Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7246/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Altura Exploration Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 45/1230
Mining Lease 45/1231
Miscellaneous Licence 45/400
Miscellaneous Licence 45/404
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara and Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name: Pilgangoora Lithium Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 20 October 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 three Beard vegetation associations are located within the application area (GIS Database):

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;

93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and

619: Medium woodland; river gum *(Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

A level 2 flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over part of the application area by Natural Area (2016a) during 11 to 22 March 2016. A total of five vegetation communities were identified within M 45/1230 and M 45/1231:

1. *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland on low hills: Spinifex Grassland dominated by *Triodia wiseana,* with small patches of *Triodia epactia* towards the base of hillslopes. *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Acacia acradenia* are found throughout this vegetation type in low densities;

2. *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grasslands on stony plains: A Hummock Grassland dominated by *Triodia epactia and Triodia wiseana* with scattered patches of *Triodia pungens* in seasonally wet areas. This vegetation type was burnt prior to 2013, but has since regenerated. Scattered *Acacia inaequilatera* occur throughout this vegetation type; annuals such as *Goodenia muelleriana*, *Ptilotus axillaris* and *Ptilotus clementii* are found here after seasonal rainfall;

3. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Open Woodland along major drainage lines: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* with a reduced understorey of *Marsilea exarata, Pluchea tetranthera* and non-native Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*). This vegetation type is located along major drainage lines and is characterised by clayey loam soils with a thick layer of leaf litter produced from the *E. camaldulensis*;

4. *Acacia acradenia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* Open Shrubland over *Triodia pungens* Hummock Grassland along minor drainage lines: Low Open Scrubland of *Acacia acradenia*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over a dense Spinifex Grassland of *Triodia pungens*, with *Triodia wiseana* and sparse *Corymbia hamersleyana* trees found along the edges of the drainage line. This vegetation type was found along minor drainage lines with clayey loam soils; and

5. *Acacia* tall Open Shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grasslands: Tall Open *Acacia* Shrubland dominated by *Acacia acradenia* and *Acacia inaequilatera* over a *Triodia wiseana* Hummock Grassland, with isolated patches of *Triodia longiceps* on hill slopes. Shrubs scattered throughout this vegetation type include *Scaevola pulchella*, *Corchorus parviflorus*, *Euphorbia tannensis subsp. eremophila*,

Grevillea wickhamii and the occasional *Hakea chordophylla*. This area is characterised by disturbance associated with exploration mining; large soil deposits have been colonised by opportunistic species such as *Acacia acradenia*.

Clearing Description Pilgangoora Lithium Project.
Altura Exploration Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 374.58 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 374.58 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 89 kilometres east of Marble Bar, in the Shire of East Pilbara and Town of Port Hedland.

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

To:

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

Comment The vegetation condition was derived from a report prepared by Natural Area (2016a).

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 application area occurs within the Chichester subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by plains which support a shrub steppe characterised by *Acacia inaequilatera* over *Triodia wiseana* (formerly *Triodia pungens*) hummock grasslands, while *Eucalyptus leucophloia* tree steppes occur on ranges. (CALM, 2002).

Natural Area (2016a) conducted a Level 2 flora and vegetation survey over Mining Lease 45/1230 and M 45/1231, and identified five vegetation types with 60 flora taxa, 57 of which were native species. Species composition and vegetation types within the application area are typical of the local region and not considered to be unusually diverse (Natural Area, 2016a). The area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be remnant vegetation and areas have been disturbed by cattle, fire and historic exploration (GIS Database). Natural Area (2016b) conducted a desktop flora assessment for the access road route to and from the operational area. Vegetation types are expected to be similar to that identified during the survey by Natural Area (2016a).

