



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8931/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Marda Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 77/1272
Miscellaneous Licence 77/261

Local Government Area: Shire of Menzies

Shire of Yilgarn

Colloquial name: Die Hardy Gold Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 30 July 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:
19: Low woodland; mulga between sandridges;
141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum & gimlet; and
202: Shrublands; mulga & *Acacia quadrimarginea* scrub (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Western Botanical during October 2012 and November 2013. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2014):

1.1: *Acacia aneura* over *Baeckea elderiana* Shrubland.

2.1: *Eucalyptus corrugata*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*, and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia* with *Eucalyptus formanii* (P4) Low Woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* over *Olearia muelleri*.

2.2: *Eucalyptus corrugata*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* Low Woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa*, *Acacia acuminata* over *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei* and *Olearia muelleri*.

2.7: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus salubris* (Gimlet) Woodland over *Eremophila scoparia*, *Atriplex nummularia*, *Atriplex bunburyana*.

Clearing Description Die Hardy Gold Project.
Marda Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 90 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 101.805 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 140 kilometres north of Southern Cross, within the Shire of Menzies and the Shire of Yilgarn.

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

To

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

Comment The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Western Botanical (2014).

The proposed clearing is for an open pit, waste rock landform and topsoil stockpile.

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 gently undulating uplands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone hills. The subregion supports *Eucalyptus* woodlands, with endemic eucalypts occurring around salt lakes, low greenstone hills, valley alluvials and broads plains of calcareous earths. Salt lake surfaces support dwarf shrublands of samphire, while granite basement outcrops support swards of *Borya constricta*, with stands of *Acacia acuminata* and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* at mid-levels and Mallees and scrub-heaths on the uplands (CALM, 2002).

The application area falls on the northern edge of the area known as the Great Western Woodlands, which represents the largest and most intact eucalypt woodland remaining in southern Australia and is one of the best examples of its type in the world (DEC, 2010). The Great Western Woodlands covers a total area of approximately 16 million hectares, and is recognised for its flora and fauna species richness and high number of endemic flora species (DEC, 2010). However, at approximately 90 hectares in size, the clearing permit application area represents less than 0.01 percent of the area covered by the Great Western Woodlands, and the proposed clearing of 90 hectares is unlikely to have any significant impact on the conservation values of the Great Western Woodlands.

A level 2 flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounds was conducted by Western Botanical from 17 to 26 October 2012 and 5 to 12 November 2013 (Western Botanical, 2014). The vegetation of the application area was dominated by *Eucalyptus* woodlands with *Acacia* shrublands (Western Botanical, 2014). Vegetation types described within the application area are all represented in the surrounds, indicating a wider distribution (Western Botanical, 2014). No Threatened Ecological Communities were identified as potentially occurring in the application area and the field assessment of the application area did not record any (Western Botanical, 2014; GIS Database). Part of the application area falls within the Die Hardy Range/Diemels vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation) Priority 1 Ecological Community (Western Botanical, 2014; GIS Database). DBCA (2020a) advises that approximately 0.5% of this PEC will be impacted by the proposed clearing, and this is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of the PEC.

A total of 171 flora taxa from 74 genera and 34 families were recorded during the field surveys of the application area and surrounds (Western Botanical, 2014). Twenty five conservation significant flora were identified as previously being recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, including three Threatened, four Priority 1, two Priority 2, 12 Priority 3 and four Priority 4 flora species (Western Botanical, 2014). However, only two Priority flora species were recorded during the field assessments of the application area: *Banksia arborea* (P4) and *Eucalyptus formanii* (P4) (Western Botanical, 2014). One *Banksia arborea* and 85 *Eucalyptus formanii* individuals may be impacted by the proposed clearing, however both species have multiple populations outside the application area on a regional scale (Botanica, 2020; Western Botanical, 2014). DBCA (2020a) has determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of these species.

A desktop assessment identified 184 fauna species having been previously recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area including 102 birds, three amphibians, 20 mammals, nine invertebrates and 50 reptiles (DBCA, 2020b). This includes three conservation significant fauna: Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, OS), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU at a state and federal level), and Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider (*Aganippe castellum*, P4). Of the conservation significant species potentially present, Malleefowl were the only species identified as potentially being impacted by the proposed clearing as there is suitable nesting and foraging habitat within the application area and Malleefowl activity in the local area (AMP, 2014). Potential impacts to Malleefowl may be minimised with a fauna management condition. A targeted search for Tree-stem Trapdoor Spiders was conducted in 2014, however none were identified within the application area (APM, 2014). Peregrine Falcons are unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing as they are a highly mobile species with a large home range (APM, 2014).

