



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6869/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Westralian Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 70/1164
Mining Lease 70/1190

Local Government Area: Shire of Morawa

Colloquial name: Koolanooka South

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 19 May 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 and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. The following two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

693: Mosaic: Low woodland: *Allocasuarina huegeliana* over mallee and Acacia scrub / *Allocasuarina campestris*;
1155: Mosaic: Medium woodland: York gum / Shrublands; *Allocasuarina campestris* thicket.

The greater Koolanooka South Magnetite Project was surveyed by Ecologia in September 2013 and October 2014. The following vegetation units were identified within the application area (Ecologia, 2015):

AaAaAnn: *Acacia acuminata* open shrubland;

AaPoAe: Acacia sparse shrubland;

AaGpHe: *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* open woodland;

AcAahAcc: *Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia* open shrubland;

EeAaEc: *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* sparse woodland; and

AaAaMn: Melaleuca sparse shrubland.

Clearing Description Koolanooka South Project.
Westralian Iron Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 0.387 hectares of native vegetation within a total area of approximately 0.387 hectares for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 23 kilometres north of Perenjori, in the Shire of Morawa.

Vegetation Condition Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);

to

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Comment The vegetation condition was assessed by botanists from Ecologia (2015). Rainfall in the month preceding both phases of the flora survey was higher than the long term average (Ecologia, 2015).

The application area consists of five individual polygons ranging in size from approximately 0.23 hectares to 0.018 hectares.

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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation survey of the application area identified six different vegetation associations within the application area (Ecologia, 2015). The proposed clearing is situated in areas that have been previously cleared for mineral exploration activities and have since been rehabilitated (GIS Database). All of the vegetation units within the application area are representative of the 'Plant Assemblages of the Koolanooka System' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (Ecologia, 2015; GIS Database). The TEC supports a large number of endemic or near endemic flora species. Whilst the proposed clearing of 0.387 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on the TEC, it does contribute to the cumulative impacts on the TEC that result in a decline in condition as a result of weed introduction and spread, altered hydrology and soil degradation (DPaW, 2016). Potential impacts on biodiversity may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The flora survey of the greater Koolanooka South Magnetite Project recorded a total of 325 plant taxa from 164 families and 59 genera (Ecologia, 2015). The species richness of quadrats varied across the survey from nine to 43 species, with an average of 15 species across all quadrats (Ecologia, 2015). The richness of species within the application area is likely to be at the lower end of the range given the previous disturbance within the application area.

There were 15 species of Priority flora recorded within the larger flora survey, of which four species were located within the application area; *Acacia muriculata*, *Dodonaea scurra*, *Lepidosperma* sp. Koolanooka and *Caesia* sp. Koolanooka Hills (Ecologia, 2015). All of these flora species are listed as Priority 1 (Western Australian Herbarium, 2016). The numbers of individuals of each species recorded during the flora survey ranged from 2,548 (*Caesia* sp. Koolanooka Hills) to 45,993 (*Lepidosperma* sp. Koolanooka). Excluding *Dodonaea scurra*, the remaining species are thought to be endemic to the Koolanooka Range (Ecologia, 2015). The following numbers of individuals were recorded within the application area:

Acacia muriculata – Three individuals
Dodonaea scurra – 13 individuals
Lepidosperma sp. Koolanooka – Six individuals
Caesia sp. Koolanooka Hills – Four individuals

Advice from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) (2016) indicates that the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the local populations of these species.

Given the small size of the application area (0.387 hectares) and the previous disturbances, the application area is not likely to support a high level of faunal species diversity.

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

Methodology DPaW (2016)
Ecologia (2015)
Western Australian Herbarium (2016)

GIS Database:
- Imagery
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
A fauna survey of the greater Koolanooka South project area identified the following three fauna habitats within the application area (Biologic, 2014):

- Acacia shrublands on undulating plains
- Crest/slope
- Rocky gully

The vegetation in the Acacia shrublands on undulating plains habitat is sparse and open (Biologic, 2014). This habitat was present in the north of the application area. The Crest/slope habitat is topographically complex and contains scattered small rocky outcrops and shallow drainage lines that traverse the habitat (Biologic, 2014). This was the most common habitat within the application area.

