



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7818/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Leases: 53/56, 53/165, 53/167  
Local Government Area: Shire of Wiluna  
Colloquial name: Mt Keith Nickel Mine Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
456.86		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production and associated activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 14 December 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 association:  
18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounding areas, by Strategen Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (Strategen) in August 2017. The following six vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Strategen, 2017):

1. *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia incurvaneura* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila galeata* sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Ptilotus helipteroides* low sparse shrubland with *Eragrostis eriopoda* sparse tussock grassland.
2. *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia incurvaneura* low open woodland over *Eremophila forrestii*, *Eremophila latrobei*, *Eremophila fraseri* and *Senna* sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) mid sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus helipteroides* low sparse shrubland with *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* sparse dwarf chenopod shrubland.
3. *Hakea francisiana* and *Hakea preissii* tall to mid isolated shrubs over *Senna* sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) low isolated shrubs over *Maireana carcosa*, *Sclerolaena densiflora*, *Sclerolaena cuneata*, *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* dwarf chenopod shrubland.
4. *Acacia incurvaneura* low open woodland over *Eremophila spectabilis* low sparse shrubland over *Maireana tomentosa* and *Sida* sp. Golden calyces glabrous (H.N. Foote 32) low sparse shrubland with *Eragrostis eriopoda* and *Eragrostis pergracilis* sparse tussock grassland.
5. *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia craspedocarpa* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* low woodland over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides*, *Sida calyxhymenia*, *Indigofera georgei*, *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* mid to low open shrubland over mixed grasses and herbs.
6. Previously disturbed areas containing sparse vegetation of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia pteraneura* scattered low shrubs over isolated herbs and grasses (Strategen, 2017).

**Clearing Description** Mt Keith Nickel Mine Project  
BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 456.86 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 456.86 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 75 kilometres southeast of Wiluna, within the Shire of Wiluna.

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

**Comment** The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Strategen (2017). The application area is located immediately adjacent to the existing operational Mt Keith minesite. The proposed clearing will

facilitate the development of additional minesite infrastructure (Strategen, 2017). This permit replaces previously granted clearing permit CPS 237/2 which expired in 2012, and included the majority of the current application area.

### 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 Eastern Murchison subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Murchison Bioregion (GIS Database). The subregion is characterised by its internal drainage and extensive areas of red sandplains, supporting Mulga woodlands, hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and Halosarcia shrublands (CALM, 2002).

A Level 1 flora, vegetation and fauna survey was conducted by Strategen (2017) over the application area and surrounding areas during August 2017. A total of 122 flora species and 36 fauna species were recorded within the survey area (Strategen, 2017). The diversity recorded within the survey area was considered to be typical of the region (Strategen, 2017).

No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database), and none were found during the flora and vegetation survey (Strategen, 2017).

Desktop surveys of available databases identified one Threatened flora species and 43 Priority flora species with the potential to occur within the survey area, based on known distributions (Strategen, 2017). Three Priority flora species were recorded during the on-site survey, *Thryptomene* sp. Leinster (P3), *Tribulus adelacanthus* (P3) and *Eremophila pungens* (P4) (Strategen, 2017). All are known to occur in several locations, within and outside of the application area, and the proposed clearing is not expected to affect the conservation status of any of these species (Strategen, 2017). A further six Priority flora species identified in the desktop surveys were considered to be likely to occur within the application area, based on habitat preferences: *Goodenia modesta* (P3), *Hybanthus floribundus subsp. chloroxanthus* (P3), *Hemigenia exilis* (P4), *Olearia mucronata* (P3), *Sida picklesiana* (P3), and *Verticordia jamiersonii* (P3), however, none of these species were recorded during the on-site survey (Strategen, 2017). No Threatened flora species were recorded during the flora survey (Strategen, 2017).

The vegetation condition within the survey area was described as Very Good on the Keighery scale, with parts of the application area suffering disturbance from historical mining activities, and grazing activities (Strategen, 2017).

Two weed species was recorded during the flora survey, *Bidens bipinnata* (Bipinnate Beggartick) and *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock). Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (Strategen, 2017; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

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

**Methodology**      Strategen (2017)

GIS Database:  
- IBRA Australia  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- 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**

A Level 1 fauna reconnaissance survey was conducted over the application area during August 2017 (Strategen, 2017). The fauna survey included opportunistic observations of fauna, and recording of secondary evidence such as tracks, scats, foraging evidence or calls (Strategen, 2017).

