

## **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

## 1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8779/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Yilgarn Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 77/611

Mining Lease 77/990

Local Government Area: Shire of Yilgarn

Colloquial name: Koolyanobbing Crusher Replacement Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of:

7.082 Mechanical Removal Mineral production and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 05 March 2020

### 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The

The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum and gimlet (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Ecotec Pty Ltd on 28 November 2019. The following vegetation association was recorded within the application area (Ecotec, 2019):

**Eucalypt Open Woodland**: Mid woodland of mixed species including *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus corrugata*, *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus longicornis* and *Eucalyptus vittata* over tall to mid sparse shrubland dominated by *Atriplex nummularia*, *Exocarpos aphyllus*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over low sparse shrubland dominated by *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Maireana trichoptera*, *Olearia muelleri*, *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Rhagodia crummondii* on red, brown, orange or red-brown clay, clay loam and sandy loam with dolerite, quartz and ironstone stones on plains, flats and low rises.

Clearing Description

Koolyanobbing Crusher Replacement Project.

Yilgarn Iron Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 7.082 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 7.082 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately one kilometre east of Koolyanobbing, within the Shire of Yilgarn.

**Vegetation Condition** 

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

To:

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a flora and vegetation survey conducted by Ecotec Pty Ltd (Ecotec,

The proposed clearing is for the construction of new operating equipment to replace existing infrastructure servicing the site. The application area is located within the already existing mining operations, adjacent to existing minesite infrastructure and storage locations.

#### 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 clearing permit application area is located within the Southern Cross subregion of the Interim

Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Coolgardie Bioregion (GIS Database).

The Southern Cross subregion is characterised by undulating plains of Eucalypt woodlands with significant endemism that follows a chain of saline playa-lakes. The mid-level granite basement outcrops support *Borya constricta*, with stands of *Acacia acuminata* and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* while the upper levels support mallees and scrub-heaths of highly endemic acacias and species from the Myrtaceae family (CALM, 2002).

A vegetation survey was conducted across the application area on the 28 November 2019 (Ecotec, 2019). Thirty eight species from 13 families were described during the flora survey (Ecotec, 2019). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded during the survey, and none were expected to be found based on desktop analysis (Ecotec, 2019).

A single individual of an introduced flora species (Ruby Dock, *Rumex vesicarius*) was recorded during the vegetation survey of the application area (Ecotec, 2019). This species is common in the Koolyanobbing area and is associated with disturbance (Ecotec, 2019).

There are no known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities located within the application area (GIS Database), and none were recorded during the vegetation survey conducted (Ecotec, 2019).

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area are well represented in surrounding areas (Ecotec, 2019; Yilgarn Iron, 2020; GIS Database). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

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

#### Methodology

CALM (2002) Ecotec (2019) Yilgarn Iron (2020)

#### GIS Database:

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

No fauna survey has been conducted within the application area. The vegetation survey report described the habitat of the application area as Eucalypt Open Woodland (Ecotec, 2019). This habitat of tall trees may provide nesting and foraging habitat for a variety of bird species (Ecotec, 2019). The sandy loam soils of the woodland application area may provide burrowing opportunities for reptiles, however during the fauna habitat assessment no bird or reptile activity was observed, potentially due to the proximity of mining activity (Yilgarn Iron, 2020).

There are no known records of Threatened fauna within the application area (GIS Database).

Desktop searches of available databases recorded several fauna species of conservation significance with the potential to occur within the application area (Ecotec, 2019). The most significant being the Malleefowl, *Leipoa ocellata* (VU) which has been sighted in surrounding areas (Ecotec, 2019), however it has been noted that there is no suitable nesting habitat for the Malleefowl within the application area (Yilgarn Iron, 2020).

Potential fauna habitats within the application area are well represented in the largely uncleared surrounding area (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to represent any significant fauna habitat in a local or regional context.

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

#### Methodology

Ecotec (2019) Yilgarn Iron (2020)

#### 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 (Ecotec, 2019).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Yilgarn Iron, 2020; 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 E

Ecotec (2019)

Yilgarn Iron (2020)

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 (Ecotec, 2019).

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

## Methodology Ecotec (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 Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 97% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Coolgardie Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum and gimlet (GIS Database). Approximately 82% and 97% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at the state and bioregional level respectively (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  – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~97	Least Concern	16.39
Beard vegetation association  – WA					
141	1,158,760	960,755	~82	Least Concern	35.29
Beard vegetation association  - Coolgardie Bioregion					
141	883,085	858,525	~97	Least Concern	46.13

<sup>\*</sup> Government of Western Australia (2019)

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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 at variance to this Principle

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (Ecotec, 2019; GIS Database).

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

#### Methodology Ecotec (2019)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear

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

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

The application area is mapped as having an Fa4 soil type (GIS Database). The Fa4 soil type is characterised by ranges with numerous rock outcrops containing basic igneous rocks (greenstones): and soils are chiefly shallow loams (Northcote et al., 1960-68).

The soils of the application site were surveyed as red sandy loam surface layer extending to a depth of approximately 40 cm with dense consolidated sandy clay soil below (Ecotec, 2019). The application area is located on a relatively flat plain with a slope estimated at less than one percent across the application area (DPIRD, 2020; GIS Database), and there are no watercourses within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). Therefore the risk of wind and water erosion is likely to be low during normal weather conditions.

The proposed clearing of 7.082 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

#### Methodology

**DPIRD** (2020)

Ecotec (2019)

Northcote et al. (1960-68)

GIS Database:

- Topographic Contours, Statewide
- 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 Class A Nature Reserve located approximately 11 kilometres west south-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:

- DPaW 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). Groundwater in the area is predominately hypersaline (Yilgarn Iron, 2020). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant impact on the quality of surface or groundwater.

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

#### Methodology Yilgarn Iron (2020)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear
- Hydrography, Lakes
- 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 arid to semi-arid, with an average rainfall of approximately 250-300 millimetres per year (CALM, 2002). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing into ephemeral salt lakes following significant rainfall (CALM, 2002; Yilgarn Iron, 2020).

Localised ponding and waterlogging can potentially occur in flat areas of the region after heavy rainfall, due to slow drainage and infiltration into the soil (Yilgarn Iron, 2020). 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

CALM (2002) Yilgarn Iron (2020)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear

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

#### Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 10 February 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 (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 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.

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 (2020)

### 4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPIRD (2020) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8720/1. Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, January 2020.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <a href="http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/">http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/</a> (Accessed 6 February 2020).
- 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.
- Ecotec (2019) Koolyanobbing Crusher Expansion Reconnaissance Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment. Report prepared for Mineral Resources Ltd, by Ecotec Pty Ltd, November 2019.
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. <a href="https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics">https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics</a>
- 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., Beckmann, G.G., Bettenay, E., Churchward, H.M., van Dijk, D.C., Dimmock, G.M., Hubble, G.D., Isbell, R.F., McArthur, W.M., Murtha, G.G., Nicolls, K.D., Paton, T.R., Thompson, C.H., Webb, A.A. and Wright, M.J. (1960-68) 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Yilgarn Iron (2020) Yilgarn Operations Koolyanobbing Crusher Replacement Project M77/990 and M77/611. Yilgarn Iron Pty Ltd, January 2020.

## 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)

DoEEDepartment of the Environment and Energy, Australian GovernmentDERDepartment of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)DMIRSDepartment of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western AustraliaDMPDepartment 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 Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia

EPBC Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (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 Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, 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.