



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6615/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Big Bell Gold Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 20/12  
Mining Lease 20/45  
Mining Lease 20/68  
Mining Lease 20/77  
Mining Lease 20/214  
Mining Lease 20/421

Local Government Area: Shire of Cue

Colloquial name: Central Murchison Gold Project

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 16 July 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. Two Beard vegetation association are located within the application area (GIS Database):

**Beard vegetation association 18** : Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*)

**Beard vegetation association 39**: Shrublands; mulga scrub

A level 1 flora and vegetation survey was been conducted over the application area by MWH (2015) and ten broad vegetation type were recorded:

- 1) Tall open shrubland dominated by *Acacia* spp., over low forbs dominated by *Maireana triptera* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* with open grassland dominated and *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* on red/orange sandy clay loam with quartzite, on plains;
- 2) Tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia incurvaneura*, over low shrubland dominated by *Senna* sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) and *Eremophila forrestii*, over low forbland dominated by *Maireana triptera* on sandy red clay with laterite, on hills and slopes;
- 3) Tall shrubland dominated by *Hakea preissii*, over mid sparse shrubland dominated by *Eremophila galeata* and *Grevillea deflexa*, over closed grassland dominated by *\*Cynodon dactylon*, *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Cyperus iria* and low sparse forbland of *\*Sonchus oleraceus*, on brown sandy clay with quartz, on floodway;
- 4) Tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia craspedocarpa* and *Acacia pteraneura* over low open shrubland dominated by *Eremophila forrestii* on red sandy loam plains;
- 5) Tall open shrubland dominated by *Acacia incurvaneura* and other mixed *Acacia* spp. over low open shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* and *Eremophila galeata*, over grassland dominated by *Eragrostis pergracilis* and *Eragrostis eriopoda*, on red sandy clay plains;
- 6) Low sparse shrubs dominated by *Eremophila exilifolia* and *Eremophila forrestii* over low grassland dominated by *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera*, with low sparse forbs dominated by *Ptilotus chamaecladus*, on red sandy clay with quartz on plains;
- 7) Tall sparse shrubland dominated by *Acacia pteraneura*, over sparse shrubland dominated by *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*, over low sparse shrubland of *Acacia kalgoorliensis*, on orange sandy clay with quartz;
- 8) Tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia incurvaneura*, over mid open shrubland dominated by *Acacia ramulosa*, on red sandy clay with quartz in gullies;
- 9) Tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia craspedocarpa*, *Acacia incurvaneura* and *Acacia tetragonophylla*, over low open shrubs dominated by *Eremophila* spp., over grassland dominated by *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera*, on red sandy clay loam with quartz or laterite in drainage lines; and
- 10) Tall shrubland dominated by *Acacia incurvaneura*, *Acacia sclerosperma* and *Acacia tetragonophylla*, over low open shrubland dominated by *Eremophila linearis*, on red sandy clay with quartz, on plains.

Note: \* signifies weed species.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Central Murchison Gold Project Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 1300 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 40 kilometres south-south west of Meekatharra, in the Shire of Cue.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).  To:  Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).  Note: the majority of the application area is considered to be in a Very Good condition (MWH, 2015).
<b>Comment</b>	The vegetation condition was derived from a flora and vegetation survey conducted by MWH (2015).

