



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8062/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Avoca Mining Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: General Purpose Lease 15/19
General Purpose Lease 15/27
Mining Lease 15/348
Mining Lease 15/375
Local Government Area: Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name: Higginsville Gold Operations

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 July 2018

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 8: Medium woodland; salmon gum and gimlet (GIS Database).</p> <p>A desktop biological assessment and broad scale vegetation mapping was conducted over the Higginsville project area, including the application area, by GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) during February, 2010. One vegetation association was recorded within the application area (GHD, 2010):</p> <p>Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> and <i>E. salubris</i> with scattered midstorey of <i>Melaleuca sheathiana</i> over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>, <i>Cratystylis conocephala</i> and <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> on loamy plains.</p>
Clearing Description	<p>Higginsville Gold Operations Avoca Mining Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 100 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 176 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The clearing is to create an additional Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) cell for tailings storage. The project is located approximately 53 kilometres north of Norseman, within the Shire of Coolgardie.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p>to</p> <p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	<p>The vegetation condition was partly derived from the environmental surveys reviewed by GHD (2010) and observing aerial imagery.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is for the creation of an additional TSF cell for tailings storage. The application area is partly covered by an existing permit, which was granted for mineral production.</p>

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 Goldfields subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Coolgardie Bioregion (GIS Database). The Eastern Goldfields subregion is characterised by calcareous earths that cover much of the plains and greenstone areas (CALM, 2002). A series of playa lakes in the western half are the remnants of an ancient major drainage line (CALM, 2002). The vegetation is of mallees, Acacia thickets and shrubheaths on sandplains (CALM, 2002). Diverse Eucalypt woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges and in valleys (CALM, 2002).

One vegetation type has been mapped across the application area (GHD, 2010). The *E. salmonophloia* and *E. salubris* woodland community does not represent a Threatened or Priority Ecological community (GHD, 2010; GIS Database).

According to NatureMap (DPaW, 2018), there are 91 flora species records within 20 kilometres of the application area, consisting of seven Priority Flora species. There were no flora species of conservation significance identified during previous surveys of the Higginsville mining area (Westgold, 2018, GIS Database).

Three introduced plant taxa were recorded from previous environmental surveys of the Higginsville mining area (Westgold, 2018). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

According to NatureMap (DPaW, 2018), there are 34 fauna species records within 20 kilometres of the application area, consisting of 27 bird, four reptile, one mammal and two invertebrate species. According to Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017) and Westgold (2018), the broad habitat types recorded in the application area are widespread in the region, therefore the application area is not considered to represent an area or relatively higher fauna diversity.

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

Methodology

CALM (2002)
DPaW (2018)
GHD (2010)
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017)
Westgold (2018)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers

(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 vertebrate fauna risk assessment was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017) approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the application area. The survey area is of a similar habitat to the application area (GIS Database), and the survey was used to assess the fauna habitats of the application area.

Two broad fauna habitats were recorded within the survey area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2017):

- Mixed eucalyptus woodland over mixed chenopod and sclerophyll scrubland; and
- Low Eucalyptus woodland over dense sclerophyll scrubland.

The condition of the fauna habitat types ranged from degraded to good. The fauna habitat types are widespread across the region, therefore the fauna assemblage present within the survey area will also be present and abundant in adjacent areas (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2017).

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017) has not undertaken a detailed fauna survey, however they have identified 16 conservation significant fauna species that are potentially found in the region. However, based on habitat preference and distribution, the following may occur within the application area:

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) – Vulnerable under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *Wildlife Protection Act 1950* (WC Act)
- Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*) – Migratory under EPBC Act and WC Act
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – Specially protected under the WC Act

- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) –Migratory under EPBC Act and WC Act
- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) – DPaW Priority 4

The Malleefowl occurs in semi-arid and arid zones of temperate Australia, where it occupies shrublands and low woodlands that are dominated by mallee vegetation (Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE), 2018). The breeding habitat of the Malleefowl, within its home range, is characterised by light soil and an abundant leaf litter which is used in the construction of mounds (DoEE, 2018). A site inspection of the application area was conducted by Westgold Environmental personnel in May 2018, and no evidence of Malleefowl habitation was observed and there was a lack of abundant leaf litter (Westgold, 2018). The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on this species.

The remaining avian species of conservation significance with the potential to occur within the application area are mobile and will readily move to adjacent areas if disturbed (Terrestrial Ecology, 2017). The application area is not likely to represent significant habitat for these species.

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

Methodology DoEE (2018)
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017)
Westgold (2018)

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

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 (GHD, 2010).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Westgold, 2018, 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 Westgold (2018)

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).

Previous environmental surveys within the Higginsville mining area did not identify any TECs (GHD, 2010).