A search of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora databases revealed no records of Threatened Flora or Priority Flora species within a 5 kilometre radius of the application area (DPaW, 2016). Based on habitat type within the application area, it is unlikely that any Threatened flora species would occur within the application area (DPaW, 2016; GIS Database). No Threatened or Priority Flora species, Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified within the application area (Natural Area, 2016a). There were two locations of the Priority 3 Flora species *Stackhousia clementii* during a 2013 survey by Natural Area (2014). This species may still be present within the application area, but was not flowering during the 2016 survey (Natural Area, 2016a). This species will well represented in the regional area, and the clearing of these two locations is unlikely to impact the conservation significance of this species (Natural Area, 2014).

There were three weed species were identified by Natural Area (2016a). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

There were two fauna habitat types recorded within the application area by Natural Area (2016). Faunal habitats within the application area are considered to be common and widespread within the subregion and faunal assemblages are unlikely to be different to those found in similar habitat located elsewhere in the region (GIS Database).

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

Methodology

CALM (2002)
DPaW (2016)
Natural Area (2014)
Natural Area (2016a)
Natural Area (2016b)

GIS Database:
- Flora – TPFL
- Imagery

(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 2 fauna survey was conducted over Mining Leases 45/1230 and 45/1231 from 11 to 22 March 2016 by Natural Area (2016a). Fauna habitats identified comprised of *Triodia* Hummock Grasslands on rocky plains and small hills, and Open Woodlands and Shrubland over *Triodia* Hummock Grasslands along major and minor drainage lines (Natural Area, 2016a). Faunal habitats within the access road are expected to be similar to that identified during the 2016 fauna survey (Natural Area, 2016a; 2016b).

The habitat types found within the application area are considered as being well represented in the local region and the application area does not contain habitats or faunal assemblages that are ecologically significant, however rock crevices and small superficial caves were present on low hills create habitat for wallabies, euros, birds and reptiles (Natural Area, 2016a). Natural Area (2016a) did not identify any suitable bat habitat and no evidence of their presence within the Pilgangoora survey area.

The fauna survey identified two Rainbow Bee-eaters (*Merops ornata*) (Migratory) within the application area. These species are likely to forage within the application area and surrounding region, however habitat within the application area is unsuitable for the construction of nesting burrows (Natural Area, 2016a). Two active mounds of the Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) (Priority 4) were observed in stony plains, although no individuals were observed (Natural Area, 2016a). Given the size of the area to be cleared and the mine layout, the proponent is unable to avoid these mounds, however the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the conservation significance of this species, and extensive, undisturbed habitat for this species occurs outside the application area (GIS Database).

The application area has limited availability of potential Short Range Endemic (SRE) habitats, and most species that represent SRE's that were identified were widespread with ranges that encompass the Western Pilbara (Bennelongia, 2016). Three potential SRE's that were collected have unknown ranges, however they were collected in habitats that are not restricted at a local, sub-regional or regional area, and are likely to occur more widely (Bennelongia, 2016).

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

Methodology

Bennelongia (2016)
Natural Area (2016a)
Natural Area (2016b)

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 known records of Threatened Flora within the application area (GIS Database). A search of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora databases identified no Threatened Flora species as occurring within a 5 kilometre radius of the application area (DPaW, 2016).

Based on a flora and vegetation survey conducted by Natural Area (2016a), no Threatened Flora species were recorded within the application area.

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

Methodology

DPaW (2016)
Natural Area (2016a)

GIS Database:
- Flora - TPFL

(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 known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is approximately 171 kilometres north east of the application area (GIS Database).

No TECs were recorded during the vegetation survey (Natural Area, 2016a; 2016b).

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

Methodology Natural Area (2016a)
Natural Area (2016b)

GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities - Boundaries

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
The application areas fall within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application areas is recorded as:

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*;

93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and

619: Medium woodland; river gum *(Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

The above Beard vegetation associations retain approximately 99**%** or above of their pre-European extent at both the state and bioregion level (Government of Western Australia, 2015). The areas proposed to be cleared are not a significant remnant of native vegetation.