### 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

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

<b>Comments</b>	<p><b>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</b></p> <p>The application area occurs within the Eastern Murchison (MUR1) subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by its internal drainage, and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development. (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga Woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and Halosarcia shrublands (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>A level 1 flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by MWH in April 2015. A total of 101 flora species were recorded, representing 27 families and 53 genera (MWH, 2015). No Threatened flora species are known to occur within the local area (20 kilometre radius) (DPaW, 2014) and none were recorded within the application area during the flora survey (MWH, 2015).</p> <p>According to available databases there are no threatened or priority ecological communities or Threatened flora species located within the application area (GIS Database; DPaW, 2014). Ten species of Priority flora were identified as likely to occur within the application area and one species was considered very likely to occur (MWH, 2015). None of these species were confirmed as occurring within the application area during the level 1 flora and vegetation survey, although two unidentified specimens (identified to higher order only), come from the same genera of conservation significant flora taxa known from the area, and could potentially be <i>Maireana prosthecochoaeta</i> (P3) and <i>Ptilotus lazardis</i> (P3) (MWH, 2015). It is thought that one Priority 3 flora species, <i>Ptilotus beardii</i>, may have been recorded from a single location to the west of the application area. If the identification of this specimen is confirmed, it will represent a range extension (MWH, 2015). The vegetation units from which the above-mentioned priority flora species were recorded, extends throughout the local area and are widespread (MWH, 2015). The proposed clearing is unlikely to compromise communities or populations of Priority flora.</p> <p>Three invasive species (weed species) have been identified within the application area; <i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i> (Prickly Paddy Melon), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (Couch) and <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) (MWH, 2015). 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.</p> <p>The Beard vegetation units present within the application area (18 and 39) are well represented, as are the majority of the fauna habitats, with the exception of the ephemeral wetland habitat (approx. 7 hectares in area), which may be of local significance (MWH, 2015). Despite being located adjacent to the existing mine waste landform, the ephemeral wetland habitat is considered to be in 'Very Good' condition (MWH, 2015), however given that there are much larger areas of wetland habitat to the north (Lake Annean) and south (Lake Austin), this habitat is unlikely to represent an area of high biodiversity on a local or regional scale.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.</p>
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<b>Methodology</b>	CALM (2002) DPaW (2014) MWH (2015) GIS Database: - IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions) - Pre-European vegetation - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
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#### (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.

<b>Comments</b>	<p><b>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</b></p> <p>A level 1 fauna survey was conducted over the application area by MWH in April 2015. Five broad habitat types were identified within the application area (MWH, 2015):</p>
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- Low Open Mulga Woodland;
- Open Eremophila Shrubland;
- Stony Rise;
- Stony Plain; and
- Drainage lines

In addition to these broad habitats, two small areas of ephemeral wetland habitat were identified within the application area (MWH, 2015). The five broad habitats listed above are considered to be well represented and widespread, however the ephemeral wetland habitat may be of local significance (MWH, 2015).

During the level 1 fauna survey of the application area and surrounding area, no fauna species of conservation significance were recorded (MWH, 2015). The two ephemeral wetlands comprise a small portion of the application area (approximately 7 hectares) and are located adjacent to the existing mine waste landform. This habitat was inundated at the time of the survey and was found to support a mixed shrubland over a dense cover of mixed grasses. Given the presence of episodic water, the ephemeral wetland habitat has the potential to support migratory bird species, offered protection under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) including the Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*). This habitat may also be an important refuge for other local fauna species; however, as much larger areas of wetland habitat persists to the north (Lake Annean) and south (Lake Austin) fauna species are unlikely to be dependent on the wetland habitat found within the application area. The proponent has committed to avoiding wetland habitat areas.

The Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus* – EPBC Act, Migratory) is likely to utilise drainage lines and ephemeral wetland habitat present within the application area, but is also regularly recorded in disturbed habitats including roadside vegetation and in quarries, mines or gravel pits, where they often breed (DotE, 2015). This species is widely distributed and is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing activities. The Good-legged Lerista (*Lerista eupoda*) a Priority 1 listed species recognised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) as being of conservation significance, has also been identified within the vicinity (MWH, 2015). The Good-legged Lerista prefers Open Mulga areas on loamy soils (MWH, 2015), such as those found to the north and south of the application area, therefore impacts from the proposed clearing will likely be negligible.

Given that the application area is adjacent to an existing operational mine site that is highly disturbed and well vegetated areas of similar native vegetation occur throughout the local area and bioregion (GIS Database; MWH, 2015), the vegetation under application is unlikely to provide significant habitat for local fauna species.

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

**Methodology** MWH (2015)  
DotE (2015)  
GIS Database  
- Imagery

**(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 Threatened Flora species known to occur within the local area (GIS Database; DPaW, 2014). In addition to this, a level 1 flora survey of the application area was conducted by MWH (2015) in April 2015 and no Threatened flora species were recorded.

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

**Methodology** DPaW (2014)  
MWH (2015)  
GIS Database  
- Threatened and Priority Flora List

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

According to available datasets, there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). During a level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the application area, no TECs were recorded and none of the vegetation units mapped within the application area were comparable to any known TECs (MWH, 2015). The closest TEC is located approximately 15 kilometres north east (GIS Database).

