



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6710/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Fortescue Metals Group Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Exploration Licence 47/1390
Exploration Licence 47/1763
Prospecting Licence 47/1257
Prospecting Licence 47/1306
Prospecting Licence 47/1633
Prospecting Licence 47/1469
Prospecting Licence 47/1470
Colloquial name: Tex Exploration Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 7 July 2016

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. Three Beard vegetation associations are located within the application area (GIS Database):

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

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

Beard vegetation association 175: Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara).

Three flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area, through which five vegetation communities were identified:

AaPsCf: *Acacia aptaneura* open shrubland, over low *Abutilon octocarpum* sparse shrubland, over *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* and *Ptilotus obovatus* open forbland, over open *Chrysopogon fallax* tussock grassland;

AaVfTH1: *Acacia aneura* sparse shrubland, over mid *Vachellia farnesiana* sparse shrubland, over *Chrysopogon fallax* and *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431) tussock grassland;

ExApTw: *Eucalyptus xerothermica* low open woodland over *Acacia pruinocarpa* tall sparse shrubland over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* low sparse shrubland *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland and *Chrysopogon fallax* tussock grassland;

TH: *Panicum decompositum* and *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431) tussock grassland; and
VfTH: *Vachellia farnesiana* sparse shrubland, over *Eriachne benthamii*, *Dichanthium sericeum* and *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431) tussock grassland.

Clearing Description Tex Exploration Project
Fortescue Resources Group Limited proposes to clear up to 13 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 8,181 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 42 kilometres north of Tom Price in the Shire of Ashburton.

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

To:

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

Comment The vegetation condition was derived from a flora and vegetation survey conducted by Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd (2012).

The proposed clearing will result in the establishment of 118 drill pads and 20.7 kilometres of access tracks. Disturbance calculations are based on a drill pad with dimensions of 20m x 20m and all tracks are 4m wide (FMGL, 2015).

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 lies within the Hamersley sub-region of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation within this sub-region is characterised as Mulga low woodland over bunch grasses on fine textured soils in valley floors, and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over *Triodia brizoides* on skeletal soils of the ranges (CALM, 2002).

The proposed disturbance occurs within the Hamersley Pastoral Lease. The main uses of the land surrounding the project area are mineral exploration and pastoral activities (FMGL, 2015).

According to available datasets a total of twenty one Priority listed flora species have been recorded within, or within close proximity (5 kilometres) of the clearing permit boundary (FMGL, 2015; DPaW, 2015a). This number includes five Priority one species (*Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera*, *Brachyscome* sp. Wanna Munna Flats, *Euphorbia inappendiculata* var. *queenslandica*, *Teucrium pilbaranum* and *Vittadinia Coondewanna Flats*) and three Priority 2 species (*Euphorbia australis* vat. *Glabra*, *Ipomoea racemigera*, *Vigna* sp. Central) (FMGL, 2015; DPaW, 2015a). Given that the proposed clearing involves the construction of four metre wide tracks and 20 metres x 20 metre drill pads, Priority flora species should be avoided where possible. Potential impacts to Priority flora species as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a flora management condition.

Four of the five vegetation types identified within the application area (AsPsCf, AaVfTH1, TH, and VfTH) are considered representative of the Themeda Grasslands Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (FMGL, 2015).

Fauna surveys conducted over the application area identified two broad habitat types; Cracking Clay Plain and Stony Gibber Plain. These habitats are common and widespread throughout the local area (Ecologia, 2014; FMGL, 2015). More suitable habitat, in the form of gorges/gullies, drainage lines, hilltops and ridges occurs nearby. While local fauna species may utilise the application area as foraging habitat, the proposed clearing of 13 hectares is unlikely to significantly impact local fauna species, including species of conservation significance.

The vegetation to be cleared is situated entirely within a mapped Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) "Themeda Grasslands on cracking clays." Some areas of the TEC have been disturbed by grazing (FMGL, 2015); however most occurrences are considered to be in a 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' condition (DPaW, 2015b). The clearing permit boundary also intersects a Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) "Brockman Iron cracking clay communities of the Hamersley Range." No vegetation is proposed to be cleared within this PEC (FMGL, 2015).

Several weed species are known to occur within the application area (FMGL, 2015). Clearing activities have the potential to result in an increase in the incidence of weed species, which may negatively impact on the biodiversity of the local area. 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 of 13 hectares of native vegetation within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 8,331 hectares, is unlikely to result in significant impacts to the local area or region, however, there are a number of sensitive features that are susceptible to disturbance.