Four broad fauna habitats were identified within the application area: Mixed shrubland plains; Stony ironstone Mulga shrublands; Drainage and depression; and Sandy hummock plain (Strategen, 2017). These habitat types are all widespread and common in the region, and the application area did not contain any locally restricted habitat types (Strategen, 2017).

Several fauna species (mostly birds) of conservation significance have the potential to occur within the application area based on previous records (Strategen, 2017), however most fauna species occurring in the region tend to be wide ranging, and are unlikely to be specifically dependent on the habitats within the application area (Strategen, 2017; CALM, 2002). No species of conservation significance were recorded during the on-site survey (Strategen, 2017).

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) (Vulnerable) previously inhabited much of the Murchison region, however their range and abundance is now greatly reduced. Database searches found previous records of Malleefowl within 10 kilometres of the application area (Strategen, 2017). However, no evidence of Malleefowl was found during the on-site survey, and Strategen (2017) considered that the application area was only marginally suitable for Malleefowl, due to the sparseness of the vegetation and lack of suitable leaf litter required for mound construction. Strategen (2017) concluded that, although Malleefowl may be an occasional transient visitor, the application area did not represent significant habitat for Malleefowl.

The landforms and habitat types found within the application area are relatively common and widespread in the region (CALM, 2002; Strategen, 2017; GIS Database). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to represent significant habitat for fauna in either a local or regional context.

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

**Methodology** Strategen (2017)  
CALM (2002)

GIS Database:  
- Imagery  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- 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**

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Desktop surveys of available databases identified one Threatened flora species, *Atriplex yeelirrie*, with the potential to occur within the survey area, based on known distributions (Strategen, 2017). The nearest known population of *Atriplex yeelirrie* is located approximately 30 kilometres from the application area, however Strategen (2017) reported that the application area lacks the habitat favoured by this species and therefore considered that it was unlikely to occur. The flora survey of the application area and surrounding areas did not record any species of Threatened flora (Strategen, 2017).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Strategen, 2017; 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** Strategen (2017)

GIS Database:  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- 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**

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

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any TECs (Strategen, 2017).

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

**Methodology** Strategen (2017)

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 Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

Therefore, the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

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

**Methodology** 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 may be at variance to this Principle**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). Several minor drainage lines pass 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 (CALM, 2002).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. However, these drainage lines have already been impacted by adjacent mining-related infrastructure, and any additional impacts to vegetation growing in association with these watercourses, is likely to be minimal.

**Methodology** CALM (2002)

GIS Database:  
- Aerial imagery  
- 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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing area is mapped as occurring within the Bevon, Jundee and Laverton land systems (GIS Database). Land systems of the rangelands have been mapped and described in Technical Bulletins produced by the (former) Department of Agriculture.

The Bevon land system is described as ironstone hills with stony lower slopes supporting mulga shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). This land system is susceptible to soil erosion, particularly within drainage tracts, if stony mantles are disturbed or vegetation cover is removed (Pringle et al., 1994).

The Jundee land system consists of hardpan plains with ironstone gravel mantles, supporting mulga shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). Gravel mantles generally provide effective protection against soil erosion, however soil erosion may occur if natural sheet flows are disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994).

The Laverton land system is dominated by greenstone hills and ridges supporting acacia shrublands (Pringle et al., 1994). Stony mantles protect most of this land system from erosion, with the exception of narrow drainage tracts which may be mildly susceptible to water erosion (Pringle et al., 1994).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. Potential land degradation may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

**Methodology** Pringle et al. (1994)

GIS Database:  
- Landsystem Rangelands  
- 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation areas within the application area. The nearest DBCA (formerly DPaW) managed land is the Wanjarri Nature Reserve which is located approximately 10 kilometres southeast of the application area, at its nearest point (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 Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). Several minor drainage lines pass 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. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water quality.

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

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

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, Lakes  
- 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 millimetres per year (CALM, 2002).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Several minor ephemeral drainage lines pass through the application areas 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** CALM (2002)  
  
GIS Database:  
- Hydrography, Lakes  
- Hydrography, linear

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

### Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 30 October 2017, and readvertised on 4 December 2017 with an increased clearing area, by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance located within 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.

There is one native title claim (WC2011/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2017). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenements have been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

**Methodology** DPLH (2017)

## 4. References

- 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, Western Australia. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 12 December 2017).
- 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.
- Pringle, H.J.R., Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., and Gilligan, S.A. (1994) An Inventory and Condition Survey of rangelands in the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 87. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Strategen (2017) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit - Supporting Documentation. Mt Keith Nickel Mine. Report prepared for BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd, by Strategen Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd, September 2017.

## 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)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	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> 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 <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>.</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 <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>.</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> 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> 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>

- 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.