

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	6413/3
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	IGO Nova Pty Ltd
Application received:	13 January 2025
Application area:	584.5 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Haul road, borrow pits and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 69/22
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Dundas
Colloquial name:	Nova Nickel Project

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

IGO Nova Pty Ltd proposes to clear 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. The project is located approximately 122 kilometres northeast of Norseman, within the Shire of Dundas.

Clearing permit CPS 6413/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Energy, 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 haul road, borrow pits and associated activities.

CPS 6413/2 was granted on 10 October 2019, amending the permit to extend the clearing permit duration by five years and change the name of the Permit Holder from Sirius Gold Pty Ltd to Independence Nova Pty Ltd.

On 13 January 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6413 to extend the clearing permit duration by five years and change the name of the Permit Holder from Independence Nova Pty Ltd to IGO Nova Pty Ltd. An administrative error was also corrected with this amendment.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	8 April 2025
Decision area:	584.5 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

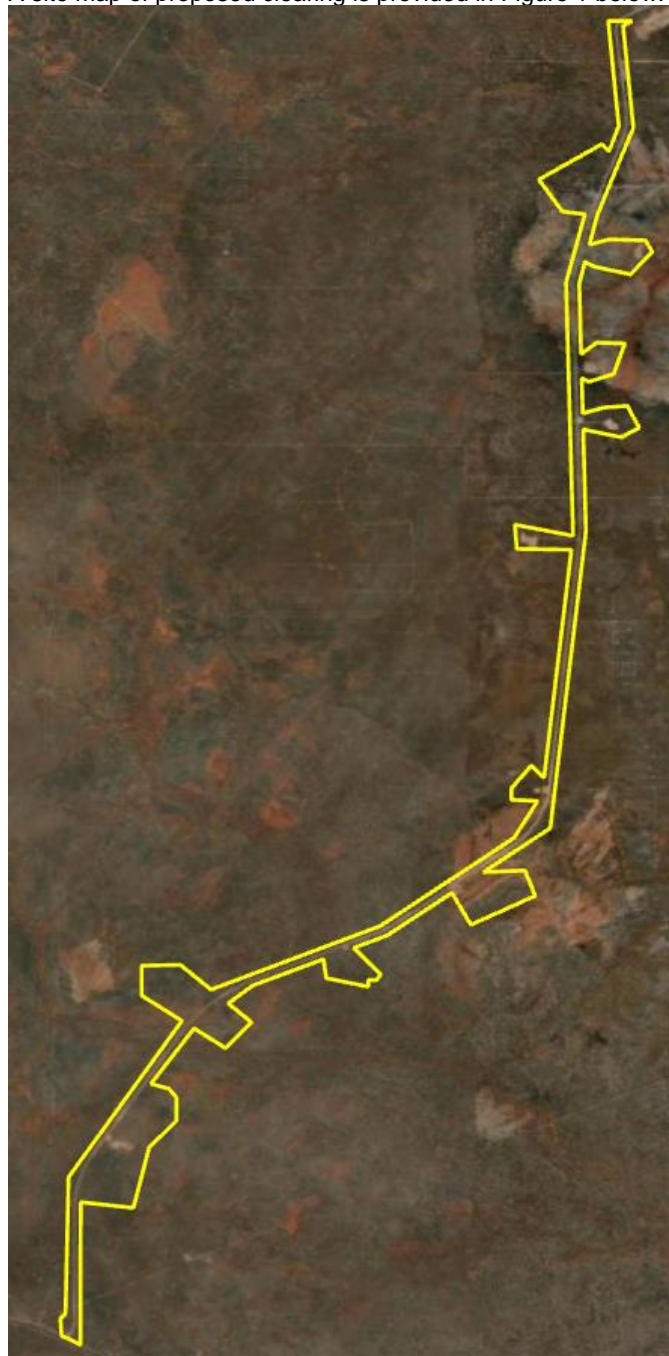
In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix C), supporting information provided by the applicant (**Error! Reference source not found.**) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 6413/1 and CPS 6413/2, except in the case of principle (b) and principle (g). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of duration and change of Permit Holder name is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

## 1.5. Site map

A site map of proposed clearing is provided in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.**

## 2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.
- the polluter pays principle

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

CPS 6413/3

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA, 2004a)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – *Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA, 2004b)

### 3. Detailed assessment of application

#### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Management and mitigation measures to reduce impacts on biological diversity include (MBS Environmental, 2014):

- Clearing of vegetation will be kept to the minimum required for the project;
- Stockpiling of cleared vegetation with access to stockpiles restricted to minimise potential for introduction of weeds;
- As disturbed areas become available for rehabilitation, stockpiled topsoil and vegetation will be spread over disturbed areas to act as a seed source and mulch to protect the soil from erosion and provide habitat for fauna;
- Vehicle and equipment hygiene procedures will be implemented to minimise entry of weed and soil borne diseases;
- A weed hygiene system will be developed and implemented. Site weed control will be conducted;
- Implementing dust control measures; and
- Implementing speed limits to minimise dust emissions and to minimise the risk of fauna injury or death due to vehicle traffic.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

#### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

As of 30 June 2024, 160.73 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under CPS 6413/1 and CPS 6413/2 (IGO Nova, 2025). 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 Reports CPS 6413/1 and CPS 6413/2. The variance of clearing principles (b) and (g) has changed since the assessment of CPS 6413/1 and CPS 6413/2. Previous impacts to malleefowl mounds and new information about the Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly has led to a reassessment of the variance to principle (b). Land systems in the application area had not been mapped in 2015 when the original application (CPS 6413/1) was assessed. An assessment of land systems in the Southern Goldfields and Western Woodlands (Waddell and Galloway, 2023) informed the current assessment to determine the proposed amendment may be at variance with principle (g).