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
DPaW (2015a)
Ecologia Environment (2014)
FMGL (2015)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- Pre-European vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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**

Fauna surveys conducted over the application area identified two broad habitat types; Cracking Clay Plain and Stony Gibber Plain.

A range of local fauna species are likely to frequent the habitats within the application area, including species of conservation significance such as the Lined Soil-crevice Skink (*Notoscincus Butleri*), Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*), Short-tailed Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis*), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*) and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat.

Extensive amounts of vegetation remains in the local area and region (GIS Database) and both broad habitat types recorded within the application area are common and widespread throughout the local area (ecologia Environment, 2014; FMGL, 2015). In addition to this, more suitable habitat, in the form of gorges/gullies, drainage lines, hilltops and ridges occur nearby and is preferred habitat for most conservation significant species known from the area.

A number of migratory bird species are also likely to frequent the application area. Given their migratory, mobile nature, these species can easily disperse in the surrounding environment.

While local fauna species may utilise the application area as foraging habitat (FMGL, 2015), the proposed clearing of 13 hectares is unlikely to significantly impact local fauna species, including species of conservation significance.

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

Methodology ecologia Environment (2014)
FMGL (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

Within the wider project area, two Threatened flora species have previously been recorded (Ecoscape, 2012; DPaW, 2015).

According to available databases, there are no species of Threatened flora known to occur within the application area (GIS Database; DPaW, 2015a). In addition to this, a flora survey of the wider project area (which included parts of the application area) did not record any Threatened flora species (Ecoscape, 2012).

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

Methodology DPaW (2015a)
Ecoscape (2012)

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 at variance to this Principle

The application area is situated entirely within a mapped Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) "Themeda Grasslands on cracking clays." (GIS Database; FMGL, 2015). This TEC has a known extent of ~4,700 hectares but is comprised of many separate occurrences, ranging from 0.045 hectares to 1900 ha (DPaW, 2015b). Some areas of the TEC have been disturbed by grazing (FMGL, 2015); however most occurrences are considered to be in a 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' condition (DPaW, 2015b).

While the proposed clearing of up to 13 hectares of native vegetation represents less than 0.27% of the TECs extent (DPaW, 2015b), all occurrences of this TEC are considered significant and appropriate management, rehabilitation and monitoring actions are required to ensure that potential impacts are minimised (DPaW, 2015b). The proponent has developed a Themeda Grasslands TEC Procedure for exploration in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, which has been specifically designed to address the rehabilitation and monitoring needs of the TEC. DPaW (2016) advised that the Themeda Grasslands TEC Procedure for exploration takes into account the key recommendations and requirements necessary to manage potential impacts to the Themeda Grasslands. The proponent has also committed to limiting the amount of clearing within the TEC to no more than 4.5 hectares per financial year.

Potential impacts to the TEC as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a TEC management, rehabilitation and monitoring condition, and a staged clearing condition.

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

Methodology DPaW (2015b)
DPaW (2016)
FMGL (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 Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, in which approximately 99.6% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table below) (GIS Database; Government of Western Australia, 2014).

The vegetation within the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation associations 18, 82 and 175 (GIS Database). As the below table illustrates, these vegetation associations are well represented, retaining over 99% of pre-European vegetation within the State and bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2014). Given the amount of vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to represent 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 – Pilbara	17,808,657.06	17,733,583.95	~ 99.6	Least Concern	~ 8.4
Beard veg assoc. - State					
18	19,892,304.78	19,843,727.37	~ 99.8	Least Concern	~ 6.3
82	2,565,901.27	2,553,217.03	~ 99.5	Least Concern	~ 10.5
175	526,957.96	524,640.19	~ 99.6	Least Concern	~4.6
Beard veg assoc. - Bioregion					
18	676,556.73	672,424.33	~ 99.4	Least Concern	~ 17.2
82	2,563,583.23	2,550,898.98	~ 99.5	Least Concern	~ 0.5
175	507,860.18	507,466.82	~ 99.9	Least Concern	~ 4.8

* Government of Western Australia (2014)

** 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 (2014)

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 may be at variance to this Principle

There are several minor non-perennial watercourses mapped within the application area (GIS Database). There is also a major tributary of Weelumurra Creek that intersects the application area (GIS Database).

