



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6825/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Avoca Mining Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 63/64

Local Government Area: Shire of Dundas

Colloquial name: Mt Henry Mine

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
4.5		Mechanical Removal	Haul Road Construction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 14 January 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. One Beard vegetation association is located within the application area (GIS Database):

3106: Medium woodland; salmon gum & Dundas blackbutt

Clearing Description Mt Henry Mine
Avoca Mining Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 4.5 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of the same size, for the purpose of constructing a haul road. The project is located approximately 19.5 kilometres south of Norseman in the Shire of Dundas.

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

To:

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

Comment The proposed activity involves the upgrade of an access road to the Mt Henry Project Area.

Vegetation condition was derived from a flora and vegetation survey conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2013).

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

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

Comments **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**

The application area is located within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia bioregion (GIS Database). The subregion is characterised by Mallee's, Acacia thickets and shrub-heaths on sandplains (CALM, 2002). Diverse *Eucalyptus* woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges, and in valleys. Salt lakes support dwarf shrublands of samphire. Woodlands and *Dodonaea* shrubland occur on basic granitoides of the Fraser Range. The area is rich in endemic Acacias (CALM, 2002).

Information regarding vegetation communities within the application area was not provided. A fauna study of areas adjacent to the application area identified that, with the exception of granite outcrops, the fauna habitats present within the area are generally widespread in the subregion (Western Wildlife, 2013). A previous vegetation and flora survey identified 53 vascular plant species across the Mt Henry Project Area inclusive of the application area (GHD, 2009).

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) are known to occur within the application area and none occur within a 100 kilometres radius (GIS Database). A Priority Ecological Community (PEC) "*Allocasuarina globosa* assemblages on greenstone rock" is located approximately 3 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). No TECs or PECs were identified within the application area during flora and vegetation surveys (GHD, 2009).

Three Priority 3 and one Priority 2 flora species were identified during a flora survey of the application area (GHD, 2009):

- *Eucalyptus brockwayi* – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW
- *Eremophila purpurascens* – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW
- *Philotheca apiculata* – Priority 2 as listed by DPaW
- *Goodenia laevis* – Priority as listed by DPaW

These Priority species have distributions beyond the Mt Henry Project area (DPaW, 2015a; GHD, 2009; Matiske Consulting, 2013), however the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) have advised that *Eremophila purpurascens* (P3) and *Eucalyptus brockwayi* (P3) have highly restricted distributions around Norseman, largely on live mining tenements (DPaW, 2015a). *Philotheca apiculata* (P2) is only known from a timber reserve with a live mining tenement and based on the limited available information, although this species is known from a broader range, there is the potential for clearing impacts to reduce the known extent of the species. Any impacts on the populations of these four Priority flora species within the application area are potentially significant to the conservation of the species at both the local and regional scale (DPaW, 2015a).

Based on the flora survey data and the number of individuals recorded in the local area, *Goodenia laevis* subsp. *laevis* (P3) may also be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing, as there is a potential for the proportional impacts to be locally significant (DPaW, 2015a).

Whilst not recorded during the flora survey of the application area, the following two priority species may also be present based on surveys undertaken in adjacent areas (Matiske Consulting, 2013):

- *Eucalyptus jimberlanica* – Priority 1 as listed by DPaW
- *Cyathostemon* sp. *Salmon Gums* – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW

Potential impacts to the abovementioned Priority flora species as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a flora management condition.

One introduced flora (weed) species; *Campylopus introflexus*, has been mapped as occurring within the application area (DPaW, 2015b) and several weed species are known to occur in the local area (DPaW, 2015b). 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.

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

Methodology CALM (2002)
DPaW (2015a)
DPaW (2015b)
GHD (2009)
Matiske Consulting (2013)
Western Wildlife (2013)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- 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 may be at variance to this Principle

A targeted fauna survey has not been undertaken over the application area. However, an adjacent fauna survey for the Mt Henry Project was provided (Western Wildlife, 2013). The survey identified one amphibian, 44 reptile, 74 bird and 20 mammal species (Western Wildlife, 2013).