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

**Methodology** MWH (2015)  
GIS Database:

- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries

**(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 not at variance to this Principle**

The application area occurs within the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, in which approximately 99.7% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table below) (GIS Database; Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation within the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation associations 18 and 39 (GIS Database). Both of which retain more than 99% of pre-European level of vegetation at a state and bioregional level respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Given the amount of vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the 50 hectares of vegetation under application is not considered to be significant as a remnant within an extensively cleared area.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Lands*
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	99.7	Least Concern	~ 7.70
Beard veg assoc. - State					
18	19,892,305	19,843,727	99.8	Least Concern	~ 6.29
Beard veg assoc. - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	99.7	Least Concern	~ 4.96
Beard veg assoc. - State					
39	6,613,569	6,602,580	99.8	Least Concern	~ 12.11
Beard veg assoc. - Bioregion					
39	1,148,400	1,138,065	99.1	Least Concern	~ 3.58

\* Government of Western Australia (2013)

\*\* Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
Government of Western Australia (2013)  
GIS Database:  
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**

According to available databases there are no major permanent wetlands or watercourses mapped within the application area; however several minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area (GIS Database). Vegetation has been mapped growing in association with these drainage lines, therefore the proposed clearing is considered to be at variance to Principle (f), however the vegetation growing in association with drainage lines, is considered to be comprised of a habitat type that is widespread and well represented throughout the bioregion (MWH, 2015). Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** MWH (2015)  
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 may be at variance to this Principle**

Areas of erosion are widespread in the Murchison region, although where areas of good or better condition vegetation remain; erosion is much less prevalent (DAWA, 1994). Given that there are areas within the application area that have been subject to disturbances included past mining operations and drilling programs, vehicle tracks, low density weeds, feral animal grazing and trampling (MWH, 2015) and several minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area, land degradation issues may arise as a result of the proposed clearing. Potential land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

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

**Methodology** DAWA (1994)  
GIS Database:  
- IBRA WA (Regions – Sub Regions)  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing is not located within a conservation area and there are no conservation areas within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not 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). The nearest PDWSA is the Cue Water Reserve which is located approximately 37 kilometres south west of the application area (GIS Database).

Surface waters typically flow south over low broad slopes with grooved vegetated drainage lines linking into tributaries, which ultimately flow into Lake Annean or Nallan Creek (Metals X, 2015). In general terms, light rainfall events over extended periods will produce small volumes of runoff due to initial soakage rates and evaporation and heavier intense rainfall events usually produce higher velocity flows, resulting in naturally high sediment loads. A significant volume of water will be lost to infiltration due to the high permeability of the sandy soils, thereby reducing the risk of high loads of sediments being transported into the downstream catchments (Metals X, 2015). To reduce impacts associated with the proposed clearing, the proponent has developed and will implement surface water management measures. In addition to this, potential impacts to the quality of surface water as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

The groundwater salinity within the application area is between 1,000 – 3,000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). Given the proposed clearing is for up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within the Murchison River catchment area (10,376,751 hectares); the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in any significant adverse impacts to groundwater quality.

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

**Methodology** Metals X (2015)  
GIS Database:  
- Groundwater Salinity, Satewide  
- Hydrography, linear  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs)  
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas

**(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 Murchison region experiences an arid climate, experiencing both summer and winter rain (BoM, 2015). Mean annual rainfall for Cue (nearest recording site) is approximately 234 mm and evaporation far exceeds rainfall (BoM, 2015). Due to the high permeability of the sandy soils present within the application area and given that the proponent has developed and will implement surface water flow management measures (Metals X, 2015), the proposed clearing is not likely to increase 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)  
Metals X (2015)  
GIS Database:  
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments

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

##### **Comments**

There is one native title claim over the application area (WC1999/046) (GIS Database; DAA, 2015). 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 Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (GIS Database). 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 advertised on 22 June 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

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

#### **4. References**

- BoM (2015) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Cue, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- DAA (2015) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, viewed 6 March 2015 < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/>>.
- DAWA (1994) Technical Bulletin No.84: An inventory and condition survey of the Murchison River Catchment and surrounds, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.
- DotE (2015) *Merops ornatus* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra <<http://www.environment.gov.au> >
- 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.
- DPaW (2014) NatureMap, Department of Parks and Wildlife <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>>.
- 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.
- Metals X (2015) Supporting Information for Clearing Permit Application, Reedy Project Area – Central Murchison Gold Project. Metals X Group, West Perth, Western Australia.
- MWH (2015) CMGP Reedy Project Dewatering Program – Level 1 Flora and Fauna Survey (Draft Report). MWH Global, Jolimont, Western Australia.

#### **5. Glossary**

##### **Acronyms:**

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DotE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia

<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>s.17</b>	Section 17 of <i>the Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	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 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.