Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:	8808/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:	**Spinifex Crushing and Screening Services Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property:	Mining Lease 45/1276 Miscellaneous Licence 45/503
Local Government Area:	Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:	Chichester Quarry

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
24.5		Mechanical Removal	Quarrying and associated activities, infrastructure works and road maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:	Grant
Decision Date:	16 April 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:
93: Abydos Plain – Chichester - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and
173: Chichester Plateau - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex & *Triodia wiseana* on basalt (GIS Database).

A desktop assessment was conducted over the application area by Bio Diverse Solutions (2018) and by 360 Environmental (2019).

Clearing Description

Chichester Quarry.
Spinifex Crushing and Screening Services Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 24.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 46.14 hectares, for the purposes of quarrying and associated activities, infrastructure works and road maintenance. The project is located approximately 180 kilometres south of Port Hedland, within the Town of Port Hedland.

Vegetation Condition

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

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from photographs of the application area provided by the applicant (360 Environmental, 2019).

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 Chichester subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Pilbara Bioregion (GIS Database). The Chichester subregion comprises the central and northern section of the Pilbara Craton. Undulating Archaean granite and basalt plains include significant areas of basaltic ranges. Plains support a shrub steppe characterised by *Acacia inaequilatera* over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grasslands, while *Eucalyptus leucophloia* tree steppes occur on ranges. Drainage occurs to the north via numerous rivers (e.g. De Grey, Oakover, Nullagine, Shaw, Yule, Sherlock) (CALM, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area has been significantly disturbed as the site has previously been cleared and quarried by other companies over the past ten years. However, the remaining vegetation and the vegetation surrounding the application area is in 'Good' condition (Keighery, 1994).

No Threatened flora are known to occur within the application area. Bio Diverse Solutions' 2018 assessment of flora at the site identified 10 Priority flora species within a 10km radius (360 Environmental, 2019). Of the 10 Priority species, only *Euphorbia stevenni* (Priority 3) is considered to potentially occur, based on habitat preferences. *Euphorbia stevenni* habitat consists of areas with clay or sandy soils which are present at the site (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-2020). During a site visit in May 2019, 360 Environmental conducted a targeted search for *Euphorbia stevenni*, however no plants were identified within the application area. No other Priority flora species were identified within the application area during the site visit. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the habitat required for *Euphorbia stevenni.*

A desktop database search identified 10 conservation significant fauna species as potentially being located within the site or a 10 km radius (DBCA, 2020). All species identified are highly mobile and have scattered or wide distributions throughout the Pilbara region. A targeted search was conducted by 360 Environmental in May 2019 for the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*); however, no evidence of the Northern Quoll was found within the application area. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact the diversity of fauna or fauna habitat.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) were identified within or in close proximity to the application area. The Wona Land System PEC is located approximately 5 kilometres to south of the application area. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact this PEC.

Database searches found that Buffel-grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) was likely to occur at the site or within a 5km radius. During a site visit in May 2019, 360 Environmental identified Kapok (*Aerva javanica*), Paddy melons (*Cucumis sp*.) and Buffel-grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) throughout the site. A weed management condition may control and minimise the further spread of weeds within the application area.

The soils and landforms of the Chichester Subregion Land System are very common with a wide distribution and form the main central part of the Pilbara Bioregion (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004). It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact the diversity of the region's landforms.

