



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8700/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Fortescue Metals Group Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 47/777
Miscellaneous Licence 47/805
Miscellaneous Licence 47/863
Miscellaneous Licence 47/865
Miscellaneous Licence 47/866
Miscellaneous Licence 47/867
Miscellaneous Licence 47/868
Miscellaneous Licence 47/869
Miscellaneous Licence 47/870
Miscellaneous Licence 47/871
Miscellaneous Licence 47/872
Miscellaneous Licence 47/873
Miscellaneous Licence 47/899
Miscellaneous Licence 47/908

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Eliwana Northern Access Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
253.3		Mechanical Removal	Road construction and maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 25 June 2020

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 18: Low woodland, mulga (*Acacia aneura*);
- 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over soft spinifex;
- 175: Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara);
- 178: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia basedowii*;
- 565: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; bloodwood over soft spinifex; and
- 567: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & *Triodia basedowii* (GIS Database).

More than 20 flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken in the greater Eliwana Project area between 2008 and 2019 to inform environmental impact assessments. Some of these surveys have covered extensive areas such as Biota Environmental Sciences' (2018) 134,177 hectare study area and Ecoscape's (2012) 119,544 hectare study area.

To assist with this native vegetation clearing permit application, Ecologia (2019) mapped and described the vegetation units over a majority of the clearing permit application area (along the existing Mt Brockman road where widening and realignment is proposed and along the proposed new Donkey Pool Road alignment) between 29 November and 1 December 2019. The survey covered the area where approximately 80% of the proposed clearing will take place. The following 21 vegetation associations were recorded (Ecologia, 2019; Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, 2020):

AapTe – *Acacia aptaneura* low woodland; *Triodia epactia* low open hummock grassland;

AatEgAeTeTw – ±*Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low isolated trees; *Acacia atkinsiana*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* low open shrubland/mallee woodland; *Triodia epactia* low open hummock grassland;

AatEgTe - *Acacia atkinsiana*, *Eucalyptus gamophylla* tall open shrubland/mallee woodland; *Triodia epactia* mid open hummock grassland;

AiT - *Acacia inaequilatera* mid isolated shrubs; *Triodia wiseana* low open hummock grassland;

AxAsTeMp - *Acacia xiphophylla* low open woodland; *Acacia synchronicia* mid isolated shrubs; *Triodia epactia*, *Maireana pyramidata* low sparse hummock grassland/shrubland;

AxSaoEx - *Acacia xiphophylla* low open woodland; *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* mid sparse shrubland; *Eragrostis xerophila* low sparse tussock grassland;

AxTI - *Acacia xiphophylla* low isolated trees; *Acacia synchronicia* mid sparse shrubland; *Triodia longiceps*, *Cenchrus ciliaris* mid sparse hummock grassland/tussock grassland;

CdAaTe1 – *Corymbia deserticola* subsp. *deserticola*, *C. hamersleyana* and *E. leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* open woodland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Grevillea wickhamii* and *Acacia* spp. sparse shrubland over *Triodia epactia* hummock grassland;

ChAaTw – *Corymbia hamersleyana* open woodland over *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *A. atkinsiana*, and *A. bivenosa* open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* and *T. epactia* hummock grassland;

ChAtGrTeCa - *Corymbia hamersleyana* low isolated trees; *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Gossypium robinsonii* tall sparse shrubland; *Triodia epactia*, *Cymbopogon ambiguus* low open hummock grassland/tussock grassland;

ChEIAanTe - *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Acacia ancistrocarpa* mid open shrubland; *Triodia epactia* mid open hummock grassland;

Dss - *Dichanthium sericeum* subsp. *sericeum* low tussock grassland;

EcEvAcTe - *Eucalyptus victrix*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* mid woodland; *Acacia citrinoviridis* tall sparse shrubland; *Bothriochloa ewartiana*, *Cyperus vaginatus* low open tussock grassland/sedgeland;

EIAaAanTe - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Acacia ancistrocarpa* sparse shrubland; *Triodia epactia* low open hummock grassland;

EIAatAmTwCI - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Acacia atkinsiana*, *Acacia maitlandii* mid sparse shrubland; *Triodia wiseana*, *Corchorus lasiocarpus* low sparse hummock grassland/shrubland;

EIGoTe - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Triodia epactia*, *Gompholobium oreophilum*, *Amphipogon sericeus* low sparse hummock grassland/shrubland/tussock grassland;

EITITw - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low isolated trees; *Triodia longiceps*, *Triodia wiseana* low open hummock grassland;

EITw - *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* low open woodland; *Triodia wiseana* low open hummock grassland;

EvAcCvTI - *Eucalyptus victrix* mid open woodland; *Acacia citrinoviridis* tall sparse shrubland; *Cyperus vaginatus*, *Triodia longiceps* low sparse sedgeland/hummock grassland;

EvAcEa - *Eucalyptus victrix* mid woodland; *Acacia citrinoviridis* tall sparse shrubland; *Eulalia aurea* mid open tussock grassland.

