



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7409/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 47/771  
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara  
Colloquial name: Yandi Bores

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of:   |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 10                 |           | Mechanical Removal | Hydrogeological investigations, construction and maintenance of water bores and associated infrastructure |

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 27 July 2017

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:  
18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and  
82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* (GIS Database).

Several flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over BHP Billiton land tenure over many years (including over the current application area), and results from the various survey reports have been reviewed and consolidated by Onshore Environmental (2014). The consolidated survey report identified the following three broad floristic communities and four vegetation associations within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016; Onshore Environmental, 2014):

#### ***Eucalyptus* Low Woodland**

ME TtEaEte ApyAtpPI EvCh: Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Eulalia aurea* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* with High Shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* and Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* on red brown silty loam on medium drainage lines and flood plains;

#### ***Themeda* Tussock Grassland**

FP TtEa ExAa AprAtpElo: Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Eulalia aurea* with Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Acacia aptaneura* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis* and *Eremophila longifolia* on red brown clay loam on unincised drainage lines and floodplains;

#### ***Triodia* Hummock Grassland**

HS TsTwTpEiChAhiAad: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia hilliana* and *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxo* on red brown sandy loam on hill slopes;

HSTwTbrTsEiExChPcaPasAhi: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Low Open Shrubland of *Ptilotus calostachyus*, *Ptilotus astrolasius* and *Acacia hilliana* on brown loam on eroded outcropping upper slopes and crests.

#### **Clearing Description**

Yandi water bores project.  
BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) proposes to clear up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 46 hectares, for the purpose of mining related infrastructure. The project is located approximately 100 kilometres northwest of Newman, within the Shire of East Pilbara.

#### **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 vegetation survey review conducted by Onshore Environmental (2014).

The proposed clearing is for hydrogeological investigations and the construction and maintenance of water bores and associated infrastructure.

### 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 clearing permit application area is located within the Hamersley subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Pilbara Bioregion (GIS Database).

The application area is located in close proximity to the existing operational Yandi minesite and has suffered some previous disturbance from existing roads and mining related infrastructure (BHP Billiton, 2016; GIS Database).

A review of flora and vegetation surveys which included the application area, was conducted by Onshore Environmental (2014). Onshore Environmental (2014) described the vegetation condition within the application area as Excellent to Degraded on the Keighery (1994) scale. No flora species or ecological communities of conservation significance are known to occur within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016).

No weed species have been recorded within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016). Clearing activities have the potential to introduce weeds, which have the potential to out-compete native flora and reduce the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The landforms, vegetation associations and fauna habitat types found within the application area are well represented within the region (BHP Billiton, 2016; Onshore Environmental, 2014; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

The proposed clearing of up to 10 hectares for hydrogeological investigations and water bores, is unlikely to have any significant impact on the biological diversity of the region.

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

**Methodology**

BHP Billiton (2016)  
Onshore Environmental (2014)

GIS Database:

- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Threatened Fauna

#### (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**

The application area is located in close proximity to the Yandi minesite, and includes some areas of existing disturbance for mining related infrastructure and access roads (BHP Billiton, 2016; GIS Database).

The following three fauna habitats have been recorded within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016):

1. **Crest / Slope:** These fauna habitats tend to be more open and structurally simple due to their recent depositional history than other fauna habitats, and are dominated by varying species of spinifex. A common feature of these habitats is a rocky substrate, often with exposed bedrock, and skeletal red soils. These are usually dominated by *Eucalyptus* woodlands, *Acacia* and *Grevillea* scrublands and *Triodia* low hummock grasslands.

2. **Drainage Area:** Characterised by *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* woodland over broad-leafed *Acacia* shrubland on sandy loam soils sometimes with exposed rocky areas. These can have high vegetation density, complexity and diversity, and because they tend to occur on accretional or depositional

areas, and often have deeper and richer soils than other fauna habitats. Grasses tend to be dominated by tussock grasses rather than spinifex.

**3. Minor Drainage Line:** Located within the minor gullies and depressions, generally through the Crest/Slope habitat. Consists primarily of *Acacia* low shrubland. The understorey generally lacks density and often consists solely of sparse tussock grassland. The substrate can be sandy in places but generally consists of a skeletal loam gravel or stone.

The fauna habitats found within the application area are widespread in the Pilbara region and substantial areas of better quality fauna habitat exist outside of the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016; GIS Database).

No fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016). Three fauna species of conservation significance have the potential to occur within the application area: Rainbow Bee-Eater (*Merops ornatus*), Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), and Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*). None of these species are expected to be dependent on fauna habitats within the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016). There is extensive suitable habitat for these species in surrounding areas outside of the application area (BHP Billiton, 2016; GIS Database), and the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant impact on the available habitat for any of these species.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant impact on fauna habitat at either a local or regional level.

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

**Methodology** BHP Billiton (2016)

GIS Database:  
Imagery  
- Pre-European Vegetation

**(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**

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora, Priority flora or other flora species of conservation significance (BHP Billiton, 2016).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (BHP Billiton, 2016; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened (rare) flora.

