



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6523/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mineral Lease 252SA (AML 70/252)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton and East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Koodaideri Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Exploration and Access Tracks

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 07 May 2015

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The following vegetation units were mapped by Rio Tinto botanists in 2011, during a flora and vegetation that included parts of the application area:

Vegetation of foothills, slopes and hilltops:

- A1: Low open woodland to tall open shrubland of *Acacia macraneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open shrubland to scattered shrubs of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* and *Eremophila platycalyx* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia epactia*;
- A2: Scattered trees of *Acacia macraneura*, *Corymbia ferritcola* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over tall open woodland of *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over scattered low shrubs of *Eremophila tietkensis* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia epactia*;
- C1: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii*;
- C2: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Acacia inaequilatera* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;
- C3: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;
- C4: Scattered low trees of *Corymbia ferritcola* over tall scattered shrubs of *Hakea chordophylla* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over open mallee to scattered mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla*, *Acacia hilliana* and *Gompholobium* sp. Pilbara (N.F. Norris 908) over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii*;
- C5: Open mallee to scattered mallee of *Corymbia deserticola* with tall scattered shrubs of *Hakea chordophylla*, *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Acacia trudgeniana* over scattered shrubs of *Acacia hilliana*, *Gompholobium* sp. Pilbara (N.F. Norris 908), *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Goodenia stobbsiana* over scattered herbs of *Ptilotus calostachyus* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii*;
- E1: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Hakea chordophylla* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii*;
- A1: Low open woodland to tall open shrubland of *Acacia macraneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open shrubland to scattered shrubs of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* and *Eremophila platycalyx* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia epactia*;
- E2: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;
- E3: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over scattered shrubs of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia pyrifolia* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;

- E4: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia wiseana*;
- E5: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over tall scattered shrubs of *Hakea chordophylla* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over open mallee to scattered mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia wiseana*;
- E6: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* or *Triodia basedowii*;
- E7: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over scattered shrubs of *Grevillea wickhamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia maitlandii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;
- E8: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia ferritcola* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over *Grevillea wickhamii* over *Eremophila platycalyx* or *Eremophila jucunda* subsp. *jucunda* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia epactia*;
- E9: Low woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over scattered mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over scattered low shrubs of *Acacia hilliana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* and *Triodia wiseana*;

Vegetation of flats, low undulating slopes and floodplains:

- A3: Low woodland of *Acacia macraneura* over open shrubland to scattered shrubs of *Eremophila forrestii*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia epactia*;
- A4: Tall open shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* or *Acacia trudgeniana* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over scattered low shrubs of *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Goodenia stobbsiana* with scattered herbs of *Ptilotus calostachyus* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia basedowii* or *Triodia wiseana*;
- C6: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia pyrifolia*, *Grevillea wickhamii*,
- *Jasminum didymum* over scattered low shrubs of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla*, *Indigofera monophylla* and *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia* spp;
- E10: Open mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* with open shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia* spp;

Vegetation of flowlines:

- F1: Scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over tall shrubland to shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Acacia pyrifolia* over low open shrubland of *Indigofera monophylla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;
- F2: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over tall open shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* over open hummock grassland *Triodia wiseana*;
- F3: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia* spp;
- F4: Tall open scrub to tall shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;
- F5: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* or *Triodia epactia*;
- F6: Low open woodland of *Corymbia ferritcola* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over tall shrubland to shrubland of *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia monticola* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia wiseana*;
- F7: Mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* with tall shrubland to shrubland of *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Gossypium robinsonii* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia*;
- F8: Tall shrubland to shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia spondylophylla* or *Acacia arida* or *Gompholobium* sp. Pilbara (N.F. Norris 908) over open hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* or *Triodia basedowii*;
- F9: Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* or *Corymbia hamersleyana* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia basedowii*; and
- F10: Scattered low trees of *Corymbia hamersleyana* over tall open shrubland to scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia pyrifolia* and *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* over low open shrubland of *Tephrosia rosea*

Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. Two Beard vegetation association is located within the application area (GIS Database):

Beard vegetation association 111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over hard spinifex ; and

Beard vegetation association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*

Clearing Description

Koodaideri Project.
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 15 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 2,484 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration and access tracks. The project is located approximately 140 kilometres north west of Newman in the Shires of East Pilbara and Ashburton.

Vegetation Condition

Very good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

To

Excellent (Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds non-aggressive species).

Comment

Vegetation condition was derived from a flora and vegetation assessment conducted by Rio Tinto in 2011 and a biological assessment undertaken by Eco Logical in 2014.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application area is located predominantly within the Hamersley subregion and partly within the Fortescue subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). At a broad scale, vegetation of the Hamersley subregion can be described as Mulga low woodlands over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002). The Fortescue subregion is characterised by Alluvial plains and river frontage, where river gum woodlands fringe the drainage lines and this subregion is the northern limit of Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) range (CALM, 2002).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Rio Tinto botanists from 23 to 30 August 2011. The survey consisted of a thorough gridline search of the application area with botanists spaced approximately 20 metres apart. The survey established sites (unpegged relevés) in representative areas of all vegetation types within the application area (Rio Tinto 2012). The survey identified a total of 204 plant taxa from 94 genera and 40 families (Rio Tinto, 2012). This is considered to be within the expected range for an area of this size in this locality (Rio Tinto, 2012). An additional level 2 flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Eco Logical (2014) in areas directly south east of the application area. The survey took place from 28 May to 5 June 2014 and recorded a total of 131 taxa (including one introduced) comprised of 32 families and 67 genera (Eco Logical, 2014).