ExAbTw – *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* open woodland over *A. bivenosa* sparse shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland.

Clearing Description

Eliwana Northern Access Project.
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd proposes to clear up to 253.3 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 3,349.5 hectares, for the purpose of road construction, maintenance and associated activities including borrow pits, water bores and turkeys nest dams. The new and upgraded roads will facilitate access to enable construction of the associated Eliwana Rail Project. The Eliwana Northern Access Project is located approximately 90 kilometres west-north-west of Tom Price, within the Shire of Ashburton.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

to

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from flora and vegetation studies undertaken by Biota Environmental Sciences (2018), Ecologia (2019) and information provided by Fortescue Metals Group Ltd (2020).

The proposed clearing is for maintenance, upgrade and construction of lateral access roads to support construction of the Eliwana Rail Project.

Clearing permit CPS 8700/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 30 January 2020 and was valid from 22 February 2020 to 21 February 2025. The permit authorised the clearing of

up to 206 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 3,172 hectares, for the purpose of road construction, maintenance and associated activities including borrow pits, water bores and turkeys nest dams to support the Eliwana Rail Project.

On 8 May 2020, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 8700/1 to increase the area of authorised clearing from 206 hectares to 253.3 hectares, increase the permit boundary to approximately 3,349.5 hectares and add additional tenements to the permit.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

The permit holder has applied to increase the amount of clearing authorised by 47.3 hectares and increase the permit boundary by approximately 69.3 hectares, to allow for the realignment of an existing road (FMG, 2020).

The clearing permit application area is located within the Hamersley subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Pilbara Bioregion (GIS Database). The Hamersley sub-bioregion consists of sedimentary ranges and plateaus dissected by gorges. Surface drainage flows into either the Fortescue River to the north, the Ashburton River to the south or the Robe River to the west. Environmental features of conservation value in the sub-bioregion include the gorges of the Hamersley Range (particularly in Karijini National Park), Palm Springs and Duck Creek, the Themeda grasslands of the Pilbara, and isolated areas of Mulga on Red Hill Station. Land use in the subregion is dominated by pastoral grazing and mining (CALM, 2002).

Fortescue Metals Group Ltd (FMG) has conducted numerous flora surveys across approximately 134,177 hectares for the Eliwana Mine and Railway Projects. Additional studies have been undertaken within and in the immediate area surrounding the permit envelope such as the Ecologia 2019 study. The Eliwana Rail Survey study area comprised 61,797 ha as part of the recent consolidated survey. The consolidated survey data from the rail survey area found 651 flora taxa from 204 genera. The use of existing roads and tracks has been selected to minimise the impact on flora and vegetation communities of environmental significance. Up to 253.3 ha of native vegetation will be cleared from multiple vegetation communities. Many of these communities are very similar in species composition and structure to the area surveyed for the Eliwana Proposal. The impact to the extent of all of the vegetation communities within the clearing disturbance footprint is low. The consolidated survey area results indicate a higher level of species richness for the survey area when compared to other study areas in the local area. These higher than expected species richness values are considered to be a result of the broad extent of the study area (spanning 160 kilometres), which encompasses a wide range of habitats and vegetation units (FMG, 2020).

The permit envelope includes six known introduced weed species (FMG, 2020). Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database; FMG, 2020). However, the Themeda Grasslands TEC is 350 metres from the application area, at its nearest point, and the application area dissects two mapped occurrences of the Brockman Iron cracking clay communities of the Hamersley Range Priority 1 ecological community (FMG, 2020). Approximately 12,540 hectares of this PEC is recorded on the TEC database, extending from Mt Delphine to Karijini National Park (DBCA, 2019). It is estimated that this proposal will clear approximately 8.1 hectares or 0.006% of the current mapped extent of the PEC. The clearing proposal is unlikely to affect the conservation status of the PEC as a whole, however ongoing cumulative impacts are likely to threaten its conservation status in the longer term.

