

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7012/1
Permit type: Purpose

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: GBF Number 3 Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 15/497
Mining Lease 15/498

Local Government Area: Shire of Coolgardie.

Colloquial name: Paris Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of: 40 Mechanical Removal Mineral production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
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

The application area has been mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:

502: Medium woodland; goldfields blackbutt & red mallee.

A Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the application area was undertaken by Botanica Consulting (Botanica) (2016) on 18 February 2016. The flora survey identified the following three vegetation community types in the application area:

- Low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia over mid-dense scrub of Atriplex vesicaria on clay-loam plains,
- 2. Low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ E. lesouefii/ E. salubris over mid-dense scrub of Atriplex vesicaria on clay-loam plain,
- 3. Low woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ E. lesouefii/ E. salubris over mid-dense scrub of Atriplex vesicaria on rocky rise.

Clearing Description Paris Project

GBF Number 3 Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 319.36 hectares for the purposes of mineral production. The project is located approximately 50 kilometres south-east of Kambalda in the Shire of Coolgardie.

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

Parts of the application area (approximately 20 hectares) have been previously cleared for mining purposes or for the provision of access roads (Botanica, 2016).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments Prop

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is located within the Eastern Goldfield sub-region of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The Eastern Goldfield subregion is characterised by subdued relief and consists of undulating plains, low hills and ridges of Archaean greenstones and basic granulite. Calcareous earths are the dominant soil group. The vegetation of the bioregion includes Mallees, Acacia thickets and shrub-heaths on sandplains (CALM, 2002).

The flora and vegetation survey undertaken by Botanica (2016), identified no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) and no Priority Ecological Communities (PEC's) occurring within the application area. The flora and vegetation survey identified three vegetation community types within the application area (Botanica, 2016). A total of 74 species (and two introduced species) from 35 genera and 21 families were recorded during

the flora survey. No species of Threatened flora or Priority flora were recorded during the flora survey (Botanica, 2016).

Areas with the application area have been previously disturbed by past mining operations and contain areas cleared for access roads (Botanica, 2016). The vegetation of the application area is in good condition. Part of the application area also contains approximately 20 hectares of previously cleared vegetation (Botanica, 2016). Two introduced (weed) species were recorded during the flora survey (Botanica, 2016). Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

A search of the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW's) NatureMap database revealed records of 47 fauna species including 34 bird, five invertebrate, three mammal and four reptile species within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DPaW, 2016b). Botanica (2016) completed a desktop fauna assessment of conservation fauna species potentially occurring within the application area. Botanica (2016) report a low probability of conservation significant species being present in the application area as the habitat is not suitable or large areas of suitable habitat are located nearby. The fauna assessment reports no fauna habitat in the application area is critical to the survival of conservation significant fauna species (Botanica, 2016).

A small proportion of the vegetation of the application area has been previously disturbed and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is well represented in the surrounding area (Government of Western Australia, 2014; GIS Database). It is unlikely the proposal will result in the clearing of native vegetation that has high biodiversity values.

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

Methodology

Botanica (2016) CALM (2002) DPaW (2016b)

Government of Western Australia (2014)

GIS Database:

- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- TEC/PEC Boundaries
- TEC/PEC Buffer

(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 Level 1 fauna survey was conducted over the application area. Based on the results of this survey the following three broad habitat types have been identified in the application area (Botanica, 2016):

- 1. Clay-Loam Plain (Low Woodlands of *E. salmonophloia*);
- 2. Clay-Loam Plain (Low Woodlands of E. salmonophloia / E. lesouefii / E. salubris);
- 3. Rocky Hillslope (Low Woodlands of E. salmonophloia / E. lesouefii / E. salubris).

The most widespread fauna habitat type of the application area was clay-loam plain (Low Woodlands of *E. salmonophloia / E. lesouefii / E. salubris*) and the least widespread fauna habitat was rocky hillslope (Botanica, 2016). No Threatened fauna were recorded in the application area as part of the fauna survey (Botanica, 2016).

A search of available biological databases was undertaken and no Threatened fauna have been recorded in the application area (GIS Database). A desktop survey of fauna species potentially occurring in the region was undertaken prior to the fauna survey (Botanica, 2016). The desktop survey recorded nine fauna species of conservation significance potentially occurring within the application area. The majority of these conservation fauna species were migratory bird species and include the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops omatus*), Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus pacificus*), Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*) and Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis coromanda*) (Botanica, 2016). In addition to these species, the following conservation significant bird species were recorded as potentially occurring in the application area; the Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis* – Threatened) and the Hooded Plover (Western) (*Charadrius rubricollis* – Priority 4) (Botanica, 2016). Habitat for conservation significant bird species was not present in the application area (Botanica, 2016).

