Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6555/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Jalmah Investments Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 77/718
Local Government Area: Shire of Westonia
Colloquial name: Princess Royal Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 25 June 2015

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. The following Beard vegetation associations are located within the application area (GIS Database):

536: Medium woodland; morrell & rough fruited mallee (*Eucalyptus corrugata*).

The proponent has not undertaken a flora or vegetation survey over the application area. The application area is located within Crown Reserve 14983, commonly referred to as the Westonia Town Common Reserve (GIS Database). This reserve was surveyed by World Wildlife Fund Australia in 2007, and describes the vegetation within the reserve as woodland communities dominated by salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), red morrel (*E. longicornis*) and gimlet (*E. salubris*) with a varied understorey depending on changing soil types (McLellan, 2008). The most typical woodland vegetation associations observed has an understory dominated by either low chenopod shrubs (salt and blue bushes); or acacia, melaleuca, eremophila, or senna shrubs (McLellan, 2008).

Clearing Description

Princess Royal Project
Jalmah Investments Pty Ltd (Jalmah) has applied to clear 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 16.8 hectares for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately five kilometres west of Westonia, in the Shire of Westonia.

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994);

To

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

Comment

Vegetation condition was determined by the assessing officer based on aerial imagery and visiting the site.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

The application area is located within the Merredin subregion of the Avon Wheatbelt (AW1) Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The Avon Wheatbelt bioregion is characterised by a gently undulating landscape of low relief (CALM, 2002). Proteaceous scrub-heaths, rich in endemics, are found on residual lateritic uplands and derived sandplains and mixed eucalypt, *Allocasuarina huegeliana* and

Jam-York Gum woodlands on Quaternary alluvials and eluvials (CALM, 2002).

The application area is located within Crown Reserve 14983, which is referred to as Westonia Town Common Reserve. The reserve is approximately 4000 hectares in area and consists principally of gimlet, red morel and salmon gum woodlands (McLellan, 2008). It contains one of the largest 'reserved' red morrell woodlands within the intensive land use zone (McLellan, 2008). During the 'Westonia BioBlitz' biological survey of the reserve, a total of 222 flora taxa, as well as nine species of mammal, five species of reptile and amphibian, 51 species of bird and 44 species of invertebrates were recorded within the reserve (McLellan, 2008). This remnant of native vegetation is considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity due to vast areas of native vegetation that has been cleared for agricultural purposes throughout the local area and bioregion, and is extremely important for the on-going maintenance and conservation of flora and fauna (McLellan, 2008).

Neither a flora or vegetation survey has specifically been undertaken over the application area. Based on the proponent's supporting documentation, the majority of the proposed clearing will be located in the southern portion of the application area where there has been historical disturbance from mining activities (Jalmah, 2015). Aerial imagery and the assessing officer's observations whilst on site confirm that this area of the application area has relatively sparse vegetation with several areas of disturbance.

According to available datasets, there are no records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities or Threatened or Priority flora within the application area. The Threatened flora species *Eremophila resinosa* is known to occur within the Westonia Town Common Reserve, and the nearest known record is approximately three kilometres from the application area.

The 'Westonia BioBlitz' recorded 28 weed species within the reserve (McLellan, 2008). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The proposed clearing represents approximately 0.02% of the total size of the Westonia Town Common Reserve. Whilst the application area is situated within an area of high biological diversity relative to the neighbouring agricultural land, the application area itself is not likely to comprise higher biodiversity than other less disturbed areas of vegetation throughout the Westonia Town Common Reserve. Furthermore, the proposed clearing of 0.02% of the Westonia Town Common Reserve is unlikely to significantly alter it's biological diversity.

Based on the above, the propose clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

CALM (2002)
McLellan (2008)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(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.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A fauna survey has not been undertaken over the application area.

Approximately 0.9 hectares of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared within the Westonia Town Common Reserve. The 'Westonia Bioblitz' survey recorded 51 species of birds, 44 species of invertebrates, nine species of mammals and five species of reptiles and amphibians within the Westonia Town Common Reserve (McLellan, 2008). The reserve has been identified as providing important habitat for remnant-dependant bird species, and well as nesting and breeding habitat (McLellan, 2008).