No Threatened Flora have been recorded in the Eliwana area, despite numerous flora and vegetation surveys (FMG, 2020). There are 44 Priority flora species known from the greater Eliwana study area (Biota Environmental Sciences, 2018). Of these, nine Priority flora species are known to occur within the clearing permit envelope, based on Fortescue Metals' database of Priority flora records (FMG, 2020):

- *Ipomoea racemigera* (Priority 2)
- *Pentalepis trichodesmoides* subsp. *hispidia* (Priority 2)
- *Astrebla lappacea* (Priority 3)
- *Glycine falcata* (Priority 3)
- *Indigofera* sp. *Bungaroo Creek* (Priority 3)
- *Ptilotus subspinescens* (Priority 3)
- *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (Priority 3)
- *Goodenia nuda* (Priority 4)
- *Rhynchosia bungarensis* (Priority 4)

FMG (2020) reports that a range of conservation significant fauna species are likely to utilise habitat within the clearing permit application area, based on the expected habitat types present and the known distributions of conservation significant fauna. These species include: Northern Quoll, *Dasyurus hallucatus* (EN); Pilbara Olive Python, *Liasis olivaceus barroni* (VU); Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat, *Rhinochotis aurantia* (VU); Ghost Bat, *Macroderma gigas* (VU); Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* (OS); Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos* (VU); and

Western Pebble-mound Mouse, *Pseudomys chapmani* (P4). However, the most significant habitat types identified by Ecoscape (2018) at Eliwana are absent in the clearing permit application area (FMG, 2020).

Whilst the application area is expected to support a range of vertebrate fauna species, it is unlikely to be more diverse than surrounding areas based on the common and widespread habitat types expected to be present, lack of significant habitat features (such as permanent water, gorges and gullies) and the presence of existing roads and tracks (Ecoscape, 2018; FMG, 2020).

Several ephemeral water courses that flow only after heavy rainfall occur throughout both the Duck Creek and the Weelemurra Creek catchment areas. Disturbance to the natural drainage of water within drainage lines is not anticipated under the proposed clearing (FMG, 2020). The application area has been designed to avoid and minimise any impacts to vegetation that is associated with watercourses, however, there will be some minor instances of disturbance to riparian vegetation (FMG, 2020).

The permit envelope is located within the Duck Creek catchment, a tributary of the Ashburton River (FMG, 2020; GIS Database). A small portion of the permit envelope in the north east is located within the Weelemurra Creek Catchment, a tributary of the Fortescue River (FMG, 2020; GIS Database). Flood events are most likely to occur in the summer months when the remnants of tropical cyclones can pass inland and continue to precipitate large volumes of water onto the landscape (FMG, 2020). The natural drainage features of the landscape will be unaffected by the proposed disturbance and hence impacts to the landscape associated with this aspect are not anticipated (FMG, 2020).

The proposed amendment to increase the amount of clearing by 47.3 hectares is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts above those already assessed under Clearing Permit CPS 8700/1.

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*, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (a), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Methodology Biota Environmental Sciences (2018)
CALM (2002)
DBCA (2019)
Ecoscape (2018)
FMG (2020)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

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

Comments

There are two native title claims (WC1997/089 and WC2001/005) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). These claims have been determined by the Federal Court 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 are numerous registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2020). 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. Where heritage sites cannot be avoided, Fortescue Metals Group Ltd will apply for Section 18 consent under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* in consultation with the native title holders as prescribed under the Land Access Agreements in place. Fortescue Metals Group Ltd has sought and received some Section 18 consents and expects to apply for additional Section 18 consents to facilitate the implementation of the proposal (FMG, 2020).

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. The Eliwana Railway Project has been approved under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* via Ministerial Statement 1108 (FMG, 2020). Whilst associated, the road construction and maintenance works supported by this native vegetation clearing permit application are of a minor nature and do not require assessment under Part IV.

The clearing permit amendment was advertised on 25 May 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this amendment.

Methodology DPLH (2020)
FMG (2020)

4. References

- Biota Environmental Sciences (2018) Eliwana Consolidated Detailed Flora and Vegetation Phase 2. Prepared for Fortescue Metals Group by Biota Environmental Sciences, Leederville, Western Australia, January 2018.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DBCA (2019) Priority Communities for Western Australia Version 28. Species and Communities Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 17 January 2019.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 28 May 2020).
- Ecologia (2019) Mt Brockman Road Widening and Realignment Vegetation Mapping. Prepared for Fortescue Metals Group by Ecologia, Osborne Park, Western Australia, November 2019.
- Ecoscape (2018) Eliwana Project: Consolidated Vertebrate Fauna. Prepared for Fortescue Metals Group by Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd, North Fremantle, Western Australia, January 2018.
- FMG (2020) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Documentation: Eliwana Northern Access. Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, May 2020.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, 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.

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 indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare 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 clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.