The desktop fauna survey also reported the potential for the Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura* – Conservation Dependent) and Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Threatened) to occur in the application area (Botanica, 2016). Botanica (2016) reported it is unlikely that Red-tailed Phascogale individuals would occur as the application area is outside of the species known range. It is also unlikely that Malleefowl individuals would occur as the application area does not contain significant habitat for these species (Botanica, 2016). Malleefowl prefer dense, variable, shrubby understorey vegetation and an abundance of leaf litter of which none occurs in

the application area. None of these species were recorded during the fauna survey (Botanica, 2016).

While suitable habitat is located in the application area for migratory bird species, none of the species are dependent on the area and large areas of preferred habitat are located in surrounding areas (Botanica, 2016). Botanica (2016) consider it is possible that these migratory bird species may utilise the application area on very rare occasions. All of the migratory bird species recorded require access to permanent watercourses, coastal or wetland habitats of which none occurs in the application area (DotE, 2015; DotE 2016). The migratory bird species reported are also highly mobile and widely distributed around Australia, therefore the application area is not considered to be significant habitat for the species (DotE, 2015, Dote, 2016). Habitat for conservation significant bird species was not present in the application area (Botanica, 2016). For these reasons, no impact is expected on these migratory bird species (Botanica, 2016).

None of the habitat types are considered to be core habitats for any of the fauna species and none of the species would rely solely on the area (Botanica, 2016). Therefore, it is unlikely that the habitat is significant for these fauna species.

The area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant habitat for fauna species indigenous to Western Australia

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

Methodology Botanica (2016)

GIS Database:

- Threatened Fauna

(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

A search of available databases was undertaken and no Threatened flora were located in the application area (GIS Database). A flora survey was also undertaken by Botanica (2016) which did not record species of Threatened flora in the application area. The native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to contain or is not necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

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

Methodology Botanica (2016)

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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) occurring within or near the application area (GIS Database). Botanica (2016) reported no vegetation communities considered to be a TEC within or near the application area as a result of the flora survey.

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

Methodology Botanica (2016)

GIS Database:

- TEC/PEC Boundaries
- TEC/PEC Buffers

(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 Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 97.96% of the pre-European vegetation remains in Western Australia (refer to table below) (Government of Western Australia, 2014; GIS Database).

The native vegetation located in the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 502; Medium woodland; goldfields blackbutt and red mallee (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 99% remains at both State and bioregional levels (refer to table) (Government of Western Australia, 2014). Vegetation association 502 has not been extensively cleared in the Coolgardie bioregion and the vegetation conservation status is considered to be of least concern (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002). The area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared (GIS Database).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in All DPaW Managed Land
IBRA Bioregion – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~ 97.96	Least Concern	15.89
Beard veg assoc. – State					
502	46,196.11	46,004.20	~99.58	Least Concern	15.01
Beard veg assoc. – Bioregion					
502	32,795.16	32,737.13	~ 99.82	Least Concern	0.00

^{*} Government of Western Australia (2014).

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 Sub Regions)
- 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 at variance to this Principle

There are no permanent watercourses or water bodies mapped within the application area (GIS Database). Three minor, ephemeral watercourses are located in the northern portion of the application area (GIS Database). Botanica (2016) reported an intermittent stream located approximately 250 metres north-east of the application area which drains south towards Lake Cowan.

The application area supports riparian vegetation that is growing in, or in association with the three ephemeral watercourses including the flora species; *Atriplex versicaria*, *Maireana pyramidata*, *Maireana tomentosa* subsp. *tomentosa*, *Maireana trichoptera*, *Maireana triptera*, *Rhagodia drummondii*, *Rhagodia eremaea*, *Sclerolaena parviflora*, *Tecticomia disarticulata*, *Frankenia setosa* and *Erodium cygnorum* (DPaW, 2016a). These species occur in salt lakes, salt pans, saline flats, floodplains, samphire flats, rivers or creeks (DPaW, 2016a). These riparian flora species occur in the three vegetation community types which are growing in association with drainage lines in the application area (Botanica, 2016). The potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management condition.

