

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	8677/4
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Piper Preston Pty Ltd
Application received:	5 March 2025
Application area:	43.18 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	General Lease 53/25 Miscellaneous Licence 53/214 Miscellaneous Licence 53/217
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Wiluna
Colloquial name:	Lakeway SOP Demonstration Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Piper Preston Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 41.18 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 55.105 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 16 kilometres south of Wiluna, within the Shire of Wiluna.

Clearing permit CPS 8677/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 12 December 2019 and was valid from 4 January 2020 to 30 June 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 42 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 53.783 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production.

Clearing permit CPS 8677/1 was amended on 16 July 2020 for the purpose of increasing the permit boundary by 0.14 hectares. The amount of approved clearing remained unchanged.

On 9 October 2020, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8677/2 to increase the permit boundary and the amount of approved clearing by 1.18 hectares, and to include additional tenure.

On 5 March 2025, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8677/3 to remove mining lease 53/53 and include General lease 53/25, which covers the same area. Miscellaneous licenses 53/214 and 53/217 remain on the permit. The Permit Holder has noted that a total of 38.56 hectares of the approved 43.18 hectares has been cleared since the approval of CPS 8677/3, and due to this they have requested to extend the duration of the permit for an additional 5 years.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	19 June 2025
Decision area:	43.18 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer considered and reviewed the site characteristics presented in CPS 8677/1, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant, the Clearing Principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The assessment against the Clearing Principles has not changed since the original assessment for CPS 8677/1, which resulted in Principle (a) as 'may be at variance', Principle (e) as 'not at variance', and the remaining Principles were identified as 'not likely to be at variance'. 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; as well as potential impacts on watercourses.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 2.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation and is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to existing conditions already set out in the original permit, with the inclusion of one additional condition.

The Clearing Permit is subject to conditions to:

- 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 as an additional condition
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the Clearing Principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in previous decision reports.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The proposed area to be cleared has been designed by the applicant to minimise the clearing of vegetation. Avoidance and mitigation measures that the applicant committed to implement are listed below (Salt Lake Potash Ltd, 2019):

- disturbance to habitat has been minimised, with the majority of the disturbance occurring on the salt flats which are devoid of vegetation;
- the utilisation of existing infrastructure (e.g. access roads);
- vehicles will be restricted to designated roads and tracks to minimise the potential distribution of weeds;
- project design has considered location of drainage lines and flood levels in off playa areas with the aim of minimising disturbance of these; and
- where necessary, suitable floodways, drains and culverts will be installed to transfer flow past infrastructure and return it to its natural flow path.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. An additional management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to mitigate and minimise potential impacts on fauna present within the area being cleared.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The environmental values have been reviewed and as a result the assessment of the proposed clearing against the Clearing Principles has not changed from the previous Clearing Permit Decision Reports CPS 8677/1, CPS 8677/2 and CPS 8677/3. The previous assessment against the Clearing Principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared resulted in Clearing Principle (a) as 'may be at variance', Principle (e) as 'not at variance', and the remaining Clearing Principles were identified as 'not likely to be at variance'. A detailed assessment of the Clearing Principles can be found in the previous decision reports.

2.2.1 Assessment against Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

According to available databases, no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are known to occur within the application area (GIS Database), and none were identified during the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Botanica Consulting (2019).

Botanica Consulting (2019) and GIS Database records confirm the absence of Threatened and Priority flora within the application area. Both the habitat and vegetation types present within the application area are considered to be well-represented in the surrounding region (Bamford, 2019), and the application area is considered to be unlikely to support higher biodiversity than adjacent areas.

According to Bamford (2019), there are few conservation significant fauna surrounding the application area and majority of them are widespread. Previous sightings of *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) have been recorded within 30 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database), however the application area itself is considered to be of low suitability for this species due to vegetation within the clearing area being too sparse to provide suitable breeding habitat (Bamford, 2019).

Bamford (2019) also noted that due to infrequent and irregular heavy rainfall events, Migratory waterbirds that are listed as conservation significant species are considered to be irregular visitors and would mostly be associated with the nearby Lake Way which is situated approximately four kilometres from the application area.

Other Priority fauna species, including *Oxyura australis* (Blue-billed Duck) and *Dasycercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara), as well *Nyctophilus major tor* (Inland Long-eared Bat), have been identified as potentially occurring in the area due to the presence of suitable nearby habitat. However, they are not expected to be impacted by the clearing of the application area due to low suitability of habitat within the application area (Bamford, 2019).

