



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6657/8  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Regis Resources Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Leases 38/114, 38/237, 38/250, 38/283, 38/292, 38/302, 38/303, 38/316, 38/317, 38/319, 38/343, 38/344, 38/352, 38/354, 38/407, 38/498, 38/499, 38/500, 38/589, 38/630, 38/802, 38/939, 38/940, 38/943, 38/1091, 38/1092, 38/1247, 38/1249, 38/1250, 38/1251, 38/1257, 38/1258, 38/1259, 38/1260, 38/1261, 38/1262, 38/1263, 38/1264, 38/1268, 38/1269, 38/1270, 38/1277;  
Miscellaneous Licences 38/29, 38/85, 38/133, 38/182, 38/202, 38/226, 38/234, 38/238, 38/239, 38/242, 38/315

Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton

Colloquial name: Duketon, Gloster and Banyego Gold Projects

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5,098		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and Associated Infrastructure

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 23 April 2020

## 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 associations have been mapped within the application area (i.e. the areas previously approved under CPS 6657/1, 6657/2, 6657/3, CPS 6657/4, CPS 6657/5, CPS 6657/6, CPS 6657/7 and the proposed amendment area for CPS 6657/8). Only Beard vegetation association 18 is mapped within the amendment area) (GIS Database):

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

The vegetation associations and types found within the previously approved areas (CPS 6657/1, CPS 6657/2, CPS 6657/3, CPS 6657/4, CPS 6657/5, CPS 6657/6 and CPS 6657/7) are described in the relevant decision reports. The vegetation types mapped within the amendment area are described below:

A total of six vegetation communities were identified within the amendment area during a Level 2 flora and vegetation assessment (Mattiske, 2016).

A13: Semi-closed to open shrubland of *Acacia mulganeura*, *Acacia incurvaneura*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia craspedocarpa* over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Hibiscus burtonii* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* on flats with red clay soil and quartz pebbles.

A16: Closed to open shrubland of *Acacia incurvaneura*, *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Acacia craspedocarpa* over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides* over *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Hibiscus burtonii* over *Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* and mixed grasses on minor creek lines with red clay soils.

A26: Scrub to open scrub of *Acacia* sect. *Juliflorae* (*A. incurvaneura*, *A. macraneura* and *A. mulganeura*) over open low shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* over low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* and *Sclerolaena cuneata* on red-orange clay loam on flats and slopes (rarely) with quartz pebbles.

A30: Scrub to open scrub of *Acacia* sect. *Juliflorae* (*A. aneura* and *A. incurvaneura*) and *Acacia quadrimarginea* over low shrubland of *Psydrax suaveolens*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei*, *Eremophila punctata* and *Ptilotus schwartzii* var. *georgei* over mixed grasses on red-brown clay loam on flats and slopes with iron pebbles.

C2: Very open Chenopod shrubland of *Maireana pyramidata* over *Maireana triptera*, *Sclerolaena eriacantha*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Frankenia georgei* and mixed grasses with occasional emergent *Acacia cuthbertsonii*, *Hakea preissii* and *Eremophila oldfieldii* on flats with red clay soil and quartz pebbles.

C5: Low open Chenopod shrubland of *Maireana pyramidata* and *Eriochiton sclerolaenoides* with emergent *Acacia* sect. *Juliflorae* (*A. aneura* and *A. pteraneura*) and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over *Frankenia setosa* and *Maireana georgei* on red-orange clay-loams on flats with quartz and iron pebbles.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Gloster Gold Mine Project, Greater Duketon Gold Project and Banyego Gold Mine Project Regis Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 5,098 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 15,167 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 140 kilometres north of Laverton in the Shire of Laverton.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).  To:  Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	<p>Clearing Permit CPS 6657/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) on 15 October 2015 and authorised the clearing of up to 1,450 hectares of native vegetation within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 7,862 hectares. The clearing was authorised for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. CPS 6657/1 consolidated five existing permits into one new permit and resulted in an increase in the total amount of clearing by 95 hectares.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/2 was granted by DMP on 11 February 2016 and authorised the clearing of up to 1,900 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 8,767 hectares. This amendment was required in order to allow for the development of the Gloster Gold Mine Project.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/3 was granted by DMP on 21 April 2016 and authorised the clearing of up to 2,250 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 9,744 hectares. This amendment was required in order to allow for the construction a haul road connecting the Gloster Gold Mine area to the Greater Duketon Gold Project area.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/4 was granted by DMP on 27 October 2016 and authorised the clearing of up to 2,759 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 11,447 hectares. This amendment was required in order to allow for the recommencement and expansion of mining at the Baneygo Gold Mine area.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/5 was granted by DMIRS on 28 September 2017 and authorised the clearing of up to 3,767 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 13,702 hectares. This amendment was required in order to allow for the development of the Anchor, Dogbolter-Coopers and Tooheys Well satellite open pit mines and the Baneygo to Rosemont haul road to the existing Duketon Gold Project.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/6 was granted by DMIRS on 26 April 2018 and authorised the clearing of up to 4,167 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 14,003 hectares. This amendment was required in order to allow for an alternative location for the Garden Well TSF.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 6657/7 was granted on 28 February 2019 and authorised the clearing of up to 4,946 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 14,743 hectares. The amendment was required to allow further development of the Petra Gold Deposit within the Duketon Gold Project area.</p> <p>Regis Resources Limited has applied to amend CPS 6657/7 for the purpose of increasing the permit boundary by 424.406 hectares, the amount of approved clearing by 152 hectares, and to include additional tenure. This amendment is required allow development of the Russell's Find Gold Deposit within the Duketon Gold Project area.</p> <p>The condition of the vegetation in the amendment area (CPS 6657/8) was determined via flora and vegetation surveys conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2016, 2017a and 2017b) and summary information provided by Regis Resources (2019).</p>

