



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	8651/2
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose Permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Catalyst (Plutonic) Pty Ltd
<b>Application received:</b>	23 August 2024
<b>Application area:</b>	30.9 hectares
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral production and associated activities
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical Removal
<b>Tenure:</b>	Mining Lease 52/148 Mining Lease 52/149 Mining Lease 52/170 Mining Lease 52/295 Mining Lease 52/301
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of Meekatharra
<b>Colloquial name:</b>	Plutonic Gold Mine

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Catalyst (Plutonic) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 30.9 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of 30.9 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 170 kilometres northeast of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra.

The application is to allow for clearing for future mining operations within the currently approved area.

Clearing permit CPS 8651/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 24 October 2019 and was valid from 16 November 2019 to 15 November 2024. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 30.9 hectares of native vegetation, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

On 23 August 2024, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8651/1 to extend the permit duration, and to change the name of the Permit Holder.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

<b>Decision:</b>	Grant
<b>Decision date:</b>	14 November 2024
<b>Decision area:</b>	30.9 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51KA (1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) on 23 August 2024. DEMIRS 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, supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey and fauna survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with standard, minimisation, hygiene, and staged clearing management conditions.

## **2. Assessment of application**

### **2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures**

The applicant has advised that (Billabong, 2019):

- The proposed clearing will be limited to the approved clearing area;
- Prior to clearing activities, the clearing footprint boundaries will be pegged;
- Clearing will only take place during day shift only;
- All machinery will be inspected and cleaned prior to being permitted on site to avoid potential weed infestations;
- Clearing will occur 'blade-up' in order to minimise disturbance to the soil and plant rootstock;
- Clearing of an area will be undertaken in a single direction to allow the natural movement of fauna away from the working machinery;
- Dust suppression via water spraying will be used;
- Trees will be felled in such a manner that they fall within the approved clearing area;
- Vegetation will be salvaged and retained where possible for rehabilitation purposes; and
- Vegetation and topsoil will be stockpiled to avoid erosion from works and surface water flow.

The applicant adequately demonstrated that reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values.

### **2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values**

The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact conservation significant flora or fauna. The application area does not contain or form a part of a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community, or impact on any riparian vegetation. At the bioregion (Gascoyne) and State scale, over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The nearest conservation area is located 17 kilometres south of the application area and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable impacts on surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding.

The proposed clearing for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities may cause erosion, as it will involve the disturbance of soil and removal of vegetation. However, potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (g) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

A total area of 8.94 hectares have been cleared in the application area under the original clearing permit (CPS 8651/1) (MBS, 2024). The requested extension of duration Permit Holder name change are unlikely to result any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 8651/1 with the exception of principle (f) as the review identified there are no watercourses intersecting the application area.

### **2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 5 November 2024 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2017/011) over the area under application (DPLH, 2024). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Gingirana). 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 is one registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2024). 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*.

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.