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

Methodology Government of Western Australia (2015)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- 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**
According to available databases, there are several ephemeral watercourses that intersect the application area (GIS Database). Based on vegetation mapping by Natural Area (2016a), there are two vegetation types identified as growing in association with drainage lines:

1. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Open Woodland along major drainage lines; and
2. *Acacia acradenia* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* Open Shrubland over *Triodia pungens.*

Similar vegetation types are expected to occur scattered along the haul road (Natural Area, 2016b).

These vegetation types are likely to provide important habitat for fauna, as the vegetation can provide faunal habitat of a moderate range of microhabitats with logs, leaf litter and tree hollows (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is likely to have some impact to the riparian vegetation. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management condition.

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

Methodology Natural Area (2016a)
Natural Area (2016b)

GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear

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

Comments **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is mapped as occurring on the Macroy, River, Satirist and Talga land systems (GIS Database).

The majority of the land systems are generally not susceptible to erosion, except for the River land system (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The River land system is largely stabilised by buffel and spinifex and accelerated erosion is uncommon, however susceptibility to erosion is high or very high if vegetative cover is removed (van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The proposed clearing of native vegetation is up to 374.58 hectares, which includes clearing for a 2.4 kilometre long access track is of a linear nature (GIS Database). Any potential land degradation in association with waterways can be mitigated through revegetation and rehabilitation of areas after they are no longer required. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition and a watercourse management condition.

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

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)

GIS Database:
-Landsystem Rangelands

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

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

The application area is not located within any conservation area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area, Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve, is located approximately 78 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database).

Given the distance of the application area from Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to provide a significant ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor and is not likely to impact the environmental values of the conservation area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- DPaW tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

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

The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the proclaimed Pilbara groundwater area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water.

The annual evaporation rate exceeds the annual average rainfall for local area (BoM, 2016). Any surface water within the application area is likely to only remain for short periods following significant rainfall events. The proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any surface water within or outside of the application area.

The application area has a groundwater salinity that is marginal (500 to 1,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved solids) (GIS Database). With high annual evaporation rates and low annual rainfall (BoM, 2016), there is little recharge into regional groundwater. The proposed clearing is unlikely to further deteriorate the quality of underground water (GIS Database).

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

Methodology BoM (2016)

GIS Database:
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide

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

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

The application area is located within the Turner River catchment area (GIS Database). Given the size of the area to be cleared (374.58 hectares) in relation to the size of the catchment area (480,186 hectares) (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the potential of flooding on a local or catchment scale.

With an average annual rainfall of 318.9 millimetres and an average annual evaporation rate of between 3,200 and 3,600 millimetres there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains (BoM, 2016). Whilst large rainfall events may result in flooding of the area, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an increase

in incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

Methodology BoM (2016)

GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are no native title claims over the application area (DAA, 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 are no registered Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (DAA, 2016). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 12 September 2016 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology DAA (2016)

4. References

Bennelongia (2016) Pilgangoora Lithium Project: Level 1 Short-Range Endemic Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Altura Mining Ltd, by Bennelongia Environmental Consultants, April 2016.

BoM (2016) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Three Rivers, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_004032.shtml (Accessed 4 October 2016).

DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/ (Accessed 4 October 2016).

DPaW (2016) NatureMap. Department of Parks and Wildlife, http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au (Accessed 4 October 2016).

Government of Western Australia. (2015). 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2015. 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.

Natural Area (2014) Flora and Fauna Survey Report – Pilgangoora. Report prepared for Altura Mining Ltd, by Natural Area Consulting Management Services, February 2014.

Natural Area (2016a) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Survey Report - Pilgangoora Lithium Project. Report prepared for Altura Mining Ltd, by Natural Area Consulting Management Services, June 2016.

Natural Area (2016b) Memo - Desktop assessment of road route to/from project. Memo prepared for Altura Mining Ltd, by Natural Area Consulting Management Services, June 2016.

van Vreeswyk, A M, Leighton, K A, Payne, A L, and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin 92, 424p.

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)
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
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.