

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	8550/4
Permit type:	Area Permit
Applicant name:	Edna May Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	30 September 2025
Application area:	16.6 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 77/88 Mining Lease 77/124
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Westonia
Colloquial name:	Greenfinch Project

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Edna May Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 16.6 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 16.6 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately one kilometre north-northwest of Westonia, within the Shire of Westonia.

Edna May Operations Pty Ltd have reported clearing a total of 14.274 hectares of native vegetation (Ramelius, 2024). The remaining clearing is to allow for the construction and extension of the Corsini Stormwater bund that is a requirement for mine closure and will be a permanent disturbance feature. The amendment application is to allow additional time for the remaining clearing to be undertaken, as the period in which clearing is authorised has lapsed.

Clearing permit CPS 8550/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 3 October 2019 and was valid from 26 October 2019 to 25 October 2034. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 16.6 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 16.6 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

CPS 8550/2 was granted on 18 November 2021, amending the permit to extend the period in which clearing is authorised. The amount of clearing authorised and the permit boundary remained unchanged.

On 7 November 2022, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8550/2 to extend the period in which clearing is authorised to 25 October 2025. The permit duration was also extended by three years to 25 October 2038, to allow for offset rehabilitation activities to be undertaken.

On 25 September 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8550/3 to extend the period in which the clearing is authorised to 25 October 2030. The remaining permitted clearing area was allocated for construction of the Corsini stormwater bund required for mine closure. The authorised extension to the clearing period ensures that vegetation is not cleared until the final bund alignment is confirmed. To date a total of 14.274 hectares has been reported as cleared.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	14 May 2026
Decision area:	16.6 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51KA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) on 25 September 2025. DMPE advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;

- the loss of native vegetation that is considered part of a Threatened Ecological Community;
- habitat and landscape fragmentation, reducing ecological linkage within a significant remnant of native vegetation; and
- the loss of available habitat for a conservation significant flora species.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer determined that the assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 8550/3 and the proposed clearing will result in a significant residual impact on environmental values.

The conditions currently imposed on clearing permit CPS 8550/3 are considered adequate to manage the impacts of clearing under CPS 8550/4 and will remain the same:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- an offset which addresses impacts to the Threatened Ecological Community, ecological linkage and conservation significant flora.

## 2. Assessment of application

### 2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

CPS 8550/1 originally replaced previous clearing permit application, CPS 8069/1, which was refused by DMIRS on 1 November 2018 due to the significant environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. CPS 8069/1 proposed to clear up to 62.3 hectares of native vegetation, while CPS 8550/1 was for 16.6 hectares. The reduction in clearing substantially reduced the environmental impacts of the Greenfinch Project.

The footprint of CPS 8550/1 was designed to avoid known locations of threatened flora species *Eremophila resinosa*, in addition to reducing the impact on the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). The reduction in clearing allowed for greater connectivity within the Westonia Town Common than the initial proposed clearing. The footprint has been carried through to CPS 8550/4.

An offset proposal was developed by the proponent to mitigate the significant impacts of the clearing. The offset activities are currently ongoing.

### 2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of environmental information from CPS 8550/3 against the clearing principles (Appendix A) indicates that the assessment outcomes have not changed from those documented in previous clearing permit decision report of CPS 8550/3. No amendments to the existing permit are proposed that would change potential environmental impacts. The impacts on the remaining vegetation to be cleared under this permit are discussed in further detail in Appendix A.

There are no changes to the environmental impacts of the clearing under this amendment, and based on the assessment, the proposed clearing will still result in a significant environmental impact. To mitigate the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing, an Offset Proposal has been developed by the proponent. This proposal was approved by the Department of Mining Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), now Department of Mining, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE), prior to the commencement of any clearing under previous versions of this permit and offset activities have commenced. The offset will be maintained on the permit as these requirements are still being undertaken.

### 2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 13 January 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. 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, 2026). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

The original Greenfinch project proposal was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the *EP Act*). On 24 April 2018 the EPA made a decision not to assess the proposal, allowing the proposal to be dealt with under Part V (Clearing) of the *EP Act*.

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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.
- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

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.

