



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8805/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MLG OZ Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 15/125
Local Government Area: Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name: Mt Burges Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
101.5		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 20 August 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 association: 1413: Shrublands; acacia, casuarina & melaleuca thicket (GIS Database).

Several flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area with the most recent being undertaken by Goldfields Landcare Services in December 2019 (MLG, 2020). The following two vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (MLG, 2020):

- **Euc B:** *Eucalyptus leptophylla* Tree Mallee over Scrub of *Allocasuarina* spp., *Hakea francisiana*, *Callitris* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Bertya dimerostigma* and Spinifex on low sand dunes.
- **Ac A:** Mixed *Acacia* scrub with *Allocasuarina* spp., *Banksia elderiana*, and *Callitris* spp. on Spinifex sandplain.

Clearing Description Mt Burges Project.
MLG OZ Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 101.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 102.664 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 18 kilometres north-west of Coolgardie, within the Shire of Coolgardie.

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

Comment The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Goldfields Landcare Services (MLG, 2020).

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 occurs within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by gently undulating plains interrupted in the west with low hills and a series of large playa lakes in the western half (CALM, 2002). The vegetation is dominated by Mallees, Acacia thickets and shrub-heaths on sandplains, diverse Eucalyptus woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges, and in valets, and dwarf shrublands of samphire around salt lakes (CALM, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 1413 which has approximately 98% of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining in the bioregion (Government of Western

Australia, 2019; GIS Database). Several flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken within M15/125 and the surrounding tenements, comprising (MLG, 2020):

- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd. 2001. Mt Burges – Coolgardie Review of Rare and Priority Species.
- Goldfields Landcare Services. 2005. Eight Mile Rock Dam Flora Survey May 2005.
- G&G Environmental Pty Ltd. 2009. Fauna, Flora and Vegetation of the Proposed Barcon Sand Mines. August 2009.
- Goldfields Landcare Services. 2019. Flora and Vegetation Survey. Eight Mile Rock Hole Project. December 2019.

A total of 286 separate plant specimens (including duplicates) have been collected from within the survey area containing 171 flora species, from 87 genera and 36 families. No Threatened flora, Threatened Ecological Communities, or Priority Ecological Communities have been identified within the application area (MLG, 2020; GIS Database). One Priority flora species has been identified within the application area, this being *Homalocalyx grandifloras* (Priority 3). *Homalocalyx grandifloras* is described as an erect shrub to 90 cm high, 80 cm wide, with pink flowers (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). There are fifteen records of *Homalocalyx grandifloras* according to the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-), totalling over 60,000 individuals. The survey of the application area and its surrounds identified 13 populations of *Homalocalyx grandifloras* containing hundreds of plants to be present, whilst the proposed clearing may impact approximately 100 individuals of *Homalocalyx grandifloras* (MLG, 2020). It is not expected that the proposed clearing will result in a significant impact to the conservation status of *Homalocalyx grandifloras*.

Four introduced flora species were identified from flora database searches as having the potential to be present within the application area: Ward's Weed (*Carrichtera annua*); Buffel-grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*); Prickly Pears (*Cylindropuntia* spp.); and African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*). 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 the implementation of a weed management condition.

The fauna habitats in the application area are common and widespread in the subregion (Western Wildlife 2019). Habitats that are uncommon in the Bioregion, such as granite outcrops, salt lakes or freshwater wetlands, are absent from the application area (MLG, 2020).

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (MLG, 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)
Government of Western Australia (2019)
MLG (2020)
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)
Western Wildlife (2019)

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- 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 may be at variance to this Principle

Three fauna and habitat surveys have been undertaken within M15/125 and the surrounding tenements, comprising (MLG, 2020):

- Ninox Wildlife Consulting. 1995. Vertebrate and Invertebrate Fauna Surveys of the Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter Area, Vertebrate Sampling of Rehabilitation Sites Near Mt Burges, Western Australia. April 1995.
- G&G Environmental Pty Ltd. 2009. Fauna, Flora and Vegetation of the Proposed Barcon Sand Mines. August 2009.
- Western Wildlife. 2019. Eight Mile Rock Hole Project, Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Targeted Malleefowl Survey. December 2019.

The following four fauna habitats have been recorded within the application area (MLG, 2020):

- Mallee woodland;

- Sandplain shrubland;
- Tall shrubland; and
- Sand dune.

The habitats in the application area are common and widespread in the subregion and are unlikely to function as refugia (Western Wildlife, 2019). Habitats that are uncommon in the Bioregion, such as granite outcrops, salt lakes or freshwater wetlands, are absent from the application area (MLG, 2020).