Access tracks may intersect with the minor non-perennial watercourses mapped within the application area (FMGL, 2015). These drainage lines do not experience surface water flow except following large rainfall events associated with cyclones or tropical depressions. Disturbance to drainage lines is restricted to 4m wide access tracks and as a result there is likely to be minimal disturbance to drainage lines (FMGL, 2015). Potential impacts to watercourses as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse/vegetation management condition.

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

Methodology FMGL (2015)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy)

(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 proposed clearing occurs in areas prone to bull-dusting during the dry season and where waterlogging may occur during the wet season (FMGL, 2015). The proponent will implement ground disturbance procedures and an environmental management plan, in order to reduce the potential for land degradation issues to arise. Potential land degradation issues as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Given the above, and that the proposal involves the clearing of up to 13 hectares of native vegetation within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 8,331 hectares, appreciable land degradation is unlikely to result from the proposed clearing activities.

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

Methodology FMGL (2015)

(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 is not located within a conservation area. The closest conservation area (Karijini National Park) is situated approximately 11 kilometres north-east of the application area (FMGL, 2015; GIS Database). While the vegetation under application is within close proximity to a conservation area, there are large amounts of vegetation remaining in the local area and region, and the proponent has committed to rehabilitating the 13 hectares of vegetation proposed to be cleared following the completion of exploration activities.

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

Methodology FMGL (2015)

GIS Database:
- DPaW 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

A small section (~3.3 hectares) of the application area intersects the Millstream Water Reserve, which is a Priority 2 Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The Millstream Water Reserve has an extent of approximately 264,635 hectares. The proposed clearing of up to 13 hectares within a clearing permit boundary of approximately 8,181 hectares, in an area where extensive amounts of vegetation remains, is unlikely to result in deterioration of the groundwater quality.

Several watercourses are mapped within the application area and minor disruptions, in the form of increased sedimentation loads, may occur as a result of the proposed clearing. Given the relatively small size of the proposed clearing within an arid climate, where watercourses usually flow following large rainfall events, surface water quality is unlikely to be significantly impacted as a result of the proposed clearing.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Imagery
- 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 application area is located in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, which is an arid climate where evaporation far exceeds rainfall, and rainfall events are variable and influenced by cyclones and thunderstorm (BoM, 2015; FMGL, 2015).

This being considered, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in an increased 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)
FMGL (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 (WC1997/089) (GIS Database; DAA, 2016). 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 several Sites of Aboriginal Significance located within, or within close proximity to, the area applied to clear (GIS Database; DAA, 2016). 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 7 September 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology DAA (2016)

GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- BoM (2015) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au> (Accessed November 2015).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, Western Australia < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au> > (Accessed April 2016).
- 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 (2015a) NatureMap, Department of Parks and Wildlife <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>> (Accessed November 2015).
- DPaW (2015b) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6710/1 – Clearing within a Threatened Ecological Community. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Parks and Wildlife Kensington, Western Australia, October 2015 & December 2015.
- DPaW (2016) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6710/1 – Clearing within a Threatened Ecological Community. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Parks and Wildlife Kensington, Western Australia, July 2016.
- ecologia Environment (2014) Fortescue Metals Group Limited, Central Pilbara Project: Mine – Vertebrate Fauna Assessment. Supporting Information for CPS 6710/1. ecologia Environment, West Perth, Western Australia.
- Ecoscape (2012) Central Pilbara Project Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Assessment. *Supporting Information for CPS 6710/1*. Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd, North Fremantle, Western Australia.
- FMGL (2015) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Documentation, Tex Exploration Project. Supporting Information for CPS 6710/1. Fortescue Metals Group Limited, East Perth, Western Australia.
- Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2014. 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.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia

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

Definitions:

{DPaW (2015) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	<p>Threatened species: Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).</p> <p>Threatened fauna is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.</p> <p>Threatened flora is flora that has been declared to be ‘likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection’, pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.</p> <p>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.</p>
CR	<p>Critically endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
EN	<p>Endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
VU	<p>Vulnerable species Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>
EX	<p>Presumed extinct species Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.</p>
IA	<p>Migratory birds protected under an international agreement 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 the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.</p>
CD	<p>Conservation dependent fauna Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna)</p>

Notice.

- OS Other specially protected fauna**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P Priority species**
Species which are poorly known; or
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and 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.