Whilst the proposed clearing will remove riparian vegetation, it is not likely to significantly impact the ecological or hydrological functions of drainage line habitat located in the application area or Lake Cowan (GIS Database). The proposed clearing will not have a detrimental impact on vegetation associations located in the

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

Methodology

Botanica (2016) DPaW (2016a)

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

Northcote, et al. (1960-68) describe soils in the application area as shallow, calcareous, loamy soils and yellow, earthy sands with shallow, brown to grey-brown calcareous earths to alkaline red earths with limestone on gently undulating valley plains and pediments (Botanica, 2016; GIS Database). These soils do not readily erode but may be subjected to minor wind erosion once vegetation has been cleared. Localised surface water run-off may occur following heavy rainfall events and if surface water drainage on-site is not managed. It is unlikely the proposal will change soil salinity levels or impact on-site or off-site nutrient export. Clearing activities are not likely to cause adverse land degradation impacts.

The surrounding and regional areas have not been cleared of native vegetation. It is unlikely that the relatively

^{**} Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002).

small amount of clearing required for the proposal (40 hectares) within a 319.36 hectare boundary area will cause appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology E

Botanica (2016)

Northcote, et al. (1960-68)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

(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 at variance to this Principle

The application area does not lie within any conservation areas or Department of Parks and Wildlife managed lands (Botanica, 2016; GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Binaronca Nature Reserve which is located approximately 28 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database). As this conservation area is located a considerable distance from the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have any impacts on the environmental values of this or any other conservation area.

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

Methodology

Botanica (2016)

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

No Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA's) are located within or in the vicinity of the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands located within the application area (Botanica, 2016; GIS Database). The nearest permanent watercourse, Lake Cowan, is located approximately 7 kilometres south of the application area. Therefore, the clearing of native vegetation required for the proposal will not cause deterioration in the quality of surface water, including sedimentation, erosion, turbidity or eutrophication of water bodies on-site or off-site.

Groundwater salinity within the application area is between 14,000 – 35,000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (GIS Database). It is not expected that the proposed clearing of 40 hectares within a permit boundary of 319.36 hectares would adversely alter groundwater salinity levels within the application or surrounding area. The proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the quality of groundwater either onsite or off-site of the application area.

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

Methodology

Botanica (2016)

GIS Database:

- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Public Drinking Water Source 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 mean annual rainfall recorded at the nearest weather station located at Kambalda West (approximately 50 kilometres north-west of the application area) is 299.1 millimetres (BoM, 2016). Total average annual evaporation for the area is 2,800 millimetres (BoM, 2016). For this reason, there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains (BoM, 2016). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The soils of the application area are not subject to waterlogging during normal seasonal rainfall (Northcote, et al. 1960-68; GIS Database). The application area receives low annual rainfall and high average annual evaporation (BoM, 2016). For these reasons, the relatively small amount of native vegetation clearing is unlikely to increase flooding of the application area. The surrounding area is also well vegetated further reducing the likelihood of or intensity of flooding (GIS Database).

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

Methodology BoM (2016)

Northcote, et al. (1960-68)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC1999/002) over the application area (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups (GIS Database). However, the 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 registered Aboriginal sites of significance within the application area (DAA, 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, 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 11 April 2016 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There was one submissions received in relation to the Native Title Claim.

Methodology DAA (2016)

4. References

Botanica (2016) Desktop Flora and Fauna Assessment and Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey for the Paris Project. Report prepared for GBF Paris Operations Pty Ltd, Boulder, Western Australia, March 2016.

BoM (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website - Climate Data Online, Kambalda West. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/index.shtml. (Accessed 9 May 2016).

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Coolgardie (COO3 – Eastern Goldfield subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth, Western Australia.

DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2 (Accessed 5 May 2016).

DotE (2016) *Merops ornatus* in Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of the Environment. http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat. Department of the Environment, Canberra. (Accessed 10 May 2016).

DotE (2015) Draft Referral Guidelines for 14 birds listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act. Department of the Environment. http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/epbc-act-referral-guidelines-migratory-birds. (Accessed 10 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 (2016a) Florabase - The Western Australian Flora. Flora Species Search, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australian Herbarium. http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 9 May 2016).

DPaW (2016b) NatureMap – Western Australia's Biodiversity, Department of Parks and Wildlife. https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 5 May 2016).

Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth, Western Australia.

Keighery B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of Western Australia (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.

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 Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia

EPBC Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (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 Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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.