



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6427/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Cassini Resources Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Exploration Licence 69/1505
Exploration Licence 69/1530
Exploration Licence 69/2313
Local Government Area: Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Colloquial name: West Musgrave Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 19 December 2019

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

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

18: Low woodland; mulga;
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 2 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 larger dunes;
2. Calcrete: Scattered Shrubs to Tall Open Shrubland of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to 3 metres over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata* to 1.6 metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Petalostylis cassioides*, *Halgania cyanea* var. *Allambi* Stn and *Alyogyne pinoniana* to one metre over Mixed Tussock/Hummock grasses;
3. SLT: Scattered Low Trees of *Corymbia opaca* to 4 metres with mallee pockets (*Eucalyptus oxymitra* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla*) over Scattered *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to 4 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 4 metres Scattered Shrubs of *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* to 1.8 metres over Low Open Shrubland of *Halgania erecta* and *Dicrasyllis doranii* to 0.3 metres over Very Open Tussock grassland;
5. OS: Open Shrubland of *Acacia ligulata* and *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* to 2 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 2 metres;

7. TOS: Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to 5 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 4 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 3 metres over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia pachyacra* to 2 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 5 metres over Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to 4 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 4 metres over Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* to 3 metres over Open Shrubland of *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia ligulata* to 2 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* to 1.1 metres;
12. SCTAp: Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Acacia pruinocarpa* to 4 metres over Low Open Woodland *Eucalyptus oxymitra*, *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and *Corymbia opaca* to 4 metres over Open Shrubland of *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea*, *Acacia ligulata*, *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia kempeana* to 2 metres over Mid-Dense Hummock Grassland of *Triodia scariosa* to one metre;
13. TOS: Tall Open Shrubland to Tall Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* to 5 metres over Scattered Shrubs to Open Shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* to 2 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 3 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 4 metres 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 2 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 3 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. TOSaSS: 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 4 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 48 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

Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);

To

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

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a detailed vegetation survey, and review of previous works, conducted by Western Botanical (2018), and from analysis of aerial imagery. A majority of the area was in Excellent to Pristine condition.

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 27,731 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration.

CPS 6427/2 was granted on 15 February 2018, amending the permit to increase the permit boundary to approximately 36,391 hectares. The area of clearing authorised remained unchanged.

On 5 November 2019, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6427/2 to increase the amount of clearing authorised to 48 hectares, and to extend the permit duration to 4 November 2024.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The Permit Holder has applied to amend the clearing permit to increase the amount of clearing by 30 hectares from 18 hectares to 48 hectares and to extend the duration of the permit by five years to 4 November 2024.

The clearing permit area is located within the Central subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Central Ranges Bioregion and the Mann-Musgrave Block subregion of the Central Ranges IBRA bioregion (GIS Database).

A search of the available databases showed that there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities within proximity to the permit area (GIS Database).

There are no Threatened flora species known to occur within the permit area (GIS Database). A number of Priority flora have the potential to occur within the area (Western Botanical, 2017; 2018) and a flora management condition requiring flora surveys be undertaken prior to clearing, in accordance with Cassini Resources Limited's Exploration Management Plan, may minimise potential impacts to Priority flora.

There are no records of conservation significant fauna species occurring in the permit area (GIS Database). A number of conservation significant fauna species are likely to occur, or have previously been recorded within the permit area, including; Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis* – Threatened), Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasymercus blythi* – Priority 4), Great Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei* – Threatened), Southern Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes typhlops* – Priority 4), Striated Grasswren (*Amytornis striatus striatus* – Priority 4), Central Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus major tor* – Priority 3) and a number of migratory birds (Western Wildlife, 2018). A fauna survey of the West Musgrave Project area recorded the presence of Brush-tailed Mulgara, Great Desert Skink, Striated Grasswren and Southern Marsupial Mole (Western Wildlife, 2018). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the Striated Grasswren or Central Long-eared Bat due to the highly mobile nature of the species and it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the Southern Marsupial Mole due to the subterranean nature of the species. However, the proposed clearing has the potential to impact burrowing species and the implementation of a fauna management condition may minimise potential impacts to Bilby, Great Desert Skink and Brush-tailed Mulgara. A review of Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Threatened) distribution suggests that the species may be locally extinct as the permit area exists to the north of the current known range of the species. The permit has been amended to remove the requirement for surveying for Malleefowl mounds as it was determined that the proposed clearing was unlikely to impact the species.

The permit 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, with only minor drainage lines present (GIS Database). The additional 30 hectares of proposed clearing, for the purpose of mineral exploration, is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation, cause a deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, or cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The permit area is not located within a conservation reserve or DPaW managed land (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is within the 'Ranges of the Western Desert', an area which is listed on the Register of National Estate for its unique natural values (GIS Database). The ranges of the Western Desert cover an area of approximately 8 million hectares. It is unlikely that the clearing of 48 hectares will have any significant impact on the natural values of this area.

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 proposed clearing may be at variance to Principles (a) and (b), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j), and is not at variance with Principles (e) and (f).

Methodology Western Botanical (2017)
Western Botanical (2018)
Western Wildlife (2018)

GIS Database:

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

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2004/003) over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). 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, 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 25 November 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

- 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.
- DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 10 November 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.
- 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.
- Western Botanical (2018) Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey, West Musgraves Project – Interim Report. Report prepared for OZ Minerals Limited, by Western Botanical, August 2018.
- Western Wildlife (2018) West Musgrave Project: Level 2 Vertebrate Fauna Survey June 2018 – Interim Report, West Musgraves Project. Report prepared for OZ Minerals Limited, by Western Wildlife, September 2018.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DoEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DoEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

T **Threatened species:**

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct Species:

EX Extinct species

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

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species:

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

P Priority species:

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

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

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

P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species

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

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species

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

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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