#### 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 18 February 2025 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 (WCD2014/004) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Ngadju). 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, 2025). 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.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl and arid bronze azure butterfly and their habitats, which are a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Federal) Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Environment for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

**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 characteristic of the Coolgardie Bioregion and it is adjacent to the Nova Nickle mining development (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The southern part of the application area intersects the mapped boundary for the Priority 1 Southern Hills Priority Ecological Community (GIS Database).
Fauna	Combined previous survey results indicate a total of 22 Malleefowl mounds have been recorded within the application area (DMP, 2015). Based on the fauna habitat present, it is likely the Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly could occur in the application area.
Fauna habitat	Habitat mapping and information provided by MBS Environmental (2014) indicates that five fauna habitats occur within the application area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Woodland:</b> Open Eucalyptus woodland to 15 metres often over <i>Cratystylis conocephala</i> dominated shrubland with scattered <i>Santalum</i>, <i>Eremophila</i>, <i>Atriplex</i> and <i>Olearia</i>;</li> <li>• <b>Melaleuca:</b> Open Eucalyptus woodland over Melaleuca thicket over mixed shrubs;</li> <li>• <b>Regenerating Woodland:</b> Very dense, regenerating Eucalypt woodland with emergent dead tree trunks;</li> <li>• <b>Burnt Plain:</b> Regenerating low shrubland/herbland of mixed <i>Allocasuarina</i>, <i>Triodia</i> and ephemeral herbs; and</li> <li>• <b>Mallee/Triodia:</b> Triodia plain under sparse straggly mallees to 3 metres. Occasional <i>Allocasuarina</i> that can form groves. Mallee/Triodia habitat lower than the surrounding woodland habitat.</li> </ul>

## Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The were no records of Threatened or Priority flora within the application area (MBS Environmental, 2014; GIS Database). A portion of the application area intersects the Priority 1 Southern Hills Priority Ecological Community (PEC). A reduction of the application area during the original assessment (CPS 6413/1) minimised the potential impacts of the proposed clearing to the PEC.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area contains suitable habitat for Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> - Vulnerable). Eleven malleefowl mounds have been cleared after obtaining a secondary approval (MBS Environmental, 2015) and potential impacts to malleefowl can be mitigated by keeping the malleefowl mound condition on the clearing permit.</p> <p>The woodland habitat in the application area contains potential suitable habitat for Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly (ABAB) (<i>Ogyris petrina</i> – Critically Endangered). ABAB populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat for this species is described as vegetation of mature mixed gimlet (<i>Eucalyptus salubris</i>), salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). Most of the application area is covered by Eucalypt Woodlands (MBS Environmental, 2015). A pre-clearance survey targeting critical habitat for this species can mitigate the potential impacts from the proposed clearing.</p>	<p>At variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
There are no records of Threatened flora species within the application area (MBS, 2014; GIS Database).		
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area does not intersect any known or mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (MBS, 2014; GIS Database)</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, in which over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation within the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation associations 487 and 500 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99 per cent of these Beard vegetation associations remain at both a state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area intersects small sections of the Ngadju Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) (GIS Database). The majority of the disturbance in the areas that intersect this IPA has already occurred as the proposed haul road is already built in the clearing permit area. The proposed amendment is unlikely to impact the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Three minor, non-perennial water courses intersect the application area. However, the proposed haul road that could have impacted these water courses has already been built and diversion channels or drains were constructed to maintain water flows (IGO, 2025). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the following land systems (DPIRD, 2025; Waddell and Galloway, 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gnamma Land System:</b> Low hills and rises with broad pediments composed of Proterozoic rocks, supporting <i>Dodoniaea</i> dominated shrublands or mallee woodlands and spinifex.</li> <li>• <b>Harms Land System:</b> Gently undulating calcareous plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands over false bluebush shrublands. This land system is probably not susceptible to erosion.</li> <li>• <b>Yardilla Land System</b> (majority of the application area): Undulating plains and footslopes on Proterozoic rocks, supporting eucalypt woodlands. Footslopes, loamy plains and drainage foci are susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.</li> </ul> <p>The potential impacts from the proposed clearing on land degradation can be mitigated by a staged clearing condition.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 6413/1)</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 6413/1)</p>	No

## Appendix C. Sources of information

### C.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Esri World Imagery
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- 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 and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### C.2. References

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2020) Guideline for the survey of arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) in Western Australia.
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. [https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2\\_assessment\\_native\\_veg.pdf](https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf)
- Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) (2015) Request for Approval to Clear *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds, April, 2015.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 19 February 2025).
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 20 February 2025).



Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup.  
<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004a) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56, June 2004.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.  
<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

IGO Nova Pty Ltd (IGO) (2025) Disturbance and rehabilitation data. Unpublished document prepared for the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

MBS Environmental (2014) Purpose Permit Application: Nova Nickel Project, Assessment of Clearing Principles L69/22. Prepared for Sirius Gold Pty Ltd, December 2014.

MBS Environmental (2015) Clearing Permit Report 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 Nova Nickel Project. Prepared for Sirius Gold Pty Ltd, July 2015.

Waddell PA and Galloway PD (2023) 'Land systems, soils and vegetation of the southern Goldfields and Great Western Woodlands of Western Australia', Technical bulletin 99, vol 2, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

## 4. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<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>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEMIRS</b>	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
<b>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<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 (now known as Threatened Flora)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, 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 (2023) 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 the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

**Threatened flora** is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.



The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or 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.

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

Species of special conservation need that are 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

**OS Other specially protected species**

Species 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

**P**

**Priority species:**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey 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 prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

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

Assessment of priority status 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 – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2**

**Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3**

**Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

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. These species need 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 a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

**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.