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area are well represented in surrounding areas (APM, 2014; Western Botanical, 2014; Botanica, 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 APM (2014)
Botanica (2020)
CALM (2002)
DBCA (2020a)
DBCA (2020b)
DEC (2010)
Western Botanical (2014)

- 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

A level 1 fauna assessment was conducted over the application area by Animal Plant Mineral (APM) in June 2014. The following three fauna habitats have been recorded within the application area (APM, 2014):

- Tall *Eucalyptus* Woodland over Halophytic understorey on Alluvial Plain.
- Low *Eucalyptus* Woodland over *Acacia* Shrubland on Alluvial Plain.
- Dense Shrubland on Alluvial Plain.

APM (2014) identified 10 conservation significant fauna species that may potentially occur within the application area given there is suitable habitat. Seven of the 10 fauna species are considered likely to occur and three species were considered potentially occurring (APM, 2014). The fauna habitats present in the application area are not restricted and are broadly available locally (APM, 2014). Nine of the conservation significant fauna species are unlikely to be dependent on the habitat within the application area (APM, 2014).

Western Botanical (2014) opportunistically observed 11 Malleefowl mounds and two sets of footprints during a 2013 flora and vegetation survey, within 5 kilometres of the application area. One set of footprints were located within the application area and one mound was located in very close proximity to the application area (Western Botanical, 2014). APM (2014) revisited these mounds in 2014 and classified them as active or inactive. Two of the 11 were considered to be active by APM, located approximately 3.3 kilometres northwest of the application area (APM, 2014). The application area is ideal nesting and foraging habitat for Malleefowl, particularly the dense shrubland on alluvial plain habitat type (APM, 2014). The proposed clearing may impact Malleefowl given there is evidence of Malleefowl activity within the local area. Potential impacts to Malleefowl may be minimised by the implementation of a fauna management condition.

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

Methodology APM (2014)
Botanica (2020)
Western Botanical (2014)

- 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 (Western Botanical, 2014; Botanica, 2020).

None of the vegetation types within the application area are known habitat for any species of Threatened flora. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened (rare) flora (GIS Database; Western Botanical, 2014; Botanica, 2020).

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

Methodology Western Botanical (2014)
Botanica (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 (Western Botanical, 2014; Botanica, 2020).

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

Methodology Botanica (2020)
Western Botanical (2014)

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 associations 19: Low woodland; mulga between sandridges; 141: Medium woodland; York gum, salmon gum & gimlet; and 202: Shrublands; mulga & *Acacia quadrimarginea* scrub (GIS Database). Approximately 82-100% of the pre-European extent of each 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 – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~97	Least Concern	16.39
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
19	4,385,295	4,384,249	~99	Least Concern	0.71
141	1,158,760	960,755	~82	Least Concern	35.29
202	448,529	448,343	~99	Least Concern	22.91
Beard vegetation associations – Coolgardie Bioregion					
19	10,302	10,300	~99	Least Concern	76.24
141	883,085	858,525	~97	Least Concern	46.39
202	6,122	6,122	~100	Least Concern	97.22

* Government of Western Australia (2019)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

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

GIS Database:
- IBRA Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

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

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

Methodology 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application area lies within the Campsite land system (Payne et al., 1998). This land system has been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The Campsite land system is described as alluvial plains supporting eucalypt woodlands with saltbush understoreys and eucalypt-acacia shrublands. Alluvial plains of the Campsite land system are slightly susceptible to soil erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced (Payne et al., 1998).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. Potential land degradation impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Methodology Payne et al. (1998)

(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

The application area is located within the former Diemals Pastoral Lease, managed by DBCA (formerly DPaW) (GIS Database). DBCA (2020a) has stated that the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of the proposed conservation area.

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

Methodology DBCA (2020a)

- 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 or ephemeral watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database).

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 arid to semi-arid, with an average rainfall of approximately 226.4 millimetres per year (BoM, 2020; CALM, 2002).

There are no permanent or ephemeral water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). 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)
CALM (2002)

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 29 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 (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

- APM (2014) Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd. Level 1 Fauna Assessment. Report prepared by Animal Plant Mineral, for Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd, August 2014.
- BoM (2020) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Southern Cross Airfield. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 28 July 2020).
- Botanica (2020) Environmental Assessment. Die Hardy Gold Project. Clearing Permit Application. Report prepared by Botanica consulting, for Ramelius Resources, May 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DBCA (2020a) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8931/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, June 2020.
- DBCA (2020b) NatureMap. Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Government of Western Australia. <https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 29 July 2020)
- DEC (2010) A Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 15 July 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.
- 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.
- Payne, A.L., van Vreeswyk, A.M., Leighton, K.A., Pringle, H.J. and Hennig, P. (1998) An inventory and condition survey of the Sandstone-Yalgoo-Paynes Find area, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin 90. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.
- Western Botanical (2014) Marda East Project. Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Southern Cross Goldfields. Report prepared by Western Botanical, for Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd, February 2014.

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.