



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6197/7

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Marda Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Leases 77/394, 77/646, 77/931, 77/962

Miscellaneous Licences 77/239, 77/240, 77/241, 77/258, 77/259, 77/260

Local Government Area: Shire of Yilgarn

Colloquial name: Marda Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)
188

No. Trees

Method of Clearing
Mechanical Removal

For the purpose of:
Mineral Production and Associated Infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 30 July 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 association: 141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum & gimlet (GIS Database).

A level 2 flora and vegetation assessment was conducted over the application area in 2011 by Rapallo, followed by an additional level 2 flora and vegetation assessment including a targeted search for rare and priority flora conducted in 2012 by Rapallo (2013). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area:

- 1: *Eucalyptus corrugata* or *Casuarina pauper* low open woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) tall open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland;
- 2a: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia* open shrubland over *Maireana trichoptera*, *Maireana georgei*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland and *Austrostipa trichophylla* open tussock grassland;
- 2e: *Eucalyptus corrugata* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia* open shrubland over *Maireana trichoptera*, *Maireana georgei*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland and *Austrostipa trichophylla* open tussock grassland;
- 2h: *Eucalyptus longissima* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia* open shrubland over *Maireana trichoptera*, *Maireana georgei*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland and *Austrostipa trichophylla* open tussock grassland;
- 3: *Casuarina pauper* low woodland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* tall open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low open shrubland;
- 4a: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;
- 4ab: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus salubris* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;
- 4ae: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. corrugata* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;
- 4aeij: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. corrugata*, *E. yilgarnensis*, *E. kochii* subsp. *amaryssia* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;

- 4b:** *Eucalyptus salubris* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;
- 4bdie:** *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus sheathiana*, *Eucalyptus corrugata*, *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis* open woodland over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex nana* low open shrubland;
- 5a:** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Atriplex nana*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 5b:** *Eucalyptus salubris* and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Atriplex nana*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 5bg:** *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *supralaevis*. and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Atriplex nana*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 5d:** *Eucalyptus sheathiana* and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Atriplex nana*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 5f:** *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Atriplex nana*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 5ikl:** *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis*, *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*, *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* and *Casuarina pauper* or *Casuarina obesa* low woodland over *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Eremophila scoparia* tall shrubland over *Atriplex nana*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* low shrubland over *Aristida contorta* tussock grassland;
- 6:** *Melaleuca atroviridis*, *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* tall shrubland over *Leucopogon* sp. Clyde Hill (M.A. Burgman 1207), *Hibbertia eatoniae* low shrubland;
- 7:** *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *prinsepiana* low open woodland over *Acacia quadrimarginea*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Eremophila clarkei* open shrubland over *Olearia humilis* low open shrubland;
- 8:** *Eucalyptus kochii* subsp. *amaryssia* open woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* tall shrubland over *Eremophila granitica*, *Atriplex nummularia* shrubland;
- 9:** *Acacia effusifolia* low open woodland over *Maireana pyramidata* low sparse shrubland;
- 10ag:** *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *supralaevis* low open woodland over *Acacia* sp. Narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) tall open shrubland;
- 13:** *Allocasuarina dielsiana* sparse woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa*, *Allocasuarina tessellata* tall open shrubland over *Prostanthera althoferi* subsp. *althoferi*, *Eremophila ?decipiens* subsp. *decipiens* and *Philothea brucei* subsp. *brucei* open shrubland;
- 14:** *Eucalyptus salubris* or *Casuarina pauper* open woodland over *Tecticornia* sp., *Cratystylis subspinescens* low open shrubland;
- 16:** *Casuarina pauper* low woodland over *Scaevola spinescens*, *Cratystylis subspinescens* shrubland over *Hyalosperma glutinosum* subsp. *glutinosum* herbland;
- 17:** *Eucalyptus ewartiana* low open woodland over *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* sparse low shrubland;
- 18:** *Allocasuarina dielsiana* low open woodland over *Acacia acuminata* tall shrubland over *Austrostipa trichophylla*, *Aristida contorta*, *Austrostipa elegantissima* tussock grassland and mixed species herbland; and
- 19:** *Casuarina pauper*, *Eucalyptus corrugata* low open woodland over *Templetonia ceracea*, *Acacia acanthoclada* open shrubland.

