



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6413/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Independence Nova Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 69/22
Local Government Area: Shire of Dundas
Colloquial name: Nova Nickel Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
584.5		Mechanical Removal	Haul road, borrow pits and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 10 October 2019

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 (GIS Database):

487: Medium woodland; redwood & red mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*); and
500: Mosaic: Medium woodland; merrit & red mallee / Shrublands; *Dodonaea* scrub.

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Mattiske (2014). A total of 25 vegetation communities were identified within the application area, including:

W1: Woodland of mixed Eucalypts including *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus celastroides*, *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Exocarpos aphyllus*, *Diocirea ternata*, *Eremophila alternifolia*, *Eremophila interstans*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Geijera linearifolia* over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex vesicaria* and *Scaevola spinescens* over mixed shrubs, herbs and grasses on orange-brown sandy clay-loams on flats.

W2: Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* and *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* with patches of mixed Eucalyptus species over *Melaleuca quadrifaria*, *Acacia hemiteles*, *Cratystylis conocephala* over *Diocirea ternata*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Geijera linearifolia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over *Vittadinia dissecta* var. *hirta*, *Olearia muelleri*, *Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Ptilotus holosericeus* and *Zygophyllum ovatum* over herbs and grasses on red-orange clay-loams on flats and lower slopes.

W3: Woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* with occasional *Eucalyptus celastroides* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over *Cratystylis conocephala* over *Olearia muelleri*, *Atriplex vesicaria* and *Santalum acuminatum* over *Rhagodia crassifolia*, *Zygophyllum apiculatum* and *Sclerolaena diacantha* over other mixed shrubs and herbs on orange-brown clay-loams on flats and slopes.

W4: Woodland to open woodland of mixed Eucalyptus species over *Eremophila scoparia*, *Cratystylis conocephala* and *Atriplex vesicaria* over *Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Olearia muelleri*, *Zygophyllum* species and *Rhagodia crassifolia* over herbs on orange clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats.

W5: Woodland of *Eucalyptus clelandii*, *Eucalyptus urna*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over *Melaleuca sheathiana* over *Olearia muelleri*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Alyxia buxifolia* over *Zygophyllum glaucum* and *Maireana* species on orange-brown sandy-loams on flats and lower slopes.

W6: Open woodland of mixed Eucalyptus species over *Eremophila dempsteri*, *Melaleuca halmaturorum* and *Melaleuca sheathiana* over *Cratystylis conocephala* and *Eremophila scoparia* over *Olearia muelleri* and mixed shrubs and herbs on orange clay-loams on flats and slopes.

W8: Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*, *Eucalyptus spreta* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over *Melaleuca sheathiana*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Acacia hemiteles*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Cratystylis conocephala* and *Melaleuca halmaturorum* over mixed shrubs and herbs on orange-brown clay-loams and sandy-loams on lower to mid slopes.

W9: Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus gracilis* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over *Eremophila scoparia*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Melaleuca halmaturorum*, *Diocirea ternata*, *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Olearia muelleri*, *Melaleuca sheathiana* and *Dodonaea stenozyga* over low shrubs and herbs on red-brown sandy-loams and clay-loams on flats.

W10: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over *Melaleuca halmaturorum* over *Acacia hemiteles* and *Eremophila alternifolia* over *Olearia muelleri* and *Zygophyllum glaucum* on pale orange clay-loams and sandy-loam gravels on flats.

W11: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus fraseri* subsp. *fraseri*, *Eucalyptus celastroides* and *Eucalyptus prolixa* over *Diocirea ternata*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Olearia muelleri* over mixed low Chenopods on orange to red clay-loams on flats.

W12: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*, *Eucalyptus polita* and *Eucalyptus prolixa* over *Diocirea ternata*, *Dodonaea stenozyga*, *Eremophila* species, *Daviesia benthamii* subsp. *acanthoclona* and *Olearia muelleri* over mixed low Chenopods and localised patches of *Triodia ?scariosa* on orange to red clays and clay loams on flats.

W13: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus flocktoniae* and *Eucalyptus celastroides* subsp. *virella* over *Melaleuca sheathiana*, *Diocirea ternata*, *Dodonaea stenozyga*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Daviesia benthamii* subsp. *acanthoclona*, *Acacia erinacea* and *Olearia muelleri* over herbs and grasses on orange to red clays on flats.

W14: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona* and *Eucalyptus spreta* over *Melaleuca halmaturorum*, *Diocirea ternata*, *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Atriplex vesicaria* and *Olearia muelleri* over herbs and grasses on cracking clays on flats.

W16: Open woodland of mixed Eucalypts including *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*, *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus eremophila* subsp. *eremophila*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Eucalyptus urna* over *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Commersonia craurophylla*, *Eremophila* species, *Melaleuca sheathiana*, *Olearia muelleri* and *Scaevola spinescens* over herbs and grasses on orange clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats and slopes of undulating rises.