### 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

#### Comments

Under the proposed amendment, an additional 152 hectares of clearing is proposed within a clearing permit boundary which has increased by approximately 424.406 hectares. The proposed amendment will result in the clearing of up to 5,098 hectares, within a total clearing permit boundary of 15,167 hectares across the greater Duketon Gold Project area. This total includes the Russell's Find Gold Deposit (RFGD), the subject of this amendment application.

The amendment area is located within the East Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The East Murchison subregion is characterised by internal drainage, extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development, salt lake systems associated with the occluded paleodrainage system, broad plains of red-brown soils and breakaway complexes, as well as red sandplains (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga woodlands which are often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Tecticornia* shrublands (CALM, 2002).

The condition of the vegetation within the amendment area varies from 'Completely Degraded' to 'Pristine' (Mattiske, 2016). Areas of 'Completely Degraded' to 'Degraded' vegetation occur as a result of historical mining activities and pastoral use (Regis Resources, 2019). Based on aerial imagery and survey data, the majority of the vegetation within the amendment area is considered to be in an 'Excellent' condition or better and shows little to no signs of disturbance. Despite the lack of disturbance, the health of plants was regarded to be very poor at the time of survey, with little to no fertile material available (lacking flowers and fruits). This is likely a result of water stress (Mattiske, 2016).

Level 2 flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd over the majority of the RFGD amendment area.

No Threatened flora species were recorded within the amendment area, although three Priority flora species were identified within the RFGD survey area (Mattiske, 2016; Regis Resources, 2019). The two Priority 3 taxa, *Calytrix praecipua* (P3) and *Phyllanthus baeckeoides* (P3) were both recorded from a single location within the RFGD survey area, with both being individual plants. The Priority 4 taxon, *Eremophila pungens* (P4) was recorded from nine locations within the RFGD survey area. This does not represent an extension to the current known populations of the priority flora, with populations being recorded in previous surveys within the Duketon Gold Project (Mattiske, 2016).

There were a number of limitations noted within the flora survey, such as below average rainfall in the lead up to the survey and signs of vegetation stress which inhibited the confirmation of some taxa to species level. Many specimens of annual and ephemeral species were unable to be identified past genus or confirmed to species level due to lack of fertile material.

Despite survey limitations, based on available survey data and records, large scale impacts to flora species of conservation significance (including Priority flora species) are considered unlikely, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposed clearing will adversely impact on Priority flora species at a population or species level. To reduce potential adverse impacts to Priority flora species, the proponent will implement a number of management procedures. These management measures are outlined within the Regis Resources (2019) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document and include such activities as implementing clearance and disturbance protocols, ensuring personnel have an awareness of conservation significant flora known or recorded in the area, minimising clearing, undertaking progressive rehabilitation and delineating recorded occurrences of Priority flora.

Six vegetation communities were identified during flora surveys, all of which are considered to be well represented outside the amendment area (Mattiske 2016). No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are known to occur within the amendment area and none were recorded during flora surveys. The closest community (a Priority Ecological Community) is located more than 30 kilometres south (GIS Database).

The fauna habitats present within the amendment area are common and widespread in the landscape and bioregion, with vast tracts of similar habitat in adjacent areas (Regis Resources, 2019; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2016a; 2016b; 2017). The vegetation within the amendment area is not considered to be providing, or contributing to, important ecological linkages or fauna movement corridors (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2016a; 2016b; 2017).

No fauna species of conservation significance were recorded within the amendment area during fauna surveys (Terrestrial Ecosystems 2016a, 2016b and 2017), however a number of species were identified as having the potential to persist or occur within the amendment area and surrounds. Following further analysis of these species and the habitat on offer, Terrestrial Ecosystems (2012, 2016a, 2016b and 2017) considered that the proposed clearing (and previous clearing activities) is unlikely to impact on any species of conservation significance. Conservation significant species identified as potentially occurring in the vicinity are either migratory, able to relocate easily into neighbouring areas, or preferred habitat is not present (Terrestrial Ecosystems 2012, 2016a, 2016b and 2017).

No introduced (weed) species have been recorded within the amendment area (Regis Resources, 2019). 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 continued implementation of a weed management condition.

Several non-perennial watercourses have been mapped within the amendment area (GIS Database) and a number of the vegetation communities identified within the amendment area are considered to be growing in association with minor drainage lines (Mattiske, 2016; Regis Resources, 2019). Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse or wetland as a result of the proposed clearing may also be minimised by the continued implementation of a watercourse management condition.