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

Methodology GHD (2010)

GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities 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 Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database) in which approximately 98% of the pre-European vegetation remains

(Government of Western Australia, 2018). This gives it a conservation status of 'Least Concern' according to the Bioregional Conservation Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area is recorded as Beard vegetation association:

- 8: Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet

Beard vegetation association 8 retains approximately 50% of pre-European extent at the state level and approximately 98% the bio-region level (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA managed lands
IBRA Bioregion – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	98	Least Concern	10.87
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
8	694,638	346,426	50	Depleted	6.48
Beard vegetation associations – Coolgardie Bioregion					
8	280,248	275,589	98	Least Concern	8.96

* Government of Western Australia (2018)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Although Beard vegetation association 8 is considered depleted at the State level, it will remain above the 30% threshold level recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation below which, species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (EPA, 2000). The vegetation of the application area is not part of a remnant (GIS Database).

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

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Government of Western Australia (2018)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- 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 not at variance to this Principle**
There are no watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database).

The vegetation of the application area has not been identified as growing in or in association with a watercourse (GHD, 2010).

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

Methodology GHD (2010)
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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application area is located within the Kambalda Soil-Landscape Zone (Tille, 2006). This zone is characterised by flat to undulating plains (with hills, ranges and some salt lakes and stony plains) on greenstone and granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton (Tille, 2006). Soils comprise calcareous loamy earths and red loamy earths with salt lakes soils and some red/brown hardpan shallow loams and red sandy duplexes (Tille, 2006).

The proposal to clear 100 hectares of native vegetation is considered to be a relatively large area and may lead to land degradation through soil erosion. According to Northcote et al. (1960 -1968), the application area is within an area of sandy soils which can be susceptible to wind erosion. Although typical surface runoff would be minimal given the climate (BoM, 2018), high rainfall events may cause short-term erosion through the transportation of sediments in surface flows. Potential impacts from land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

The application area has an annual average evaporation rate of approximately eight times the annual average rainfall (BoM, 2018). Based on this information, surface flows during normal rainfall events are likely to be short lived and recharge to groundwater would be considered minimal. This would reduce the likelihood of salinity increasing as a result of the proposed clearing.

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

Methodology BoM (2018)
Northcote et al. (1960 – 1968)
Tille (2006)

GIS Database:
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Soils, Statewide

(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 areas. The nearest conservation area is Binaronca Nature Reserve, which is located approximately five kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database). Aerial imagery shows continuous vegetation around the reserve, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to disrupt any linkages to the reserve (GIS Database). Given the distance between the application area and Binaronca Nature Reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on 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

According to available databases the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database).

There are no permanent water bodies or watercourses within the application area. The climate of the area is arid to semi-arid with rainfall that usually occurs in winter but sometimes occurs in summer (CALM, 2002). The application area receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 309 millimetres with an average annual evaporation rate of between 2,400 and 2,800 millimetres (BoM, 2018; GIS Database). Any surface flows are therefore likely to be short lived.

Groundwater salinity in the local area is estimated to be between 14,000 – 35,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), which is considered saline (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly alter groundwater salinity levels within the application area.

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

Methodology BoM (2018)
CALM (2002)

- GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear
 - Public Drinking Water Source Areas
 - 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

With an average annual rainfall of 309 millimetres and an average annual evaporation rate of between 2,400 and 2,800 millimetres there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains (BoM, 2018; GIS Database). 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 (2018)

- GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments
 - Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 May 2018 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 is one native title claim (WC1999/002) over the area under application (DPLH, 2018). 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 Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2018). 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 (2018)

4. References

- BoM (2018) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Norseman Airport, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au>.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DoEE (2018) *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) in Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of the Environment and Energy. Canberra. <http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat>. Accessed 19 June 2018.
- DPLH (2018) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 19 June 2018).
- 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 (2018) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Western Australia. <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/default.aspx>. Accessed 25 April 2018.
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- GHD Pty Ltd (2010) Desktop Biological Assessment and Broad Scale Vegetation Mapping. Report for Higginsville Project Area, Avoca Resources Limited.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2017) Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Risk Assessment for the proposed Mitchell project area. Unpublished report prepared for Native Vegetation Solutions.
- Tille. P. (2006) *Soil-landscapes of Western Australia's Rangelands and Arid Interior*. Technical Report 313. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. ISSN 1039-7205.
- Westgold Resources Limited (2018) *Project Summary and Potential Impacts – Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document*. Westgold Resources Limited, Western Australia, 2018.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

T	<p>Threatened species: 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>Threatened fauna 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>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 <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>
CR	<p>Critically endangered species 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</p>

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.