aristida contorta* and *Aristida obscura*.

#### Acacia Low Woodland

- Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* with Open Shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens*.
- Low Woodland of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Corymbia ferritcola* and *Acacia aptaneura* with Tall Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Ficus brachypoda* and Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens*.
- Low Woodland of *Acacia paraneura* and *Acacia aptaneura* with Tall Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*.

#### **Acacia Low Open Woodland**

- Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Grevillea striata* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia synchronicia* and Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana georgei* and *Maireana melanocoma*.

#### **Acacia Tall Shrubland**

- Tall Shrubland of *Acacia wanyu* and *Acacia sclerosperma* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* and Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia angusta*.

#### **Acacia Tall Open Shrubland**

- Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia subcontorta*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia rhodophloia* with Low Open Shrubland of *Eremophila compacta* subsp. *compacta*, *Eremophila caespitosa* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Aristida contorta* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus*.

#### **Eriachne Tussock Grassland**

- Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne benthamii*, *Digitaria ammophila* and *Panicum effusum* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia paraneura* and *Acacia aptaneura* and Low Open Shrubland of *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Sida fibulifera*.
- Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne benthamii* and *Eriachne flaccida* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*.

#### **Triodia Hummock Grassland**

- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia vanleeuwenii* with Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* and Tall Shrubland of *Androcalva luteiflora*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Petalostylis labicheoides*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia ayersiana* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia marramamba*, *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and Open Tussock Grassland of *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Themeda triandra*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia longiceps* with Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix*, *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* with Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia sclerosperma*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Acacia tumida*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Corymbia deserticola* and Open Shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri*, *Acacia marramamba* and *Ptilotus obovatus*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia vanleeuwenii* and *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia deserticola* and *Corymbia ferritcola* and Low Open Shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia angusta* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus socialis* and Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia wanyu*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus socialis* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia sclerosperma*, *Acacia synchronicia* and *Acacia bivenosa*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia angusta* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus socialis* and *Eucalyptus repullulans* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia subtiliformis*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* with Open Shrubland of *Eremophila platycalyx* subsp. *pardalota*, *Templetonia egena* and *Rhagodia eremaea*.
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia dictyophleba* and *Acacia synchronicia*.

#### **Triodia Open Hummock Grassland**

- Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia vanleeuwenii* and *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Acacia aptaneura* and Very Open Herbs of *Ptilotus calostachyus* and *Goodenia stobbsiana*.

Onshore (2015) identified the following five vegetation associations within an additional area applied for under the amendment application CPS 5925/2 following a Level 1 flora and vegetation survey:

- Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acaciacatenulata* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia vanleeuwenii* with Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia rhodophloia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Psyrdrax latifolia* on undulating low hillcrests;
- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia vanleeuwenii* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia deserticola* and *Acacia catenulata* and Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia marramamba*, *Acacia sibirica* on hillcrests;

- Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aneura* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Eremophila fraseri* and *Eremophila latrobei* on stony Plains;
- Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides*, *Triodia vanleeuwenii* and *Triodia wiseana* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pteraneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia sibirica* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* on footslopes; and
- Open Tussock Grassland of *Aristida contorta*, *Amphipogon sericeus* and *Paraneurachne muelleri* with Low Open Shrubland of *Eremophila caespitosa* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* and Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* on stony plains.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Prairie Downs Exploration Project. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHPBIO) proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 6,837.5 hectares for the purpose of mineral exploration, hydrogeological investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated works. The project area is located within the Shire of East Pilbara and the Shire of Meekatharra and is approximately 35 kilometres west of Newman (GIS Database).
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).  To:  Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via a flora and vegetation surveys conducted by Onshore Environmental Pty Ltd (2010; 2015).  The proposed clearing of native vegetation is for the construction and maintenance of access tracks and drill pads, exploration drilling, hydrogeological investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated works (BHPBIO, 2016). Clearing will be by mechanical means.  Clearing Permit CPS 5925/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 8 May 2014 and was valid from 31 May 2014 to 31 May 2024. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 6,815 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration, hydrogeological investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated works.  CPS 5925/2 was granted on 10 March 2016, amending the permit to increase the permit boundary area by 18.5 hectares from 6,815 hectares to 6,837.5 hectares, and to extend the permit duration and period in which clearing is authorised by 6 months to 30 November 2024 and 30 November 2019, respectively. The area of clearing authorised remained unchanged.  On 19 August 2019, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 5925/2 to extend the permit duration and to extend the period in which clearing is authorised.

### 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

#### Comments

The Permit Holder has applied to amend the clearing permit to extend the permit duration and period in which clearing is authorised by ten years to 30 November 2034 and 30 November 2029, respectively. Exploration Licence 52/2876 was removed from the permit due to the tenure no longer being live. The size of the area approved to clear (150 hectares) and permit boundary remain the same. The amendment is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing (GIS Database).

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision reports CPS 5925/1 and 5925/2.

#### Methodology

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

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

### Comments

There are two native title claims (WC2005/003 and WC2005/006) over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). These claims have been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant groups. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2019). However, the proponent has advised that there are a number of heritage sites located within the application area (BHPBIO, 2016). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The amendment application was advertised on 9 September 2019 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

**Methodology** DPLH (2019)  
BHPBIO (2016)

## 4. References

- BHPBIO (2016) CPS 5925/1 Prairie Downs Exploration. CPS 5925/2 - Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Amendment Application Supporting Information. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, Western Australia, January 2016
- DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.  
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 23 September 2019).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Onshore (2010) Biological Survey Prairie Downs Exploration Leases. Unpublished report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by Onshore Environmental Consultants, July 2010.
- Onshore (2015) Prairie Downs Access Track Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Unpublished report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, by Onshore Environmental Consultants, December 2015.

## 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:**

{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.