No known conservation significant fauna are thought to exist within the boundaries of the application area (DPaW, 2015b). Field and desktop surveys of the surrounding Mt Henry survey area identified 10 species of conservation significance listed as either threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) 1999 or protected under the WC Act (DPaW 2015b; Western Wildlife, 2013):

- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus* - EPBC Act Marine; Migratory)
- Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos* - EPBC Act Migratory);
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia* - EPBC Act Migratory);

- Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis* - EPBC Act Migratory)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata* - EPBC Act Migratory);
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea* - EPBC Act Migratory);
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi* - EPBC Act Vulnerable, WC Act Vulnerable);
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* – WC Act Schedule 7)
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* - EPBC Act Vulnerable, WC Act Vulnerable)

The Red-necked Stint, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper are all migrants that may occur in low numbers on Lake Dundas and salt pans during the summer months (Western Wildlife, 2013). The Chuditch is likely to be locally extinct, given the lack of nearby records in recent times (Western Wildlife, 2013).

The Rainbow Bee-eater is also a migratory species and is a breeding visitor to the Mt Henry Project area (Western Wildlife, 2013). The Rainbow Bee-eater is a common species that migrates southwards in summer to breed and utilises a range of habitats, but favours lightly wooded areas near water (Western Wildlife, 2013). South of the Tropic of Capricorn, breeding usually occurs between October and December, with the eggs laid in a burrow (Western Wildlife, 2013), although the breeding season extends from August to January (DotE, 2015). The burrow is dug on flat or angled sandy ground, including alongside tracks and roads (Western Wildlife, 2013). Given that the Rainbow Bee-eater has a large range (Western Wildlife, 2013) and taking into account the small scale of clearing proposed, a significant impact to this species as a result of the proposed clearing is considered unlikely.

The Peregrine Falcon is not confined to a specific habitat and can be found everywhere from woodlands to open grasslands and coastal cliffs and therefore is unlikely to be reliant on the vegetation within the application area (Western Wildlife, 2013).

The Mt Henry project area has been thoroughly surveyed for the presence of Malleefowl (Western Wildlife, 2013). Transect surveys identified seven old (at least 25 years or older) Malleefowl mounds within the Mt Henry project area (Western Wildlife, 2013). No active mounds or live animals were observed, however it is not known if any Malleefowl currently utilise the area (Western Wildlife, 2013). Given the small scale of proposed clearing (4.5 hectares) and the presence of a pre-existing road it is unlikely clearing would impact the Malleefowl.

Priority listed fauna species, recognised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife as being of conservation significance, recorded within or within close proximity to the application area include, the Hooded Plover (*Charadrius rubricollis* - P4), Inland Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* - P4), Shy Heathwren (*Hylacola cauta whitlocki* - P4), Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus* - P4) and the Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis* - P4) (DPaW, 2015b, Western Wildlife 2013).

Due to the highly mobile or migratory nature of the above listed Priority fauna species, impacts to these species as a result of the proposed clearing are likely to be negligible.

Local fauna species known from the area, such as the Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota*), Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*) and Shy Heathwren (*Hylacola cauta*) are unlikely to be significantly impacted, as extensive amounts of suitable habitat remains in the local area.

Due to the small scale of clearing (4.5 hectares), the presence of a pre-existing road, and the abundance of habitat in the surrounding area, local fauna species are unlikely to be significantly impacted.

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

Methodology DotE (2015)
DPaW (2015b)
Western Wildlife (2013)

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

Comments Proposal not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No species of Threatened (rare) flora are thought to occur within the application area (GIS Database, 2015; DPaW, 2015b). Only one threatened flora species (*Allocasuarina globosa*) is known to occur within 15 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database, 2015; DPaW, 2015b). *Allocasuarina globosa* was not identified during a flora and vegetation survey over the application area (GHD, 2009).

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

Methodology DPaW (2015b)
GHD (2009)
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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available datasets, there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify the presence of any TECs or communities similar to that of any known TECs (GHD, 2009).

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

Methodology GHD (2009)
GIS Database:

- 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 Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, in which approximately 98% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table below) (GIS Database; Government of Western Australia, 2014).