Clearing Description

Marda Gold Project.
Marda Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 188 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 296 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 65 kilometres north north-west of Koolyanobbing, in the Shire of Yilgarn.

Vegetation Condition

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

To

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Rapallo (2013).

Clearing permit CPS 6197/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 11 September 2014 and was valid from 4 October 2014 to 4 October 2019. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 188 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 188 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

CPS 6197/2 was granted on 13 June 2019, amending the permit to extend the permit duration to 4 October 2024 and change the company name from Southern Cross Goldfields to Black Oak Minerals Limited. The area of clearing authorised and the permit boundaries remained unchanged.

CPS 6197/5 was granted on 8 August 2019, amending the permit to reduce the amount of clearing authorised from 188 hectares to 165 hectares, amending the permit boundary, removing tenure from the permit and to change the Permit Holder name from Black Oak Minerals Limited to Marda Operations Pty Ltd. An error with the clearing permit system occurred, resulting in the granted permit becoming CPS 6197/5 as opposed to CPS 6197/3.

CPS 6197/6 was granted on 28 November 2019, amending the permit boundary to reduce it by 0.02 hectares. The amendment was for the reposition of a haul road.

On 17 June 2020, Marda Operations Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 6197/6 to increase the amount of clearing authorised from 165 hectares to 188 hectares, increase the permit boundary to include additional tenure, and amend the purpose of clearing to 'mineral production and associated infrastructure'.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Marda Operations Pty Ltd has applied to increase the amount of clearing authorised by 23 hectares, increase the permit boundary by approximately 82 hectares and to allow for the construction of an airstrip, accommodation village and additional access roads (Botanica, 2020).

A review of the flora and vegetation surveys over Marda Gold Project identified no additional vegetation types within the amendment area (Botanica, 2020). None of the vegetation within the amendment area has been identified as a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database). There are no Threatened or Priority flora species that are known to occur within the amendment area and none were recorded during a field assessment of the additional amendment area (Botanica, 2020; GIS Database).

There were no additional fauna habitats identified within the amendment area. Multiple fauna studies have been conducted across the Marda Gold Project area, including a targeted Malleefowl survey conducted in 2013 (Botanica, 2020). No Malleefowl were sighted during the targeted survey, however three inactive mounds and a feather were identified within the Marda Gold Project area (Botanica, 2020). To minimise impacts to Malleefowl during and following clearing activities, the proponent will adhere to their Malleefowl Management Plan that was agreed with DBCA, which aims to reduce impacts from fire, feral species, vegetation clearing, and vehicle interaction (SCG, 2014b). The proposed clearing is therefore unlikely to pose a risk to Malleefowl on a local or regional scale.

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

Soil mapping within the Marda Gold Project area found that soils exposed by clearing are prone dispersion and susceptible to erosion (SCG, 2014a). Potential impacts from erosion may be minimised by the existing staged clearing permit condition.

The amendment area is located directly west of the former Mount Jackson Pastoral Lease, which is managed by DBCA (GIS Database). The proposed additional clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.

The amendment area does not occur within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The proposed additional clearing is unlikely to significantly impact groundwater or surface water.

Clearing activities have the potential to result in an increase in the incidence of weed species, which may negatively impact on the biodiversity of the local area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of the existing weed management condition.

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 the previous decision reports.

Methodology

Botanica (2020)
SCG (2014a)
SCG (2014b)

GIS Database:

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

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). 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 is one registered Aboriginal Site of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The amendment application was advertised on 29 June 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

4. References

- Botanica (2020) Environmental Assessment Marda Gold Project Clearing Permit Amendment. Prepared for Ramelius Resources Limited, April 2020.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 16 July 2020).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Rapallo (2013) Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey of Marda Central, Golden Orb and King Brown. Prepared for Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd by Rapallo Environmental, 2012.
- SCG (2014a) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document: Marda Gold Project, prepared by Southern Cross Goldfields Limited.
- SCG (2014b) Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd Marda Gold Project: Malleefowl Management Plan, prepared by Southern Cross Goldfields Limited.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

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

Definitions:

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

T **Threatened species:**

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct Species:

EX **Extinct species**

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

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

EW**Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species:

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

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

MI**Migratory species**

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

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

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

CD**Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

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

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

OS**Other specially protected species**

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

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

P**Priority species:**

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

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

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

P1**Priority One - Poorly-known species**

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

processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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