



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6427/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Cassini Resources Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Exploration Licences 69/1505, 69/1530, 69/2313
Local Government Area: Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Colloquial name: West Musgraves Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
18		Mechanical Removal	Mineral exploration

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 15 February 2018

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

18: Low woodland; mulga;
19: Low woodland; mulga between sandridges; and
236: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and mallee (marble gum) over hard spinifex (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over portions of the application area by Coffey between 22 October and November 2009, and 9 and 16 February 2010. The following vegetation associations were recorded by Coffey (2010a; 2010b):

1. Dune: Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata*, *Grevillea stenobotrya*, *Gyrostemon ramulosus*, *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *maisonneuvei* and *Acacia melleodora* to two metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Bonamia rosea* and *Solanum coactiliferum* to 0.3 metres over Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Aristida contorta* to 0.2 metres with a lower slope component of Low Shrubland of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *maisonneuvei* and *Acacia maitlandii* to 1.4 metres over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia schinzii* to 1.1 metres on large dunes;
2. Calcrete: Scattered Shrubs to Tall Open Shrubland of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to three metres over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata* to 1.6 metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Petalostylis cassioides*, *Halganina cyanea* var. *Allambi* Stn and *Alyogyne pinoniana* to one metre over Mixed Tussock/Hummock grasses;
3. SLT: Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia opaca* to four metres with mallee pockets (*Eucalyptus oxymitra* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla*) over Scattered *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to four metres over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata* to 1.8 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* spp. to 1.1 metres;
4. LOW: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus oxymitra*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and *Brachychiton gregorii* to 2.2 metres with occasional *Corymbia opaca* to four metres Scattered Shrubs of *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* to 1.8 metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Halganina erecta* and *Dicrasyliis doranii* to 0.3 metres over Very Open Tussock grassland;
5. OS: Open Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata* and *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* to two metres over Scattered Low Shrubs of *Rulingia loxophylla* to 0.3 metres over Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Eragrostis eriopoda* to 0.3 metres;
6. SLTEs: Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and *Corymbia opaca* to eight metres over Open Shrubland of *Acacia kempeana*, *Acacia ligulata*, *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *petiolaris* to two metres;
7. TOS: Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to five metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Senna*

artemisioides subsp. *artemisioides* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* to 1.1 metres over Very Open Tussock Grassland;