One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database). As the below table illustrates, it is well represented retaining at least 98% 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 – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~ 98	Least Concern	~ 15.9
Beard veg assoc. - State					
3106	52,660.80	51,602.81	~ 98	Least Concern	~ 7.6
Beard veg assoc. - Bioregion					
3106	52,659.62	51,601.68	~ 98	Least Concern	~ 7.6

* 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Drainage lines are present within the vicinity of the application area (GHD, 2009). These drainage lines are ephemeral, flowing only after major rainfall events (GHD, 2009). The drainage lines tend to drain eastwards towards Lake Dundas (GHD, 2009). According to GIS mapping systems, Lake Dundas has an extent of approximately 6,886 hectares and other large salt lakes are common to the local area and region (GIS Database). Lake Dundas is not listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DoTE, 2015).

Given the small scale of clearing (4.5 hectares) and the presence of a pre-existing road, potential impacts on surrounding watercourses and riparian vegetation is unlikely.

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

Methodology DotE (2015)
GHD (2009)
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Mariana Partners recorded soil textures ranging from sandy loams to sandy clay loams within the application area (GHD, 2009). The terrain is relatively flat (GIS Database) however some short-term erosion may occur from clearing (GHD, 2009). Given the small scale of clearing (4.5 hectares) and the presence of an existing road, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology GHD (2009)
GIS Database (2015)
- Terrain
- Soils, statewide

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is not located within or adjacent to any conservation areas (GIS Database). An un-named timber reserve is located approximately 3 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). This reserve is vested with the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The closest conservation area (Dundas Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 16 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database).

Given that the local area is well vegetated, with large amounts of intact native vegetation remaining, the small scale of proposed clearing (4.5 hectares) is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

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

Methodology 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

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database).

Minor drainage lines present within the vicinity of the application area are likely to flow after significant rainfall events (GHD, 2009). Increased sedimentation may result from the proposed clearing activities. Due to the relatively small area to be cleared (4.5 hectares) potential impacts to surface water quality are considered to be very minimal.

The application area has a groundwater salinity that is brackish to saline (14000 – 35000 milligrams /Litre Total Dissolved solids) (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of up to 4.5 hectares of native vegetation within an area that has extensive amounts of vegetation remaining, is unlikely to result in any significant impacts to groundwater quality.

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
- 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 Coolgardie region has an arid to semi-arid climate, with a mean rainfall of approximately 300 millimetres, falling predominantly in the winter months, with evaporation far exceeding rainfall (CALM, 2002; BoM, 2015).

The proposed clearing is located within the Balladonia Catchment which has an area of approximately 3,481,034 hectares (GIS Database). Given the small amount of clearing (4.5 hectares), proximity to Lake Dundas, 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.

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

Methodology BoM (2015)
CALM (2002)
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 are no native title claims over the application area (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 Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (DAA, 2015). 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 23 November 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology DAA (2015)

4. References

- BoM (2015) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. <<http://www.bom.gov.au>>.
- 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, Western Australia < <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au>>.
- DAFWA (2015) Land degradation advice for CPS 6823/1. Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, South Perth, Western Australia.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- DotE (2015) *Merops ornatus* in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra. < <http://www.environment.gov.au>>.
- DPaW (2015a) Flora Advice for CPS 6823/1 & CPS 6824/1 (adjacent applications). Department of Parks and Wildlife, Species and Communities Branch, Kensington, Western Australia.
- DPaW (2015b) NatureMap, Department of Parks and Wildlife <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>>.
- 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.
- GHD (2009) Mastsa Resources Limited, Proposed Small Scale Mining Operation and Access Road Upgrades, Clearing Permit Applications – Supporting Documentation, December 2009.
- 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 Consulting (2013) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Mt Henry Survey Area. Supporting Information for CPS 6823/1. Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd. Kalamunda, Western Australia.
- Western Wildlife (2013) Mt Henry Area Baseline Fauna Survey: Level 2 Fauna Survey 2012 & 2013 – Final Report. Supporting Information for CPS 6823/1. Western Wildlife, Mahogany Creek, Western Australia.

1. 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	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). 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. 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. 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. 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.
EN	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.
VU	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.
EX	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.

- IA 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) 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.

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.