Five land systems have been mapped within the amendment area; Hootanui, Steer, Brooking, Bevon and Violet (GIS Database). The Hootanui land system is susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (Pringle *et al.* 1994). The Steer, Bevon and Brooking land systems are generally not prone to erosion as stone mantles provide effective protection (Pringle *et al.* 1994), although the proposed clearing has the potential to cause soil erosion by breaking protective stony mantles and exposing underlying soils that may be susceptible to erosion (Pringle *et al.* 1994). The Violet land system is also protected by abundant mantles over most areas, except where the soil surface is disturbed. Following disturbance, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

The proponent has committed to implementing management procedures to mitigate potential land degradation issues. These management measures are outlined within the Regis Resources (2019) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. Potential land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be further minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.

The amendment area is not located within or adjacent to any conservation areas (GIS Database). The closest conservation area (De La Poer Range Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 25 kilometres north-north east of the northern most section of the application area (the Anchor project area) (GIS Database).

The amendment area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The amendment area is located within an arid environment with an average annual rainfall of approximately 236 millimetres and experiences mean annual evaporation of approximately 3,400 millimetres (BoM, 2020). Although there are a number of minor ephemeral watercourses located in the amendment area, it is likely these drainage lines would only flow for short periods following significant rainfall events (Regis Resources, 2019). Considering there are no permanent watercourses within the amendment area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on surface water quality.

Groundwater quality within the amendment area ranges from marginal to brackish (500 – 3000 TDS mg/L) (GIS Database). The local area and region is well vegetated and the proposed additional clearing of 152 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to significantly impact on the quality of underground water. While clearing activities may be unlikely to result in impacts, mining activities do have the potential to impact on groundwater quality. The proponent has committed to implementing management procedures to mitigate potential impacts to the quality of surface and groundwater. These management measures are outlined within the Regis Resources (2019) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. It is also expected that rehabilitation activities will be undertaken as per Mining Act approvals, conditions and requirements for the related mining proposal.

The amendment area is located in the Murchison region, where evaporation far exceeds annual rainfall (BoM, 2020). Given the climatic conditions of the Murchison region and the large amount of remaining vegetation in the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant increase in the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision reports CPS 6657/1, CPS 6657/2, CPS 6657/3, CPS 6657/4, CPS 6657/5, CPS 6657/6 and CPS 6657/7.

**Methodology**

BoM (2020)  
CALM (2002)  
Mattiske (2016)  
Pringle *et al.* (1994)  
Regis Resources (2019)  
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2012)  
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2016a)  
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2016b)  
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017)

GIS Database:

- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

### Comments

All proposed mining activities and operations within the application area (15,167 hectares) have either already been approved under the *Mining Act 1978*, or are currently under assessment. Within the approved associated mining proposals, the proponent has committed to implementing management measures to reduce potential environmental impacts. In addition to this, a Mine Closure Plan (MCP) has been developed and continues to be revised to address mine closure issues. Within the MCP, the proponent has committed to conducting progressive rehabilitation activities.

There are no native title claims over the previously approved application area (CPS 6657/7) or the amendment area (DPLH, 2020). 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*.

No Sites of Aboriginal Significance are known from the amendment area; however, a number of Sites of Aboriginal Significance are located throughout other areas of the application area (DPLH, 2020; 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 Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The amendment application was advertised on 21 January 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

**Methodology** DPLH (2020)

## 4. References

- BoM (2020) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology <<http://www.bom.gov.au>> Accessed April 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Perth, Western Australia <<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au>> Accessed April 2020.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske (2016) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Dogbolter and Coopers Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, March 2016.
- Mattiske (2017a) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Anchor Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, March 2017.
- Mattiske (2017b) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Banyego Haul Road Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, July 2017.
- Pringle, H. J. R., Van Vreeswyk, A. M.E. and Gilligan, S.A. (1994). An inventory and condition survey of the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No. 87, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Perth.
- Regis Resources (2019) Application to Amend Purpose Permit 6657/7 Duketon Gold Project, Russell's Find Tenure: L38/202, M38/292, M38/144 & M38/630. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. Regis Resources Ltd, Western Australia. September 2019.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2012) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Anchor Project. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Terrestrial Ecosystems, February 2012.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2016a) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Dogbolter-Coopers Project. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Terrestrial Ecosystems, December 2016.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2016b) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Tooheys Project. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Terrestrial Ecosystems, December 2016.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Proposed Haul Road to the Banyego Project. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Terrestrial Ecosystems, July 2017.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

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

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

### Definitions:

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

#### **T** Threatened species:

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

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

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

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

#### **CR** Critically endangered species

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

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

#### **EN** Endangered species

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

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

#### **VU** Vulnerable species

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

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

## **Extinct Species:**

### **EX Extinct species**

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

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

### **EW Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

## **Specially protected species:**

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

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

### **MI Migratory species**

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

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

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

### **CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

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

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

### **OS Other specially protected species**

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

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

### **P Priority species:**

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

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

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

**P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species**

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

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species**

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

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species**

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

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

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

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

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

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

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