8. TS: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* subsp. *aneura* to four metres over Low Shrubland of *Aluta maisonneuvei* subsp. *maisonneuvei* to one metre over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* to 1 metre;
9. STS: Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea*, *Grevillea eriostachya* and *Acacia sericophylla* to three metres over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia pachyacra* to two metres over Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Amphipogon caricinus* var. *caricinus* to 0.3 metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Leptosema chambersii* and *Rulingia leptophylla* to 0.3 metres;
10. LOWEoTOS: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus oxymitra* to five metres over Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to four metres over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia abrupta* to 1.5 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* to one metre;
11. LOWEoCo: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus oxymitra* and *Corymbia opaca* to four metres over Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to three metres over Open Shrubland of *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia ligulata* to two metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* to 1.1 metres;
12. SCTAp: Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Acacia pruinocarpa* to four metres over Low Open Woodland *Eucalyptus oxymitra*, *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and *Corymbia opaca* to four metres over Open Shrubland of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea*, *Acacia ligulata*, *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia kempiana* to two metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia scariosa* to one metre;
13. TOS: Tall Open Shrubland to Tall Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to five metres over Scattered Shrubs to Open Shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* to two metres over Scattered Low Shrubs of *Ptilotus obovatus* to 0.6 metres over Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne helmsii*, *Enneapogon polyphyllus*, *Monachather paradoxus* and *Aristida contorta* to 0.4 metres over Scattered Herbs of *Heliotropium moorei* to 0.2 metres;
14. OCo: Occasional *Corymbia opaca* and *Acacia aneura* to 4.5 metres over Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to three metres over Open Shrubland of *Acacia pachyacra* and *Acacia ligulata* to 1.8 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia schinzii* and *Triodia basedowii* to 1.2 metres over Scattered Low Shrubs to Low Open Shrubland of *Rulingia loxophylla* to 0.5 metres over Scattered Tussock grasses of *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* to 0.4 metres;
15. TS: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to 4m over Scattered Shrubs of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides* to 1.6 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* to one metre over Scattered *Ptilotus obovatus* to 0.4 metres;
16. TOSAA: Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* and *Callitris columellaris* to 3.5 metres over Open Shrubland of *Pandorea pandorana*, *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *spathulata*, *Hibiscus leptocladus*, *Santalum lanceolatum* and *Prostanthera albiflora* to two metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Abutilon leucopetalum* and *Ptilotus obovatus* to 0.4 metres over Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Cymbopogon obtectus* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus* to 0.5 metres;
17. TSAa: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to three metres over Shrubland of *Indigofera* sp., *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides* to 1.5 metres over Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Eriachne mucronata* (arid form) and *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* to 0.3 metres;
18. TOSAASS: Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to 4 metres over Scattered Shrubs of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides* to 1.5 metres over Scattered Tussock Grasses of *Aristida contorta* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus* to 0.3 metres;
19. Spa: Shrubland of *Prostanthera albiflora*, *Eremophila longifolia* and *Santalum lanceolatum* to 1.5 metres over Scattered Low Shrubs of *Hibiscus leptocladus* to 0.6 metres over Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Digitaria brownii* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus* to 0.4 metres;
20. TSAs: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia sericophylla*, *Grevillea juncifolia* subsp. *juncifolia*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Grevillea eriostachya* to four metres over Scattered Shrubs of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *Acacia melleodora* and *Acacia ligulata* and *Acacia pachyacra* to 1.6 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia schinzii* and *Triodia basedowii* to 1.2 metres over Scattered Low Shrubs of *Rulingia loxophylla* to 0.4 metres;

Clearing Description

West Musgrave Project
Cassini Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 18 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 36,391 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 590 kilometres north-east of Laverton, within the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku.

Vegetation Condition

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

To

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The proposed clearing of native vegetation is for the purposes of constructing drill pads and associated access tracks, and it is estimated approximately 20 holes will be drilled under this project.

Clearing permit CPS 6427/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 5 March 2015 and was valid from 28 March 2015 to 28 March 2020. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 18 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 27,231 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration.

On 12 December 2017, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6427/1 to increase the permit boundary to approximately 36,391 hectares.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Cassini Resources Limited (Cassini) has applied to increase the permit boundary of CPS 6427/1 by approximately 9,160 hectares. The area authorised to be cleared will remain the same. The proposed amendment is to support Cassini's exploration programme for the West Musgrave Project.

A desktop survey has been undertaken over the southern portion of E69/1530, which forms the amendment area (Western Botanical, 2017). The desktop survey consolidates database searches and previous surveys undertaken in the region; primarily Coffey (2010b), which was undertaken over the northern portion of E69/1530 (northern survey area).

The review did not identify any known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the amendment area (Western Botanical, 2017). Analysis of satellite imagery shows that the communities within the northern survey area and those within the amendment area are reasonably continuous (Western Botanical, 2017). Western Botanical (2017) anticipates species richness within the amendment area to be representative of what may be commonly encountered in the Central Ranges and Eastern Great Victoria Desert biogeographic regions.

Western Botanical (2017) has determined that four Priority flora species are likely to be present in the amendment area. This is based on habitat preference, known distribution within or near the amendment area, and interpretation of habitats known to be present in the northern portion of E69/1530. The species are:

- *Euphorbia parvicaruncula* (P1)
- *Calotis latiuscula* (P3)
- *Goodenia asteriscus* (P3)
- *Stackhousia clementii* (P3)

Of these species, *Goodenia asteriscus* and *Stackhousia clementii* are almost certain to be present in the amendment area (Western Botanical, 2017). Both of these species were recorded in the northern survey area by Coffey (2010b). Coffey (2010b) recorded 17,038 individuals of *Stackhousia clementii* and 158 individuals of *Goodenia asteriscus*. These species were found to occur in various calcrete habitats (Coffey, 2010b), which are present over large areas of the amendment area (Western Botanical, 2017).

