



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7009/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Leases: 47/283, 47/284, 47/289, 47/290, 47/291;
Miscellaneous Licences: 45/129, 45/130, 45/131, 45/132, 45/133, 45/134, 45/135, 45/136, 45/147, 45/190, 45/194, 47/92, 47/95;
Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML 70/244);
Iron Ore (Marillana Creek) Agreement Act 1991, Mining Lease 270SA (AM 70/270);
Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations Lease 3116/6038, Document I123402L, Lot 135 on Deposited Plan 48926, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/3690, Document I123403L, Lot 6254 on Deposited Plan 035659;
Lease 3116/6301, Document I123595L, Lot 48 on Deposited Plan 048928, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/6300, Document I123596L, Lot 143 on Deposited Plan 048927, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/6298, Document I123599L, Lot 141 on Deposited Plan 048923, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/6400, Document I123701L, Lots 86, 87 on Deposited Plan 213620;
Lease 3116/6329, Document I123720L, Lot 49 on Deposited Plan 048931, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/6068, Document I150309L, Lot 136 on Deposited Plan 048924;
Lease 3116/6297, Document 150310L, Lot 140 on Deposited Plan 048922, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/4028, N105667L, Lot 92 on Deposited Plan 60351, Lot 93 on Deposited Plan 60352, Lot 94 on Deposited Plan 60707, Lot 95 on Deposited Plan 60708, Lot 96 on Deposited Plan 60709, Lot 24 on Deposited Plan 60348, Lot 25 on Deposited Plan 60349, Lot 26 on Deposited Plan 60350;
Lease 3116/3687, Document I154279L, Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 048920, Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 048921;
Lease 3116/6299, Document I163678L, Lot 142 on Deposited Plan 048925, F 963074 EL;
Lease 3116/3684, N88235L, Lot 351 on Deposited Plan 74327;
Iron Ore (Marillana Creek) Agreement Act 1991 pursuant to *Land Administration Act 1997*, K843924L, Lots 145 on Deposited Plan 243202, 146 on Deposited Plan 243202 and 243203, 147 on Deposited Plan 243202, 149 on 243203, 150 on Deposited Plan 243203, 155 on Deposited Plan 220067, 156 on Deposited Plan 194001, 220 on Deposited Plan 243202; K843925L, Lot 148 on Deposited Plan 93544;
Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations, Lease 3116/5999, Document I126342L, Lot 125 on Deposited Plan 219861, M653978L pursuant to *Land Administration Act 1997*, Lots 321, 322, 323,324, 325 on Deposited Plan 74344

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton, Shire of East Pilbara, Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name: Newman Mainline Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2,928		Mechanical Removal	Railway construction, maintenance and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 22 July 2021

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The existing permit area (CPS 7009/2) covers BHP's existing Newman to Port Hedland railway corridor (approximately 400 kilometres) and some additional spur lines to other BHP minesites.

The vegetation of the existing permit area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*);
- 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups;
- 43: Low forest; mangroves (Kimberley) or thicket; mangroves (Pilbara);

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;
93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex;
111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over hard spinifex;
117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex;
127: Bare areas; mud flats;
157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana*;
173: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex and *Triodia wiseana* on basalt;
175: Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara);
216: Low woodland; mulga (with spinifex) on rises;
562: Mosaic: Low woodland; mulga in valleys / Hummock grasslands, open low tree-steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;
589: Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex;
619: Medium woodland; river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*);
647: Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; *Acacia translucens* over soft spinifex; and
676: Succulent steppe; samphire (GIS Database).

Numerous flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken over the existing permit area (CPS 7009/2), and vegetation associations recorded in these previous surveys are detailed in previous versions of the decision report.

The amendment application area occurs at the northern end of the existing permit area, and is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 43: Low forest; mangroves (Kimberley) or thicket; mangroves (Pilbara) (GIS Database).

GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) conducted a flora and vegetation survey over the amendment application area on 4-5 May 2020 (GHD, 2020). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the amendment application area (BHP, 2020; GHD, 2020):

Saline Flat and Marsh: Low open forest of *Avicennia marina* (mangrove) on dark grey clay with some sand patches on tidal saline flats influenced by tidal inundation. Does have tidal inundation in very high tides, however, influenced by road and rail line infrastructure.