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

**Methodology** BHP Billiton (2016)

GIS Database:  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- Pre-European Vegetation

**(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**

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database).

Surveys of the application area did not identify any TECs (BHP Billiton, 2016).

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

**Methodology** BHP Billiton (2016)

GIS Database:  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffered

**(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 Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2016). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*; and 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of each of these vegetation associations remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

Although large scale mining operations are located in close proximity to the application area, the region in which the clearing is proposed to occur has not undergone broad scale clearing. Therefore, the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

|   | Pre-European area (ha)* | Current extent (ha)* | Remaining %* | Conservation Status** | Pre-European % in DPaW managed lands |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| IBRA Bioregion – Pilbara                          | 17,808,657              | 17,733,583           | ~99          | Least Concern         | 10.1                                 |
| Beard vegetation associations – WA                |                         |                      |              |                       |                                      |
| 18  | 19,892,304              | 19,843,727           | ~99          | Least Concern         | 6.6                                  |
| 82  | 2,565,901               | 2,553,217            | ~99          | Least Concern         | 11.5                                 |
| Beard vegetation associations – Pilbara Bioregion |                         |                      |              |                       |                                      |
| 18  | 676,556                 | 672,424              | ~99          | Least Concern         | 25.2                                 |
| 82  | 2,563,583               | 2,550,898            | ~99          | Least Concern         | 11.5                                 |

\* Government of Western Australia (2016)

\*\* Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

**Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
Government of Western Australia (2016)

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**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). A tributary of the Marillana Creek passes through the application area (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (BHP Billiton, 2016).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with the watercourse may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

**Methodology** BHP Billiton (2016)

GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The application area lies within the McKay and Robe land systems (GIS Database). These land systems have been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The McKay land system is described as hills, ridges, plateaux remnants and breakaways of meta sedimentary and sedimentary rocks supporting hard spinifex grasslands. This land system is not generally susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The Robe Land System consists of low limonite mesas and buttes supporting soft spinifex (and occasionally hard spinifex) grasslands. This land system is not generally susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The proposed clearing of up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 46 hectares, for the purpose of hydrogeological investigations and water bores is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to 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**

There are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the application area. The nearest DBCA (formerly DPaW) managed land is a former Pastoral Lease which is located approximately 13 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any 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**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). A tributary of the Marillana Creek passes through the application area. Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows in the Marillana Creek.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

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

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- 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 climate of the region is semi-arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 200-300 millimetres per year (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (BHP Billiton, 2016).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). A tributary of the Marillana Creek, a seasonal creek line, passes through the application area, and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.

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

**Methodology** BHP Billiton (2016)  
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)

GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, linear

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

##### **Comments**

The clearing permit application was advertised on 5 June 2017 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2011/006) over the area under application (DPLH, 2017). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. 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 three registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance overlapping the application area (DPLH, 2017). 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 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 (2017)

#### **4. References**

- BHP Billiton (2016) Yandi Bores. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, Western Australia, December 2016.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPLH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 25 July 2017).
- 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.
- Government of Western Australia (2016) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2016. 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.
- Onshore Environmental (2014) Consolidation of Regional Vegetation Mapping BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pilbara Tenure. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd by Onshore Environmental.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Hennig, P., and Leighton, K.A. (2004) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

#### **5. Glossary**

##### **Acronyms:**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>BoM</b>   | Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government                                      |
| <b>DAA</b>   | Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)                    |
| <b>DAFWA</b> | Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)                 |
| <b>DBCA</b>  | Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia        |
| <b>DEC</b>   | Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER) |
| <b>DEE</b>   | Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government                   |
| <b>DER</b>   | Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)                |
| <b>DMIRS</b> | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia            |
| <b>DMP</b>   | Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)                  |
| <b>DPIRD</b> | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia      |
| <b>DPLH</b>  | Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia                     |
| <b>DRF</b>   | Declared Rare Flora   |
| <b>DoE</b>   | Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)                    |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| DoW      | Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)   |
| DPaW     | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)  |
| DSEWPaC  | Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)                                    |
| DWER     | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia   |
| EPA      | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia (now DWER)  |
| EP Act   | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia  |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)  |
| GIS      | Geographical Information System   |
| ha       | Hectare (10,000 square metres)  |
| IBRA     | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia   |
| IUCN     | International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union |
| PEC      | Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia  |
| RIWI Act | <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia  |
| TEC      | Threatened Ecological Community   |

## **Definitions:**

**{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>T</b>  | <p><b>Threatened species:</b><br/>Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).</p> <p><b>Threatened fauna</b> is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.</p> <p><b>Threatened flora</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <b>CR</b> | <p><b>Critically endangered species</b><br/>Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>  |
| <b>EN</b> | <p><b>Endangered species</b><br/>Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>   |
| <b>VU</b> | <p><b>Vulnerable species</b><br/>Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p>  |
| <b>EX</b> | <p><b>Presumed extinct species</b><br/>Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.</p>  |
| <b>IA</b> | <p><b>Migratory birds protected under an international agreement</b><br/>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 <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.</p>  |
| <b>CD</b> | <p><b>Conservation dependent fauna</b><br/>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 <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.</p>   |

- 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.