Despite the limited survey information over the amendment area, it is unlikely the proposed amendment will have a significantly greater impact on Priority flora species than what was authorised under CPS 6427/1. The preferred habitat for these species is common and widespread in the region (Western Botanical, 2017; GIS Database), and the proposed amendment will not result in the clearing of additional native vegetation.

According to available databases, there are no Threatened flora species known to occur within the amendment area (DPaW, 2018; GIS Database). No Threatened flora species have been previously recorded near the amendment area (Western Botanical, 2017).

Fauna habitats within the amendment area are likely to be consistent with the northern survey area and surrounding area, given that vegetation communities and landforms are widespread in the region (Western Botanical, 2017).

According to available databases, there are no records of conservation significant fauna species occurring in the amendment area (DPaW, 2018; GIS Database). The amendment area is within the range of some conservation significant fauna species (DPaW, 2018), and given the soil and vegetation types likely to occur within the amendment area, Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis* – Threatened), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Threatened) and Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi* – Priority 4) may be present.

Bilby and Brush-tailed Mulgara have a similar habitat preference in that they dig burrows for shelter and refuge (DBCAs, 2017; Parks and Wildlife Commission, 2006), whilst Malleefowl construct mounds for breeding (DPaW,

2016). Suitable areas for foraging and habitat construction for these species would not be restricted to the permit area, however individuals of these species may be actively using the permit area for habitat. The proposed clearing may potentially result in the destruction of habitat burrows or mounds, directly impacting on these species. Impacts to Mulgara and Bilby burrows, and Malleefowl mounds should be avoided through the implementation of a fauna management condition.

The application area is not within or in close proximity to a Public Drinking Water Source Area, and there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the additional permit areas (GIS Database). As the area of clearing is not changing, the proposed amendment is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation.

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* and the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b). The assessment of the proposed clearing against the remaining clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 6427/1.

Methodology Coffey (2010b)
DBCA (2017)
DPaW (2016)
DPaW (2018)
Parks and Wildlife Commission (2006)
Western Botanical (2017)

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Soils, Statewide
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffered
- 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, 2018). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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, 2018). 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 25 December 2018 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2018)

4. References

- Coffey (2010a) Flora and Vegetation Assessment West Musgraves Project Area Great Victorian Desert. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Nickel West, by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd, January 2010.
- Coffey (2010b) Flora and Vegetation Assessment West Musgraves Project Area Great Victorian Desert, Report prepared for BHP Billiton Nickel West, by Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd, February 2010.
- DBCA (2017) Fauna profile – Bilby *Macrotis lagotis*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/animals/animal_profiles/bilby_fauna_profile.pdf. (Accessed 8 February 2018).
- DPaW (2016) Fauna Profile – Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia. https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/animals/animal_profiles/Malleefowl_profile.pdf (Accessed 8 February 2018).
- DPaW (2018) NatureMap. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au> (Accessed 20 January 2018).
- DPLH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 20 January 2018).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Parks and Wildlife Commission (2006) Threatened Species of the Northern Territory – Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Mulgara*) *Dasyercus blythi*. Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Northern Territory.
- Western Botanical (2017) Desktop Assessment of Conservation Significant Flora for the West Musgraves Region, WA. Report prepared for Cassini Resources, by Western Botanical, December 2017.

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)
DEE	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 DEE)
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 DEE)
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:

{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**
Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened fauna is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become

extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Threatened flora is flora that has been declared to be 'likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection', pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

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. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EN Endangered species**
Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- VU Vulnerable species**
Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EX Presumed extinct species**
Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**
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 the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD Conservation dependent fauna**
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS Other specially protected fauna**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P Priority species**
Species which are poorly known; or
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and 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.