## Appendix A – Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the current Plutonic Gold mining development (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest conservation area is located approximately 17 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 29: Mulga <i>Acacia aneura</i> and associated species. Low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted adjacent to the application area by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd during April, 2019. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the survey area and are likely to occur in the application area (Eco Logical, 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project area broadly comprises a mixture of <i>Acacia</i>, <i>Psyrdrax</i> and <i>Grevillea</i> low woodland and shrubland on plains, and there are no notable drainage lines within the proposed clearing areas.</li> <li>Majority of the proposed clearing areas under this clearing permit application comprise the AcEIEe vegetation community (<i>Acacia cuthbertsonii</i>, <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Psyrdrax latifolia</i> tall sparse shrubland on orange clay-loam wash plain) on wash plain, with pockets of the AfGbPo community (<i>Acacia fuscaneura</i>, <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> low open woodland on orange clay-loam wash plain) scattered to lesser extent.</li> </ul>
Vegetation condition	<p>The available aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone of Western Australia with an annual rainfall average (Meekatharra Airport) of approximately 233.8 millimetres (BoM, 2024).
Soil description	<p>The soil within the application area is mapped as soil units BE6 and Oc49 (GIS Database). These soil units are described by Northcote et al. (1960-68) as below:</p> <p><b>BE6:</b> Extensive flat and gently sloping plains, which sometimes have a surface cover of gravels and on which redbrown hardpan frequently outcrops: chief soils are shallow earthy loams</p> <p><b>Oc49:</b> Partially dissected pediments with some low stony hills on fine-grained sedimentary rocks and basic dykes, frequently flanking areas of unit Fa8: hard alkaline red soils are dominant. Shallow stony soils occur on the steeper slopes, and soils with red-brown hardpan occur on the lower slopes and on small areas of valley plains.</p>
Land degradation risk	<p>The application area falls within the Horseshoe land system (DPIRD, 2024). This land system has been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).</p> <p>The Horseshoe land system is described as gently undulating stony plains and low rounded hills with partially saline drainage foci and alluvial tracts, supporting acacia and eremophila tall shrublands, and chenopod low shrublands (DPIRD, 2024). This land system is somewhat susceptible to wind and water erosion where vegetation is degraded (Wilcox and McKinnon, 1974).</p>
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area, legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped ground water salinity within the application area is 500-1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal (GIS Database).
Flora	No Priority flora species have been recorded over the application areas, however, a survey conducted in an adjacent area recorded approximately 250 individual plants of <i>Sida picklesiana</i> (P3) (Eco Logical 2019).
Ecological communities	There were no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities recorded within the application area. The closest Ecological Communities is the Frederick Land System (Priority 3) located 2 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	There are no records of conservation significant fauna species in the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	No fauna survey has been conducted over the application areas, however, a survey of an adjacent area recorded the following two fauna habitats (Eco Logical, 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open mulga woodland on sheet plain wash; and</li> <li>• Mulga woodland on minor drainage.</li> </ul>

### Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

#### Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

### Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

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>No flora surveys have been conducted over the application areas, however, a survey conducted in an adjacent area recorded approximately 250 individual plants of <i>Sida picklesiana</i> (P3) (Eco Logical 2019). Due to the close proximity to the application areas and the similarity in habitat and land system, this species is highly likely to occur within the application areas (DBCA, 2019). The species is known from 32 Western Australian Herbarium records, representing 19 populations that extend over a range of approximately 250 kilometres across two IBRA Bioregions, indicating that it is not locally restricted (DBCA, 2019; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). It is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
conservation of the species. There were no Priority Ecological Communities recorded in the application areas.		
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The majority of the application areas are likely to be comprised of the open mulga woodland on sheet plain wash habitat type (GIS Database). As such, the habitat within the application areas is unlikely to be considered to be suitable for conservation significant fauna species potentially occurring within the area (Eco Logical, 2019). All fauna habitats within the application areas are well represented in surrounding areas and are unlikely to be considered significant habitat in either a local or regional context (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application areas (GIS Database). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened flora.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities located within or in close proximity to the application areas (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application areas falls within the Gascoyne Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Gascoyne Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application areas are broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 29 (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, 2019).</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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>The review of this amendment application identified there are no watercourses intersecting the application area (GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(changed from CPS 8651/1)</p>	<p>No</p>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to wind and water erosion. Noting the location of the application area, the proposed clearing may cause appreciable land degradation. Potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 8651/1)</p>	No

## Appendix D - References and databases

### 1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### 2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2024) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Meekatharra Airport. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 1 November 2024).

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8651/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, October 2019.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2024) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 4 November 2024).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2024) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 1 November 2024).

Eco Logical (2019) Flora and Fauna Survey of the Proposed Tailing Storage Facility (TSF4). Report prepared by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd, for Billabong Gold Pty Ltd, July 2019.

- 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>
- MBS Environmental Pty Ltd (MBS) (2024) Annual Clearing Permit Reporting CPS 8651/1. Prepared for the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, July 2024.
- 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.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 4 November 2024).
- Wilcox, D G, and McKinnon, E A. (1974) A report on the condition of the Gascoyne catchment. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Perth. Report 2.

### 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>DAWE</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<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>DoEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
<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> (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:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

#### T **Threatened species:**

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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

**Threatened flora** is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

**CR Critically endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild 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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

**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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

**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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

**Extinct Species:**

**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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

**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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

**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).

Includes 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 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.



Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

- CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**  
Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).  
Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.
- OS Other specially protected species**  
Fauna 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).  
Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.
- P Priority species:**
- Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.
- Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species 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.

**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.