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (360 Environmental, 2019; GIS Databases). 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

360 Environmental (2019)
CALM (2002)
DBCA (2020)
Keighery (1994)
Van Vreeswyk et al (2004)
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-2020)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Soils, Statewide
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- WA Herbarium

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A desktop database search identified 10 conservation significant fauna species as potentially being located within the site or a 10 km radius (DBCA, 2020). They are:

- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Critically Endangered
- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*), Endangered
- Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*), Endangered
- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Endangered
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) Vulnerable
- Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) Vulnerable
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*) (Pilbara form), Vulnerable

- Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), Vulnerable
- Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*), Priority 4
- Letter winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*), Priority 4

One species considered likely to occur at the site, the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), has a scattered distribution throughout arid regions of central and Western Australia (360 Environmental, 2019). A targeted search for the Northern Quoll in the rocky and riparian areas of the site was undertaken in May 2019 by 360 Environmental. No evidence of the Northern Quoll was found at the site. One species of conservation interest, the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), was recorded at the site by Spinifex Crushing and Screening Services personnel during a site visit. Rainbow Bee-eaters are widely abundant in the region and occupy a wide variety of habitat (360 Environmental, 2019). As the site has previously been cleared and quarried, the application area is unlikely to represent significant fauna habitat for the Rainbow Bee-eater or any other fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

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

Methodology 360 Environmental (2019)
DBCA (2020)

GIS Database:
- 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). A site visit of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (360 Environmental, 2019).

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

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

Methodology 360 Environmental (2019)
Government of Western Australia (2019)

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

(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).

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

Methodology 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 Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99.57% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 93: Abydos Plain – Chichester; and 173: Chichester Plateau (GIS Database). Approximately 99.5% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

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

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA managed lands
IBRA Bioregion – Pilbara	17,808,657.04	17,731,764.88	~99.57	Least Concern	~10.12
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
93	3,044,309.52	3,040,640.98	~99.88	Least Concern	~1.96
173	1,753, 104.09	1,748,260.83	~99.72	Least Concern	~13.62
Beard vegetation associations – Pilbara Bioregion					
93	3,042,114.27	3,038,471.67	~99.88	Least Concern	~1.96
173	1,752, 520.89	1,747,677.63	~99.72	Least Concern	~13.62

* 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 permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). One seasonal creek line, BeaBea Creek, passes through the application area (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (BoM, 2020).

The vegetation within and surrounding BeaBea Creek is in 'Good' condition (Keighery, 1994) but has previously been disturbed by past access track maintenance and quarrying activities (360 Environmental, 2019).

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

Methodology 360 Environmental (2019)
BoM (2020)
Keighery (1994)

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 Boolgeeda, Rocklea and McKay land systems (GIS Database). These land systems have been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The Boolgeeda land system is characterised by stony lower slopes and plains below hill systems supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands or mulga shrublands. This land system generally has low water and wind erosion risk and a moderate risk of flooding (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).

The Rocklea land system is characterised by basalt hills, plateaux, lower slopes and minor stony plains supporting hard spinifex (and occasionally soft spinifex) grasslands. This land system generally has low water and wind erosion risk and a low to moderate flooding risk (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).

The McKay land system is characterised by hills, ridges, plateaux remnants and breakaways of meta sedimentary and sedimentary rocks supporting hard spinifex grasslands. This land unit generally has low water and wind erosion risks and a low to moderate flooding risk (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).

The proposed clearing of up to 24.5 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 46 hectares, for the purpose of quarrying is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al (2004)

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 Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve, located approximately 27 kilometres north-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). 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 Pilbara region is arid-tropical with two distinct seasons, a hot and wet summer and a mild and dry winter (BoM, 2020). Average annual rainfall records fluctuate between 462 - 713 millimetres per year (BoM, 2020). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall during the summer wet season (BoM, 2020).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). There is one minor non-perennial watercourse known as BeaBea Creek, that is intersected by the access road south of the quarry. 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 24 February 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 (WC1999/003) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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

360 Environmental (2019) Mining Proposal (REG ID 78744), Chichester Quarry, Revision E. Prepared for Spinifex Crushing and Screening Services, August 2019.

Bureau of Meteorology (2020) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Wittenoom 005026. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 26 March 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au (Accessed 23 March 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.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/ (Accessed 26 March 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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-2020) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 24 March 2020).

Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E.; Payne, A.L.; Leighton, K.A.; Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

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	*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.