Embankment on track/rail line verge: Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia pyrifolia* and *Acacia colei* over **Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass), *Eragrostis falcata* and *Eragrostis eriopoda* open tussock grasses over mixed herbs on embankment soil/large boulders and gravel. Other associated species include *Cleome viscosa*, **Aerva javanica*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Bonamia media*.

* denotes weed species

Clearing Description	Newman Mainline Project. BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP) proposes to clear up to 2,928 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 14,407 hectares, for the purposes of railway construction, maintenance and associated activities. The project is located between Port Hedland and Newman, passing through the Shires of Ashburton and East Pilbara, and the Town of Port Hedland.
Vegetation Condition	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To: Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The existing permit authorises clearing for the construction and maintenance of the Newman mainline railway, which runs from Newman to Port Hedland (approximately 400 kilometres) and includes some additional spur lines to other BHP minesites. Clearing permit CPS 7009/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 21 July 2016 and was valid from 13 August 2016 to 30 November 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 2,928 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 14,363 hectares, for the purposes of railway construction, maintenance and associated activities. CPS 7009/2 was granted on 8 August 2019, amending the permit to increase the permit boundary by 41.8 hectares and removing Condition 5 from the Permit as the area it related to was excised from the permit. The area approved to clear remained unchanged. On 22 October 2020, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 7009/2 to increase the permit boundary by 1.84 hectares, extend the permit duration and the period in which clearing is authorised, and change the company name to BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd. The amount of clearing authorised (2,928 hectares) is to remain unchanged.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The Permit Holder has applied to amend the permit to increase the permit boundary by approximately 1.84 hectares, extend the period in which clearing is authorised by four years and change the Permit Holder name to BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd. There is no change to the area of clearing proposed (2,928 hectares) (BHP, 2020).

The existing permit area covers BHP's mainline railway line which runs from Newman to Port Hedland, with some additional spur lines, and is used to transport iron ore from various BHP minesites to the port for export (BHP, 2020). The amendment area is located immediately adjacent to the existing permit area, on Finucane Island, adjacent to the railway line and in close proximity to the existing port facilities (BHP, 2020; GIS Database). The amendment area runs along the western side of the existing railway line and is approximately 0.9 kilometres long and approximately 36 metres wide at the widest point (GIS Database). The additional area is required for ongoing maintenance of the existing railway line and rail embankment, and the construction of a wind fence to improve dust control at the port (BHP, 2020).

The existing permit area is located within the Pilbara Bioregion, with the rail corridor passing through all four of the Pilbara subregions, from Port Hedland to Newman. The amendment area is located at the northern end of the railway corridor on Finucane Island, within the Roebourne subregion of the Pilbara Bioregion, of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The Roebourne subregion is broadly described as quaternary alluvial and older colluvial coastal and subcoastal plains, supporting a grassland of mixed bunch and hummock grasses, and dwarf shrub steppe of *Acacia stellaticeps* or *A. pyrifolia* and *A. inaequilatera*. Islands are either Quaternary sand accumulations, or composed of basalt or limestone, or combinations of any of these three, and mangroves may occur on marine alluvial flats near the coastline (CALM, 2002).

The amendment application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 43: Low forest; mangroves (Kimberley) or thicket; mangroves (Pilbara); which is consistent with adjacent parts of the existing permit area (GIS Database). This vegetation association retains approximately 84% to 86% of pre-European extent in the state, bioregion and subregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Hence, the additional vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

GHD (2020) conducted a reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey over the amendment application area during May 2020. A total of 42 native flora taxa, were recorded within the survey area (GHD, 2020). No Threatened or Priority flora, or Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the amendment application area (GIS Database), and none were found during the flora and vegetation survey (BHP, 2020; GHD, 2020). Approximately 1.3 hectares of the amendment area has been previously cleared for the railway embankment, and contains regrowth vegetation, with the remaining 0.54 hectares comprising remnant native vegetation described as mangrove on saline flat and marsh (BHP, 2020; GHD, 2020). The amendment area is located immediately adjacent to existing areas of disturbance including the railway embankment and a road, and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity in a comparison to nearby undisturbed areas.