W18: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus laevis*, *Eucalyptus moderata*, *Eucalyptus salubris* and *Eucalyptus spreta* over *Acacia hemiteles*, *Acacia merrallii*, *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Eremophila dempsteri*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Melaleuca halmaturorum* and mixed Chenopod species over patches of *Triodia irritans* on orange to red-brown clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats.

W19: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus ?loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*, *Eucalyptus uma* and *Eucalyptus spreta* over *Acacia hemiteles*, *Acacia merrallii*, *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Dodonaea stenozyga*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over herbs and grasses on orange to red-brown clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats.

W20: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with local patches of *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus spreta*, *Eucalyptus fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* and *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over *Melaleuca sheathiana*, *Acacia hemiteles*, *Cratystylis conocephala*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Olearia muelleri* over localised patches of *Triodia irritans* on orange to red-brown clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats and lower slopes.

W21: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus polita* with local patches of *Eucalyptus flocktoniae* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over *Melaleuca sheathiana*, *Melaleuca halmaturorum*, *Acacia hemiteles*, *Acacia merrallii*, *Eremophila ionantha*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Olearia muelleri* over herbs on orange to red-brown clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats and lower slopes.

S4: Open scrub of *Allocasuarina helmsii* and *Melaleuca uncinata* with occasional *Eucalyptus rigidula* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over *Acacia hemiteles*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Dodonaea microzyga* var. *acrolobata*, *Grevillea acuaria*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Olearia muelleri* over patches of *Triodia ?scariosa* and herbs on orange to red clay loam and clays on flats and slopes.

S6: Open scrub of *Melaleuca hamata*, *Allocasuarina* sp. over *Vittadinia dissecta* var. *hirta*, *Acacia acanthoclada* subsp. *acanthoclada*, *Grevillea huegelii*, *Hannafordia bissillii* subsp. *latifolia* and *Melaleuca fulgens* subsp. *fulgens* over herbs and grasses on red-orange sandy-loams on flats.

S9: Open scrub of *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Eremophila alternifolia*, *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Geijera linearifolia*, *Melaleuca uncinata* and *Melaleuca fulgens* subsp. *fulgens* over *Trymalium myrtillus* subsp. *myrtillus*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over herbs and patches of *Triodia ?scariosa* on red-brown clays on flats and lower slopes.

G1: Open hummock grassland of mixed *Triodia* sp. with emergent *Eucalyptus griffithsii*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*, *Eucalyptus rigidula* and *Eucalyptus ?kumarlensis* over *Acacia erinacea*, *Acacia burkittii* and *Acacia hemiteles* over *Cryptandra aridicola*, *Westringia rigida*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Grevillea acuaria* over herbs on orange-red clay-loams and sandy-loams on flats and slopes.

G2: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia irritans* with emergent *Eucalyptus horistes* and *Eucalyptus websteriana* subsp. *norsemanica* over *Acacia assimilis* subsp. *atroviridis*, *Allocasuarina helmsii*, *Cryptandra leucopogon*, *Grevillea plurijuga* subsp. *plurijuga*, *Halganina erecta* and *Scaevola amblyanthera* var. *centralis* over herbs on orange-yellow clay-loams and sandy-loams on slopes.

G3: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia irritans* with emergent *Eucalyptus salubris* and *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over *Acacia hemiteles*, *Eremophila alternifolia*, *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Grevillea acuarua* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over herbs on red-brown clays and clay-loams on flats.

G4: Open hummock grassland of *Triodia irritans* with emergent *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over *Acacia hemiteles*, *Allocasuarina* species, *Pultenaea elachista*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Westringia rigida* over herbs on red-brown clay-loams on flats and lower slopes.

Clearing Description	Nova Nickel Project. Independence Nova Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 584.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,355 hectares, for the purposes of a haul road, borrow pits and associated activities. The project is located approximately 123 kilometres east of Norseman, within the Shire of Dundas.
Vegetation Condition	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994); To: Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	Mattiske (2014) notes that significant sections of the application area have been recently burnt with a local and intense fire. A total of 0.2 hectares within the application area has been previously disturbed. The original applied area to clear was 700 hectares. This amount was reduced to 584.5 during the assessment process to mitigate impacts to a Priority Ecological Community. Clearing permit CPS 6413/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 19 March 2015 and was valid from 11 April 2015 to 11 April 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 584.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,355 hectares, for the purpose of a haul road, borrow pits and associated activities. On 2 August 2019, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6413/1 to extend the duration of the permit by five years and change the Permit Holder company name from Sirius Gold Pty Ltd to Independence Nova Pty Ltd.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The Permit Holder has applied to amend the clearing permit to extend the permit duration by five years to 11 April 2025. Sirius Gold Pty Ltd underwent a name change to Independence Nova Pty Ltd, therefore the Permit Holder name will be updated to reflect the change. The size of the area approved to clear (584.5 hectares), and the permit boundaries remain unchanged. 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 report CPS 6413/1.

Methodology

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 over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). This claim has been registered with the 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 no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2019). 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)

4. References

DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 1 October 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.

Mattiske (2014) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Nova Project, Fraser Range. Unpublished report prepared by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd for Sirius Gold Pty Ltd.

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:

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.