<b>Appendix A. Assessment against the clearing principles</b>		
Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area contains regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats and assemblages of plants. Parts of the site are mapped as the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed as Critically Endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), and recognised by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as a Priority 3 Priority Ecological Community (PEC), as well as the Red Morrel Woodland of the Wheatbelt (Priority 1 PEC) (Botanica, 2018; DBCA, 2019a; GIS Database). Vegetation mapping by Botanica (2019) identified 9.3 hectares of TEC within the application area. The proposed clearing will result in a significant environmental impact to the TEC and PEC, and will be offset by maintaining the offset condition on the permit.</p>	At variance  <i>As per CPS 8550/3</i>	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Most of the application area has already been cleared. The remaining areas proposed for clearing totals 2.326 hectares. Although the application area was identified as potentially containing suitable habitat for some conservation significant fauna, the remaining areas to be cleared are in a degraded condition, and are already mostly disturbed (Outback Ecology, 2014; GIS Database) and therefore it is unlikely that the remaining vegetation within the clearing area is essential for maintaining significant fauna habitat, however, as per the previous CPS 8550/3, the clearing is still likely to result in some disruption to fauna habitat connectivity within the Westonia Town Common. Suitable fauna habitat extends into surrounding remnant vegetation, providing alternative habitat in a better condition. The variance remains unchanged from the previous CPS 8550/3 due to the cumulative impacts of the project.</p>	May be at variance  <i>As per CPS 8550/3</i>	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The threatened flora species <i>Eremophila resinosa</i> is known to occur within and adjacent to the Edna May Operations mine site (Botanica, 2019). While the application area contains suitable habitat for this species (Botanica, 2019; DBCA, 2019b), it has been designed to avoid all known individuals of <i>Eremophila resinosa</i> (Botanica, 2019; DBCA, 2019b). The application area is regarded as significant habitat for the species and is likely to contain a viable soil seedbank (DBCA, 2019b).</p>	At variance  <i>As per CPS 8550/3</i>	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is mapped as part of the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed as Critically Endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). Vegetation mapping by Botanica (2019) identified 9.3 hectares of TEC within the application area, indicating that impacts to this TEC are to be expected, which has resulted in maintaining the offset condition on the permit.</p>	At variance  <i>As per CPS 8550/3</i>	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 536: Medium woodland; morrell and rough-fruited mallee (<i>Eucalyptus corrugata</i>) (GIS Database), which retains approximately 41% and 35% of its pre-European extent at the state and bioregional levels (Government of Western Australia, 2019). While this meets national biodiversity conservation objectives (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001), the application area forms part of a significant local ecological linkage (GIS Database). Impacts from the proposed clearing on the ecological linkage are being offset by the continued implementation of an offset condition on the permit.</p>	As per CPS 8550/3	
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is not located within any conservation reserves, with the closest nature reserve being Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve, situated approximately six kilometres to the northeast (GIS Database). The application area lies within the Westonia Town Common (Crown Reserve 14983), which is managed by the Shire of Westonia for conservation purposes (GIS Database). The Westonia Town Common is made up of multiple Crown Reserves of approximately 2,000 hectares and forms part of a significant remnant of native vegetation in a mostly cleared agricultural area (Botanica, 2019; WWF-Australia, 2007; GIS Database). Most clearing under CPS 8550/3 has already occurred, with only small areas remaining. The remaining clearing is unlikely to lead to any additional substantial impacts on ecological connectivity beyond existing fragmentation.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8550/3</p>	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). One minor seasonal drainage line passes through the linear section of the application area which is located on the eastern side of the mine site. Clearing in this area is for the purpose of a drainage bund and is a requirement for the safe operations of the mine site. The flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any riparian vegetation growing in association with watercourses (Botanica, 2019).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8550/3</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is broadly mapped as Soil Type Oc33, which is described as undulating plains with some low gilgais; chief soils seem to be hard alkaline red soils in intimate and complex association with calcareous earths (Northcote et al., 1960-68; GIS Database). These soil types are said to be slowly permeable and have low wind erodibility (Schoknecht, 2002). The likelihood of erosion occurring during normal rainfall events is low.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8550/3</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent watercourses or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the application area is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8550/3</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There is one ephemeral drainage line passing through the eastern part of the application area (GIS Database). The mapped topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the clearing is likely to increased incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database). There may be temporary localised flooding following significant rainfall events, however the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8550/3</p>	No

## Appendix B. References and databases

### B.1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from [www.data.wa.gov.au](http://www.data.wa.gov.au)):

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Offsets Register - Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites
- Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- Black Cockatoo BC Feeding SCP
- Black Cockatoo Feeding JF
- Black Cockatoo Feeding Areas Buffered
- Black Cockatoo Baudin's Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Forest Red Tail Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Carnaby's Distribution
- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### B.2. References

Botanica (2018) Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey Greenfinch Project. Report prepared for Ramelius Resources Limited, by Botanica Consulting, April 2018.

Botanica (2019) Environmental Assessment Greenfinch Project Clearing Permit Application M77/88 and M77/124. Report prepared for Ramelius Resources Limited, by Botanica Consulting, June 2019.

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

DBCA (2019a) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8550/1 (TEC advice). Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, August 2019.

DBCA (2019b) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8550/1 (Flora advice). Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, August 2019.

- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. [https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2\\_assessment\\_native\\_veg.pdf](https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf)
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 23 March 2026).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. [https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies\\_and\\_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf](https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf)
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. 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.
- Outback Ecology (2014) Evolution Mining Limited. Edna May and Greenfinch Projects. Level 1 Fauna Assessment. July 2014.
- Ramelius (2025) Edna May Operations Compliance Report. Clearing Permit 8550/3. 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. Prepared by Edna May Operations Pty Ltd, April 2025.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- WWF-Australia (2007) Westonia BioBlitz Report 2007 - Westonia Town Common. World Wildlife Fund Australia, September 2007.

### 3. Glossary

#### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<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>DCCEEW</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEMIRS</b>	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMPE</b>	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
<b>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<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 (now known as Threatened Flora)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth 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

**Definitions:**

**DBCAs (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:**

**Threatened species**

**T** Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

**Threatened fauna** is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

**Threatened flora** is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

**CR Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

**EN Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

**VU Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

**Extinct species**

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

**EX Extinct species**

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

**EW Extinct in the wild species**

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

**Specially protected species****SP Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

**MI Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that

binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

**CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

**OS Other specially protected species**

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

**Priority species**

**P Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status 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 – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

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. These species need 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 a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (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.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened 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.
- (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.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (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.
- (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.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.