According to NatureMap (DEC, 2015), a total of five conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area, which include;

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) – *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), Vulnerable; *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act), Schedule 1
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus* subsp. *pacificus*) – EPBC Act, Migratory Species; WC Act, Schedule 3
- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – EPBC Act, Migratory Species; WC Act, Schedule 3
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – EPBC Act, Migratory Species; WC Act, Schedule 4
- Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider (*Aganippe castellum*) – DPAW, Priority 4.

Fork-tailed Swift, Rainbow Bee-eater and Peregrine Falcon are highly mobile with wide distributions and are unlikely to be reliant on the vegetation within the application area for habitat.

The Malleefowl occurs in semi-arid and arid zones of temperate Australia, where it occupies shrublands and

low woodlands that are dominated by mallee vegetation (Department of the Environment (DotE), 2015). The breeding habitat of the Malleefowl, within its home range, is characterised by light soil, dense understory and an abundant leaf litter which is used in the construction of mounds (DotE, 2015). Aerial imagery shows that the application area consists of sparse vegetation of primarily overstorey species (GIS Database). Furthermore, the soil of the application area has been mapped by Northcote et al (1960 – 1968) as hard alkaline red earths, which would not be conducive to nest building. Therefore it is not likely that Malleefowl would occur within the application area.

Tree-stem Trapdoor Spiders are primarily terrestrial burrowing spiders which occasionally make tubular silk nests on tree trunks (Avon Catchment Council, 2007). The habitat critical to survival for the Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider consists of flood-prone depressions and flats which support myrtaceous shrub communities (Avon Catchment Council, 2007). In particular, those areas supporting Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and Sheoaks (such as *Allocasuarina acutivalvis*) in sandy loam soils (Avon Catchment Council, 2007). The application area can be broadly described as Gimlet woodland on hard alkaline red earths, and is not likely to provide suitable habitat for the Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider.

Other fauna surveys in the area, particularly those associated with the Edna May Operations located approximately three to five kilometres east of the application area have also identified Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Chuditch, Red-tailed Phascogale and Carpet Python as potentially occurring within the Westonia Town Common Reserve (Outback Ecology, 2014). Although no individuals of these species were recorded around the Edna May Operations, the Westonia Town Common Reserve was determined to provide suitable habitat (Outback Ecology, 2014). The proposed clearing is for 0.9 hectares within an application area of 16.8 hectares. The Westonia Town Common Reserve is approximately 4000 hectares, therefore the proposal is not likely to significantly impact on these species given the availability of similar vegetation directly adjacent to the application area

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Avon Catchment Council (2007)
DEC (2015)
DotE (2015)
McLellan (2008)
Northcote et al (1960 – 1968)
Outback Ecology (2014)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, there are no known Threatened flora species within the application area (GIS Database).

The Threatened species *Eremophila resinosa* is known to occur within the Westonia Town Common Reserve (McLellan, 2008). The nearest record is approximately three kilometres to the north-east (DEC, 2015).

The site was inspected for *E. resinosa* by two Environmental Officers from DMP. The search did not identify any individuals occurring in the application area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Outback Ecology (2014c)
GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority 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.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is approximately 200 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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.

Comments

Proposal is at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Avon Wheatbelt Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 18.69% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table) (GIS Database; Government of Western Australia, 2013). According to the 'Bioregional Conservation Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002), this value gives the region a Conservation Status of 'Vulnerable'.

The vegetation of the application area has been mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (GIS Database):

536: Medium woodland; morrell & rough fruited mallee (*Eucalyptus corrugata*).

Vegetation association 536 retains approximately 41% of its pre-European extent at a state level and 36% at the bioregion level (Government of Western Australia, 2013). This is above the 30% threshold level recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation below which, species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (EPA, 2000).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Land
IBRA Bioregion - Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109	1,778,407	~19	Vulnerable	2.37
IBRA Subregion - Merredin	6,524,181	1,368,789	~21	Vulnerable	2.50
Local Government - Westonia	331,938	130,984	~39	Depleted	8.10
Beard vegetation associations - State					
536	13,178	5,433	~41	Depleted	9.82
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
536	11,171	3,970	~36	Depleted	11.58
Beard vegetation associations - subregion					
536	11,171	3,970	~36	Depleted	11.58

* Government of Western Australia (2013)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Jalmah proposes to clear 0.9 hectares of native vegetation located within the Westonia Town Common Reserve, which is considered a regionally significant remnant of native vegetation (McLellan, 2008).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle. However the application area includes areas of historical disturbance and is not likely to be as significant as other areas of higher quality vegetation within the remnant. The proposed clearing is also relatively small (0.9 hectares) compared to the remaining remnant (approximately 4,000 hectares). It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing of 0.9 hectares would significantly impact on the Westonia Town Common Reserve acting as a regionally significant remnant of native vegetation.