Conclusion

Based on the reasons set out above, the assessment of the proposed clearing against the Clearing Principles (a) and (b) has not changed from the previous Clearing Permit decision reports. Any potential impacts from the proposed clearing can be managed by standard avoid and minimise, weed hygiene, staged clearing, and watercourse management conditions.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 25 March 2025 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 are two native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. 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 Site of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). 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 Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.
- 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 and is located within the Austin Botanical District within the Eremaean Botanical Province (Botanica Consulting, 2019).											
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 a conservation area (GIS Database). The application area lies approximately 70 kilometres in a north westerly direction to Wanjarri Nature Reserve, approximately 90 kilometres in a south westerly direction to Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park, and approximately 70 kilometres in a north easterly direction to Kaluwiri National Park (GIS Database).											
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 561: Succulent steppe with low woodland; mulga over saltbush (GIS Database).											
	A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting in during February and September, 2019. The vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2019).											
	<table><tr><th>Vegetation Association</th><th>Landform</th><th>Vegetation Type</th></tr><tr><td>Acacia Forest and Woodland (MVG 6)</td><td>Open Depression</td><td>Low woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneural</i> <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> <i>Acacia tetragonophyllal</i> <i>Eremophila jucunda</i> <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and low tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> in drainage line</td></tr><tr><td>Acacia Forest and Woodland (MVG 6)</td><td rowspan="2">Quartz Rocky Plain</td><td>Low open woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila jucunda</i> <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and low open tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on quartz-rocky plain</td></tr><tr><td>Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)</td><td>Low closed shrubland of <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> over low forbland of <i>Sclerolaena densiflora</i> on quartz-rocky plain</td></tr></table>	Vegetation Association	Landform	Vegetation Type	Acacia Forest and Woodland (MVG 6)	Open Depression	Low woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneural</i> <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> <i>Acacia tetragonophyllal</i> <i>Eremophila jucunda</i> <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and low tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> in drainage line	Acacia Forest and Woodland (MVG 6)	Quartz Rocky Plain	Low open woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Eremophila jucunda</i> <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> and low open tussock grassland of <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on quartz-rocky plain	Chenopod Shrublands, Samphire Shrublands and Forblands (MVG 22)	Low closed shrubland of <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> over low forbland of <i>Sclerolaena densiflora</i> on quartz-rocky plain
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• Characteristic	Details
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Botanica Consulting, 2019) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from very good to a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with an annual average rainfall (Wiluna) of approximately 260 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soil mapped inside the application area is described as Salinaland Plains Zone. Sandplains (with hardpan wash plains and some mesas, stony plains and salt lakes) on granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton with Red sandy earths, Red deep sands, Red shallow loams (sometimes with hardpans) and Red loamy earths (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The application area is situated within the Gabanintha land system (GIS Database), which is characterised by ridges, hills, and footslopes composed of various metamorphosed rocks (greenstones). This system supports sparse Acacia and predominantly non-halophytic shrublands. According to Northcote et al. (1968), the Gabanintha land system is generally not prone to erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no permanent watercourses or water bodies within the application area (GIS Database). There is one minor, non-perennial drainage line located in the north eastern boundary of the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area, which is governed by the <i>R/VI Act 1914</i> . Groundwater salinity in this region ranges from 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre of total dissolved solids, indicating slightly to moderately saline water quality (GIS Database).
Flora	A detailed flora and vegetation assessment was conducted by Botanica Consulting (2019) in the application area. No Threatened or Priority flora or Priority Ecological Communities were found within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2019).
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were found within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2019).
Fauna	No significant fauna have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database; Bamford, 2019). However, both GIS database records and a study by Bamford (2019) indicate that threatened or conservation significant species may occur in the surrounding areas as occasional visitors.
Fauna habitat	A survey conducted by Bamford (2019) identified one fauna habitat within the application area: Quartz Rocky Plain–Acacia Woodland. All habitat types observed in the survey were noted to be well represented beyond the boundaries of the survey area (Bamford, 2019).

Appendix B – References and databases

1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- 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

Bamford, M.J. and Bamford, A.R. Consulting Ecologists (Bamford) (2019) Lake Way Project Demonstration Plant – Salt Lake Potash Ltd. Fauna assessment of proposed project area. Unpublished report prepared by Bamford Consulting for Salt Lake Potash Limited.

BoM (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Wiluna. Bureau of Meteorology.
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 28 May 2025).

Botanica Consulting (2019) Environmental Assessment Lake Way SOP Demonstration Plant Clearing Permit Application M53/53. Report prepared by Botanica Consulting Pty Ltd for Piper Preston Pty Ltd, December 2019.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.

<https://dpir.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 27 May 2025).

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 12 May 2025).

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, 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.

Salt Lake Potash Ltd (2019) Clearing permit application and supporting documentation – Appendix E: Environmental Management Plan, CPS 8677/1, dated 16 September 2019.

Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
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)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety ²⁰²
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, 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:

{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.