The rocky gullies have the potential to contain caves and rock pools. The vegetation can be dense and complex in areas of soil deposition or sparse and simple where erosion has occurred (Biologic, 2014). There is a small portion of this habitat in the south of the application area. This habitat was considered to be of importance as it provides potential habitat for several conservation significant fauna species (Biologic, 2014). This area of habitat within the application area has been previously disturbed by mineral exploration activities and it is not likely to be significant compared with the uncleared habitat in the surrounding area (GIS

Database).

The Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Vulnerable) is known to occur in the surrounding areas. The fauna survey recorded a total of 44 Malleefowl mounds (Biologic, 2014). Of these mounds eight were considered to be recently active and the others ranged in age from moderately old to ancient (Biologic, 2014). None of the mounds were located within the application area (Biologic, 2014). The application area does contain habitat suitable for breeding and foraging (Biologic, 2014).

The application area is situated within a large remnant of vegetation (over 3,000 hectares) that is surrounded by cleared agricultural land which is therefore important in the landscape (GIS Database). However, the proposed clearing of 0.387 hectares across five separate areas is not likely to impact on the fauna habitat value of this remnant. The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on fauna habitat in the local area.

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

Methodology Biologic (2014)

GIS Database:
- Imagery

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

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

According to available databases, there are no records of any Threatened flora species within the application area (GIS Database). There are several Threatened flora species that are known to occur within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The flora survey did not record any Threatened flora species within the application area (Ecologia, 2015).

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

Methodology Ecologia (2015)

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 located within the 'Plant Assemblages of the Koolanooka System' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (Ecologica, 2015; GIS Database). The TEC is comprised of a series of plant communities found on the Koolanooka Hills, its footslopes and the Perenjori Hills (CALM, 2000). All of the vegetation units within the application area are considered to represent elements of this TEC (Ecologia, 2015). The impact to each vegetation unit ranges from 0.191 hectares of the AaAaMn unit to 0.002 hectares of the AaPoAe unit (Westralian Iron Pty Ltd, 2015). The proposed clearing is situated in areas that have been previously cleared for mineral exploration activities and have since been rehabilitated (GIS Database). Whilst the proposed clearing will impact the TEC, the amount of clearing is relatively small (0.387 hectares) and is not located in undisturbed areas of the TEC. However, this should not be considered in isolation, as cumulative impacts on the TEC all contribute towards the continued decline of the condition of the TEC (DPaW, 2016). The proposed clearing itself is not likely to significantly impact on the maintenance of the TEC.

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

Methodology CALM (2000)
DPaW (2016)
Ecologia (2015)
Westralian Iron Pty Ltd (2015)

GIS Database:
- Imagery
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities

(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 falls within the Avon Wheatbelt Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 18.55% of the pre-European vegetation remains (see table) (Government of Western Australia, 2014; GIS Database).

The vegetation of the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation associations 693 and 1155. Beard vegetation association 693 is still well represented with over 70% remaining at a state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2014). Whilst this vegetation association has over 70% remaining, there is only approximately 3,000 hectares remaining (see table) and it is restricted to the Koolanooka Hills area (GIS Database). There is none of this vegetation association within conservation reserves (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

Beard vegetation association 1155 is considered to be depleted with under 40% remaining (see table below) (Government of Western Australia, 2014). Similar to vegetation association 693, this vegetation association has approximately 3,000 hectares remaining and is restricted to the Koolanooka Hills area (Government of Western Australia, 2014; GIS Database). Less than 10% of the application area has been mapped as this vegetation association (GIS Database).

Whilst both of these vegetation associations are vulnerable to impacts from clearing, the proposed clearing of 0.387 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on their existence.

The Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion and Merriden subregion are both below 20% and have been extensively cleared. Aerial imagery indicates that the local area has been extensively cleared for agriculture and the application area lies within a large remnant of vegetation (over 3,000 hectares) (GIS Database). Whilst the application area is within an area that has been extensively cleared, it is not a significant remnant and the proposed clearing of 0.387 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on the remnant in which it is located.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Lands (and post clearing %)
IBRA Bioregion – Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109	1,443,690	~15.17	Vulnerable	1.75 (7.76)
IBRA Subregion – Merriden	6,524,190	1,168,614	~17.91	Vulnerable	1.82 (6.93)
Local Government – Shire of Morawa	351,033	106,147	~30.24	Depleted	0.62 (2)
Beard veg assoc. – State					
693	4,396	3,157	~71.8	Least Concern	0 (0)
1155	7,812	3,105	~39.7	Depleted	0 (0)
Beard veg assoc. – Bioregion					
693	4,396	3,157	~71.8	Least Concern	0 (0)
1155	7,812	3,105	~39.7	Depleted	0 (0)
Beard veg assoc. – Subregion					
693	4,396	3,157	~71.8	Least Concern	0 (0)
1155	7,812	3,105	~39.7	Depleted	0 (0)

* 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 Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). None of the vegetation units identified during the flora survey are associated with a watercourse (Ecologia, 2015).

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

Methodology Ecologia (2015)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

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

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

The soils within the application area have been described as ranges and their slopes on granites, gneisses, and allied rocks: chief soils seem to be ironstone gravels with earthy and sandy matrices (Northcote et al., 1960-68; GIS Database). These soil types are said to be moderately permeable and have a low to moderate wind erodability (Schoknecht, 2002). Therefore, the likelihood of erosion during normal rainfall events is low. Given the small scale of the proposed clearing (0.387 hectares), it is not likely to contribute to appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology Northcote et al. (1960 - 68)

Schoknecht (2002)

GIS Database:

- Soils, Statewide

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

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

The closest conservation area to the application area is the ex Kadji Kadji lease which is located approximately 9.2 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance to this area and the small scale of the proposed clearing (0.387 hectares), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on this conservation area or any ecological linkages between conservation areas in the local area (GIS Database).

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

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). The average annual rainfall is 285.3 millimetres and the average annual evaporation rate is 2,800 millimetres (BoM, 2015; GIS Database). During normal rainfall events it would be expected that any surface water would evaporate quickly.

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity within the application area is between 7,000 and 14,000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). This is considered to be saline. Given the small scale of the clearing (0.387 hectares), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause the groundwater quality to deteriorate any further.

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

Methodology BoM (2015)

GIS Database:

- Evaporation Isopleths

- Hydrography, linear

- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs)

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

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

There are no watercourses within the application area (GIS Database). Given the proposed clearing is for a number of small areas (no greater than 0.23 hectares) surrounded by existing vegetation, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase or exacerbate flooding in the local area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one Native Title Claim (WC2004/002) over the area under application (Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2016). 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 is one registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2016). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 December 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology Department of Aboriginal Affairs (2016)

4. References

- Biologic (2014) Targeted Level 2 Survey for Vertebrate Fauna at Koolanooka South. Report prepared for Westralian Iron Pty Ltd, by Biologic, June 2014.
- BoM (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website - Climate Data Online, Newman Aero. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_008296.shtml. (Accessed 29 February 2016).
- CALM (2000) Plant Assemblages of the Koolanooka System, Interim Recovery Plan 2000-2003. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia, December 2000.
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/> (Accessed on 2 May 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 (2016) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6869/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia, April 2016.
- Ecologia (2015) Koolanooka South Magnetite Project Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Report prepared for Westralian Iron Pty Ltd, by Ecologia, January 2015.
- Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2014. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Schoknecht (2002) Soil Groups of Western Australia. A simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia. Resource Management Technical Report 246. Edition 3.
- Western Australian Herbarium (2016) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 5 March 2016).
- Westralian Iron Pty Ltd (2015) Koolanooka South NVCP Supporting Information. Report prepared by Westralian Iron Pty Ltd, December 2015.

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	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.