



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8685/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 39/1116
Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton
Colloquial name: Golden Delicious Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
160		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and Associated Activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 21 November 2019

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database).</p> <p>Numerous flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area. Mattiske (2018) has updated the vegetation mapping of the area based on previous surveys and the following five vegetation associations were recorded within the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A2: Open Low Woodland to Woodland of <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i>, <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i>, <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i>, <i>Eremophila</i> spp., <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Atriplex</i> spp., <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Senna cardiosperma</i>, <i>Rhagodia eremaea</i> and <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> sp. in sandy-loam soils. A7: Open Woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> with <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia macraneura</i> and <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>Eremophila margarethae</i>, <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>Eragrostis laniflora</i> in red loam. A10: Woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Eremophila granitica</i>, <i>Eremophila longifolia</i>, <i>Eremophila margarethae</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>, <i>Teucrium teucriiflora</i>, <i>Maireana</i> spp., <i>Rhagodia spinescens</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i> on red loam sands. A11: Low Open Woodland of <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia burkittii</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Maireana triptera</i>, <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>artemisioides</i> on red clay loam soils. C1: Shrubland of Chenopod species dominated by <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Maireana pyramidata</i>, <i>Maireana glomerifolia</i> and <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> with occasional emergent <i>Acacia ayersiana</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> over <i>Acacia kalgoorliensis</i> and <i>Hakea preissii</i> and patches of <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> in clay loam soils.
Clearing Description	<p>Golden Delicious Project.</p> <p>AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited proposes to clear up to 160 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 665.7 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 41 kilometres south of Laverton, within the Shire of Laverton.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	<p>The vegetation condition was derived from amalgamated vegetation surveys produced by Mattiske (2018) and MBS Environmental (2019).</p>

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Eastern Murchison (MUR01) subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by its internal drainage and extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga Woodlands often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Halosarcia* shrublands (CALM, 2002).

Several flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area, with several of these surveys having been amalgamated and updated by Mattiske (2018). A total of 353 plant taxa from 49 families were recorded within the survey area (Mattiske, 2018; MBS Environmental, 2019). The vegetation communities recorded are well represented within the surrounding areas and are therefore not considered to be significant on a regional scale (Mattiske, 2018; MBS Environmental, 2019).

No Threatened or Priority Flora or Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the application area during the flora and vegetation surveys (Mattiske, 2018; MBS Environmental, 2019).

A total of 20 introduced plant taxa have been identified through desktop analysis as having the potential to occur within the application area (Mattiske, 2018; MBS Environmental, 2019). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by implementing a weed management condition.

A targeted fauna survey has not been undertaken over the application area. A database search indicates that there are approximately 64 bird, ten mammal, four amphibian and 49 reptile species occurring within 20 kilometres of the application area (DBCA, 2019). The diversity of avi-fauna and reptile species appears to be high; however this is likely to be attributed to the adjoining salt lake system. The remaining fauna diversity does not appear to be high. Given the vegetation within the application area is considered typical of the region (Mattiske, 2018), it is considered unlikely that the application area contains higher faunal diversity than the surrounding areas.

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

Methodology

CALM (2002)
DBCA (2019)
Mattiske (2018)
MBS Environmental (2019)

GIS Database:

- IBRA Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers
- Threatened Fauna

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A fauna survey has been undertaken over the greater Sunrise Dam Gold Mine (SDGM) which included the permit area (Ninox, 1995; 2005). The fauna habitats recorded were found to be typical of the area and not considered to be significant (Ninox, 1995; 2005).

The fauna surveys conducted by Ninox (1995, 2005) did not record any conservation significant fauna species. A database search recorded the following conservation significant species within 20 kilometres of the application area (DBCA, 2019):

- *Calidris ruficollis* - Red-necked Stint (Migratory)
- *Falco peregrinus* subsp. *macropus* - Australian Peregrine Falcon (Other Specially Protected Species)
- *Merops ornatus* - Rainbow Bee-eater (Migratory)

These three species are highly mobile with large home ranges and are not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

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

Methodology DBCA (2019)
Ninox (1995)
Ninox (2005)

GIS Database:
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Fauna

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (MBS Environmental, 2019).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (MBS Environmental, 2019; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened (rare) flora.

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

Methodology MBS Environmental (2019)

GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

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

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any TECs (Mattiske, 2018; MBS Environmental, 2019).

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

Methodology Mattiske (2018)
MBS Environmental (2019)

GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

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

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA managed lands
IBRA Bioregion – Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99.73	Least Concern	7.79
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99.75	Least Concern	6.64
Beard vegetation associations – Murchison Bioregion					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99.68	Least Concern	4.97

* Government of Western Australia (2019)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Government of Western Australia (2019)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). One seasonal creek line lies adjacent to the application area on the northern boundary (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear
- Imagery

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The application area intersects the Carnegie and Rainbow land systems (GIS Database):

The Carnegie Land System is made up of salt lakes with fringing saline flats and dunes. Lack of slope renders most of this system generally not susceptible to soil erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

The Rainbow Land System is made up of hardpan plains supporting mulga shrublands. This system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 1994).

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

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al. (1994)

GIS Database:
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Soils, Statewide

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the application area. The nearest DBCA (formerly DPaW) managed land is an unnamed C Class Nature Reserve which is located approximately 100 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- DBCA Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows.

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

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

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

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The climate of the region is semi-arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 220 millimetres per year (BoM, 2019). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (MBS Environmental, 2019).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.

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

Methodology BoM (2019)
MBS Environmental (2019)

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

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

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 October 2019 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2019). 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 several registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2019). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

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

Methodology DPLH (2019)

4. References

- BoM (2019) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Laverton. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 18 November 2019).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DBCA (2019) NatureMap, Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/default.aspx> (Accessed 18 November 2019).
- DPLH (2019) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 18 November 2019).
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- 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, Perth. <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.
- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (Mattiske) (2018) Flora and Vegetation Assessment Sunrise Dam Gold Mine Lake Carey and Bindah Road Project. Unpublished report prepared for AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd by Mattiske, 2018.
- MBS Environmental (2019) Golden Delicious Satellite Pit Sunrise Dam Gold Mine. Unpublished report prepared for AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd by MBS Environmental, September 2019.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (Ninox) (1995) Survey Report - A Vertebrate Fauna Assessment of the Sunrise Dam Project Area. Unpublished report prepared for AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd by Ninox, 1995.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (Ninox) (2005) Vertebrate Fauna Survey Results 2004 Sunrise Dam Gold Mine. Unpublished report prepared for AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd by Ninox, 2005.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (1994) Technical Bulletin - An Inventory and Condition Survey of the North-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia, No. 87. Department of Agriculture, Government of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DoEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DoEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{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.