Methodology

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
McLellan (2008)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions – Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

According to available database, there are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database).

Although the application area has not been surveyed, given the absence of any known watercourses or wetlands within the application area, the presence of riparian vegetation within the application area is

considered unlikely.

No riparian vegetation was observed within the application area by the assessing officer.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The area under application has been mapped as soil type Oc33 (GIS Database) which Northcote et al (1960-68) describes as:

Undulating plains with some low gilgais: chief soils seem to be hard alkaline red soils in intimate and complex association with calcareous earths.

These soil types are said to be slowly permeable and have low wind erodability (Schoknecht, 2002). Therefore, the likelihood of erosion occurring during normal rainfall events is low.

The proposed clearing of 0.9 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Northcote et al (1960-68)
Schoknecht (2002)
GIS Database:
- Soils, Statewide

(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.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area does not lie within any conservation areas or Department of Parks and Wildlife managed land (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve, located approximately 10 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database).

Aerial imagery indicates that the application area is located within a large remnant of native vegetation (GIS Database). This remnant is linked to Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve through roadside vegetation. The proposed clearing will not impact on any linkages to this conservation area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- DEC Tenure

(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.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available databases, the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). There are no mapped permanent water bodies or watercourses within the application area.

Rainfall in the area largely occurs during the winter months with some rainfall coming from occasional summer thunderstorms brought about by decaying tropical cyclones from the north of the state (McLellan, 2008). The annual average rainfall for Merredin is 325.3 millimetres and the average annual evaporation rate for the application area is approximately 2,400 - 2,600 millimetres (BoM, 2015; GIS Database). Based on this, surface water is likely to evaporate quickly with surface sheet flow and higher sediment levels predominantly occurring during larger rainfall events. Therefore, during normal rainfall events, the proposed clearing would not likely lead to an increase in water erosion.

According to available databases, groundwater salinity within the application area is between 14,000 and 35,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). This is considered to be saline. Given the high TDS and depth to groundwater (28 to 40 metres below the surface), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause salinity levels within the application area to alter significantly.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology BoM (2015)
McLellan (2008)
GIS Database:
- Evaporation Isopleths
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area experiences a Mediterranean climate with some semi-arid climatic characteristics (McLellan, 2008). It receives an annual average rainfall of approximately 325.3 millimetres, most of which falls during the winter months (BoM, 2015). Given the size of the proposed clearing and the low average annual rainfall, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology BoM (2015)
McLellan (2008)

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one Native Title Claims (WC2013/009) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been filed at the Federal Court of Australia. 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 (GIS Database). 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 Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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 advertised on 11 May 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received raising no objections.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims – File at the Federal Court

4. References

Avon Catchment Council (2007) Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider (*Aganippe castellum*) Conservation Plan. Avon Catchment Council, Western Australia.

BoM (2015) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Merredin, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology.

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions - Coolgardie 2 (COO2 - Southern Cross Subregion). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

DotE (2015) *Leipoa ocellata* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra. http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat.

EPA (2000) Environmental Protection of Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of Native Vegetation, with Particular Reference to the Agricultural Area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, 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.

Jalmah (2015) Supporting documentation for clearing permit application CPS 6555/1. Jalmah Investments Pty Ltd.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of

WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
McLellan (2008) Westonia BioBlitz Report 2007. Unpublished report by Richard McLellan for Worldwide Fund Australia dated May 2008.
Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
Outback Ecology (2014) Edna May and Greenfinch Projects - Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for Evolution Mining Ltd.
Schoknecht (2002) Soil Groups of Western Australia. A simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia. Resource Management Technical Report 246. Edition 3.

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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of *the Environment Protection Act 1986*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* 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 DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorynchus 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.