According to MLG (2020), the application area has the potential to support up to six frog, 75 reptile, 110 bird and 33 mammal (26 native and seven introduced) species. The assemblage includes elements of both the Eremaean fauna, with a primarily inland distribution, and the Bassian fauna, with a primarily south-western distribution (MLG, 2020). Seven vertebrate fauna of conservation significance have the potential to occur in the application area:

- Central Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus major tor* – Priority 3);
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii* – Vulnerable);
- Inland Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* – Priority 4);
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus* – Migratory);
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Vulnerable);
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus* – Other Specially Protected Species); and
- Woma (*Aspidites ramsayi* – Priority 1).

Malleefowl occur widely in the region, and although no active mounds were recorded within the application area, evidence of this species was found in the survey area, with two inactive mounds, tracks and a digging located approximately three kilometres west of the application area (MLG, 2020). A nest mound under construction was recorded adjacent to the survey area in 2009 (Western Wildlife, 2019). The tall shrubland habitat and patches of dense shrubland in the sandplain shrubland mallee woodland habitats may provide breeding habitat for Malleefowl. However, due to this habitat type being restricted to the centre of the southern application area and current disturbance adjacent to the application area, it is likely that equal or higher quality vegetation and fauna habitats would exist throughout the surrounding area (Western Wildlife, 2019).

Due to the lack of records in the region, it is difficult to ascertain the status of the Chuditch in the local area (Western Wildlife, 2019). It is probable that the Chuditch is an uncommon inhabitant of the region. If present, the application area would likely support only one or two individuals (Western Wildlife, 2019). Chuditch are highly mobile, and typically have large home-ranges.

There is no breeding habitat for the Fork-tailed Swift, Inland Western Rosella or Peregrine Falcon within the application area (Western Wildlife, 2019). Although these species may overfly the area on occasion for foraging, the application area is not considered important habitat for these species (Western Wildlife, 2019).

The Central Long-eared Bat is widespread across the arid south of Australia, and though thought to have a population of substantially more than 10,000 individuals, the reliability of this estimate is low (Western Wildlife, 2019). It is considered locally common in some Bioregions, including the Coolgardie Bioregion. There are no records of this species within 50km of the application area on DBCA's Threatened and Priority Fauna Database, however may occur in the mallee woodlands of the application area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology MLG (2020)
Western Wildlife (2019)

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 (MLG, 2020).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (MLG, 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 MLG (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 (MLG, 2020). The nearest TEC to the application area is the Depot Springs stygofauna complex, located approximately 312 kilometres north, north-west of the application area (MLG, 2020).

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

Methodology MLG (2020)

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 98% 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 1413: Shrublands; acacia, casuarina & melaleuca thicket (GIS Database). Approximately 77% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation associations remains uncleared at the state level and approximately 98% remains at the 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 – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~98	Least Concern	16.37
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
1413	1,679,916	1,286,855	~77	Least Concern	13.22
Beard vegetation associations – Coolgardie Bioregion					
1413	1,061,212	1,042,554	~98	Least Concern	18.18

* 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 at variance to this Principle

There are no watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). MLG (2020) has advised that the application area contains uncoordinated ephemeral drainages which are dry for most of the year, flowing only after significant rainfall events.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with the watercourses may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

Methodology MLG (2020)

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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area lies within the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database), on Yilgarn Craton's 'Eastern Goldfields Terrains' (CALM, 2002). Landforms of the Coolgardie bioregion include granite rocky outcrops, low greenstone hills, laterite uplands and broad plains (Bastin, G., and the ACRIS Management Committee, 2008). Over-grazing by stock and rabbits is the major cause of land degradation and the Eastern Goldfields subregion is not likely to be susceptible to erosion (Morton, Short & Barker, 1995).

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

Methodology Bastin, G., and the ACRIS Management Committee (2008)
CALM (2002)
Morton, Short & Barker (1995)

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 the Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve which is located approximately 17 kilometres south 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). 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 269.6 millimetres per year (BoM, 2020).

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 (2020)

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 1 June 2020 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, 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 is one registered Aboriginal Site 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

- Bastin, G., and the ACRIS Management Committee (2008) Rangelands 2008 - Taking the Pulse; Coolgardie Bioregion. Published on behalf of the Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System (ACRIS) Management Committee by the National Land and Water Resources Audit, Canberra.
- BoM (2020) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Coolgardie. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 17 August 2020).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- 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.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 17 August 2020).
- 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.
- MLG (2020) Purpose Permit Application, Assessment of Clearing Principles, Mt Burges Project. Unpublished report prepared by MLG Oz Pty Ltd, February, 2020.
- Morton, S. R., Short, J. & Barker, R. D. (1995) Refugia for Biological Diversity in Arid and Semi-arid Australia, Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Canberra, ACT.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 17 August 2020).
- Western Wildlife (2019) Eight Mile Rock Hole Project, Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Targeted Malleefowl Survey. Unpublished report prepared by Western Wildlife for MLG Oz Pty Ltd, December 2019.

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.