The 1.84 hectare amendment application area includes approximately 0.54 hectares of mangrove vegetation (BHP, 2020; GIS Database). The mangrove species found in Western Australia are common and widespread in other parts of Australia (EPA, 2001). However, mangroves are considered an important part of a coastal ecosystem, providing nutrient rich habitats for fish and important habitat for other marine and terrestrial fauna including birds (EPA, 2001). EPA Guidance Statement No. 1 - Guidance Statement for Protection of Tropical Arid Zone Mangroves along the Pilbara Coastline (EPA, 2001) classified the Pilbara mangrove communities into four categories for the purposes of environmental management. The mangrove communities of the Port Hedland area were classified as "other mangrove areas, inside designated industrial areas and associated port areas" (EPA, 2001). This category of the Pilbara mangroves is assigned the lowest priority for protection due to the significant disturbance from existing industrial development. EPA (2001) recommends that impacts on mangroves, habitats and dependent habitats from development within these areas should be kept to a minimum practical level (EPA, 2001).

The mangrove vegetation within the amendment application area is largely intact, however areas of previous disturbance including the adjacent railway embankment to the east and nearby road to the west has reduced water movement through the area (GHD, 2020). The proponent has advised that the clearing of mangrove vegetation will be minimised, and avoided wherever possible (BHP, 2020). The proposed clearing within the amendment area will predominantly occur within regrowth vegetation along the existing rail formation. Small areas of clearing within the mangrove vegetation association will be required to establish footings for the wind fence poles, and for ongoing maintenance of the rail formation and the wind fence (BHP, 2020). The wind fence poles will be located immediately adjacent to the existing railway formation, minimising impacts to the mangrove habitat (BHP, 2020). A condition imposed on the amended permit restricts clearing within the mangrove vegetation association to the purposes of maintenance of the existing rail formation, and the installation and maintenance of the wind fence.

Five weed species were recorded within the amendment area, one of which (*Coccinia grandis*) is listed as a declared pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (GHD, 2020). Weeds have the potential to out-compete native flora species and reduce the biodiversity of an area, and care should be taken to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds in the application area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of the existing weed management condition on the permit.

Two fauna habitat types were recorded within the amendment area:

- mangrove low forest on saline flats and marsh; and
- mixed *Acacia* shrubland on the rail embankment (GHD, 2020).

Thirty nine fauna species were recorded within the survey area, comprising 35 bird species and four reptile

species (GHD, 2020). Substantial areas of similar or better habitat occur in surrounding areas, and none of the fauna species recorded are likely to be specifically dependant on the amendment application area (BHP, 2020; GHD, 2020; GIS Database).

Two conservation significant fauna species were recorded during the fauna survey, Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*), and Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (GHD, 2020), both of which are wide-ranging migratory bird species. The proposed additional clearing is unlikely to impact the conservation status of any fauna species.

The amendment area occurs partly within mangrove vegetation which is subject to tidal inundation. There are no watercourses within the amendment application area, and there are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas in the vicinity of the project area (BHP, 2020; GIS Database). Clearing within the small additional area is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation, or have significant additional impacts on surface or groundwater quality, or natural tidal movements.

The amendment application area is not within or in close proximity to any conservation areas (GIS Database), and the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any impact on any conservation area.

The vegetation associations, landforms, and fauna habitat types occurring within the amendment area are similar to those occurring within the previously approved permit areas, and are well represented in the region (BHP, 2020; GIS Database). The small extension to the permit boundary (1.84 hectares) is unlikely to result in any significant additional environmental impacts.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in previous versions of the decision report.

Methodology BHP (2020)
CALM (2002)
EPA (2001)
GHD (2020)
Government of Western Australia (2019)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

The amendment application was advertised on 16 November 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application, raising concerns regarding potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

There are several registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the existing permit area, which covers the Newman mainline railway line running from Newman to Port Hedland (approximately 400 kilometres) and some additional spur lines (DPLH, 2021). There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance located within the 1.84 hectare amendment application area. 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.

There are several native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2021). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. 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*.

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

Methodology DPLH (2021)

4. References

- BHP (2020) BHP Billiton Iron Ore Mining Operations: Amendment to CPS 7009/2. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, October 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPLH (2021) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 8 July 2021).
- EPA (2001) Guidance Statement No.1: Guidance for Protection of Tropical Arid Zone Mangroves along the Pilbara Coastline. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- GHD (2020) Windfence Flora and Fauna Assessment. Level 1 Fauna and Reconnaissance Flora Survey. Report prepared for BHP Western Australian Iron Ore, by GHD Pty Ltd, September 2020.
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- 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:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

T Threatened species:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extinct Species:

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

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

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

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

Specially protected species:

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

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

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

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

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

- CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).
Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.
- OS Other specially protected species**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).
Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.
- P Priority species:**
- Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.
- Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.
- Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened 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 the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.