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Flora species within the application area (GIS Database; DPaW 2014). No Threatened Flora were recorded within the application area during the Rio Tinto flora and vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2012) and no Threatened flora were identified in adjacent areas during the level 2 equivalent flora survey (Eco Logical, 2014).

Rhynchosia bungarensis, a Priority 1 listed flora species, was identified in areas to the east of the application area during the level 2 survey (Eco Logical, 2014). This species' current distribution in the Pilbara is within the Ashburton, Cape Range, Chichester, Hamersley and Roebourne subregions. Outliers have been recorded in the Carnarvon and Gascoyne bioregions. This species is well known across its range and throughout the locality and is not considered regionally significant (Eco Logical, 2014).

A further five Priority 1, three Priority 2, six Priority 3 and three Priority 4 listed flora species are known from the local area (20km radius), none of which were recorded during the nearby flora and vegetation survey (Eco Logical, 2014).

Rio Tinto (2012) identified two introduced flora (weed) species, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Setaria verticillata*, within the area. Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. This can in turn lead to greater rates of infestation and further loss of biodiversity if the area is subject to repeated fires. Neither of these species are listed as 'Declared Plant' species under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* by the Department of Agriculture and Food. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

No fauna surveys have taken place within the application area, however, based on habitat type and fauna surveys conducted in the local area, the following species of conservation significance listed as either threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999* or protected under Western Australian legislation (*Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC)*) may occur within the application area (DPaW 2014; Eco Logical, 2014):

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus* – WC Act Threatened (Endangered), EPBC Act Endangered);
- Orange Leafnosed-bat (*Rhinonictis aurantia* – WC Act Vulnerable, EPBC Act Vulnerable);
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* – WC Act Schedule 4);
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni* – WC Act Vulnerable);
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos* – WC Act Vulnerable);
- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus* – Migratory);
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus* – Migratory); and
- Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta* – Migratory)

There are also a number of Priority listed fauna species, recognised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife as being of conservation significance that are known from the local area (DPaW, 2014; Eco Logical, 2014) such as the:

- Lake Disappointment Ground Gecko (*Diplodactylus fulleri* – Priority 2);
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas* – Priority 4);
- Western Pebble-mound Mouse, Ngadji (*Pseudomys chapmani* – Priority 4);

- Australian Bustard (*Ardeotis australis* – Priority 4);and
- Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius* – Priority 4)

The Western Pebble-mound Mouse, Ngadji was recorded during the level 1 fauna survey of an adjacent area. Sixty mounds were identified, of which, forty-five were active (Eco Logical, 2014). Given the small size of the proposed clearing, and that suitable breeding and foraging habitat is known nearby and throughout the wider area and region (Eco Logical, 2014; DPaW, 2014), impacts to this species are likely to be negligible.

Steep rocky canyons, cliffs and gorges are considered significant habitat for a range of conservation significant fauna and have been identified in the local area. In particular the caves are considered regionally significant roost sites for the Threatened Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat. Given that existing tracks will be utilised to access the majority of the proposed 9 drill sites, impacts to the Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat and other species known to occur in the area are likely to be negligible.

There are no major watercourses within the application area; however several minor non-perennial watercourses do occur (GIS Database). During the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Rio Tinto, ten vegetation communities were identified as growing in association with a watercourse (Rio Tinto, 2012), however the areas where new tracks are proposed in the western section of the application area, have not been surveyed. While potential impacts to drainage lines are likely to be minimal, it is important to maintain natural water flow throughout the area following rain events. Potential impacts to watercourses within the application area as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

There are two Beard vegetation associations mapped over the area under application; Beard vegetation association 111 and 82. Both are well represented and retain approximately 99% of pre-European levels of vegetation within the state and bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

No known threatened ecological communities occur within the application area, however the application area lies within the buffer of a Priority Ecological Community (PEC) 'Fortescue Marsh.' The marsh itself is located approximately 15 kilometres north east of the application area and will not be impacted by the proposed clearing.

The application to clear 15 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of a mineral exploration and access tracks, (that will result in nine new drill holes and drill pads) is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

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

Methodology	CALM (2002) DPaW (2014) Eco Logical (2014) Government of Western Australia (2013) Keighery (1994) Rio Tinto (2012) GIS Database: - DEC Tenure - Imagery - Groundwater Salinity - Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments - Hydrography, linear - IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions) - Pre-European Vegetation - Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - Soils, statewide - Threatened and Priority Flora List - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered - Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers - Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
--------------------	---

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are no native title claims over the application area (GIS Database; DAA, 2014). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There is one registered Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (GIS Database; DAA, 2014). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, 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 clearing permit application was first advertised on 2 March 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received that opposed the proposed clearing, the issue raised within the submission related to the cumulative impacts of all clearing in the local area. This issue has been addressed within the assessment when considering Principle (e).

Methodology DAA (2015)
GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management
- DAA (2015) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Government of Western Australia, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, viewed 4 March 2015 < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/> >.
- DPaW (2014) NatureMap Department of Parks and Wildlife, viewed 24 April 2015 < <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>
- Eco Logical (2014) Koodaideri Biological Assessment. Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd, West Perth. Western Australia.
- Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Rio Tinto (2012) Exploration Drilling at Koodaideri - Including supporting documentation for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. Unpublished report dated February 2012

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
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
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	Threatened species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat
----------	--

using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:

CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

- X Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities 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 localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- 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 do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5 Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

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.