

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 9022/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Montague Resources Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Exploration Licence 77/1535
Local Government Area: Shire of Kondinin
Colloquial name: N/A

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1.62 | | Mechanical Removal | Mineral Exploration |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 October 2020

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Vegetation Description | The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 511: Medium woodland; salmon gum & morrel (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by AECOM during November, 2019 (AECOM, 2020; Blueprint, 2020). The following vegetation association was recorded within the application area (Blueprint, 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypt Woodland: <i>Eucalyptus urna</i>, <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. (sterile) low woodland over <i>Melaleuca quadrifaria</i>, <i>Cratystylis conocephala</i> and <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiatum</i> mid to tall closed shrubland over <i>Sclerolaena diacantha</i> and *<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> low isolated herbs. *denotes alien species |
| Clearing Description | Montague Resources Australia Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 1.62 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 19.4 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 83 kilometres east of Hyden, within the Shire of Kondinin. |
| Vegetation Condition | Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994); To Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994). |
| Comment | The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by AECOM (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 lies within the Southern Cross subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by gently undulating uplands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone hills (CALM, 2002). Diverse Eucalyptus woodlands rich in endemic Eucalyptus occur around salt lakes, low greenstone hills, valley alluvials and broad plains of calcareous earths (CALM, 2002). Mallees and scrub-heaths occur on uplands as well as sand lunettes associated with playas along the broad valley floors and sand sheets around the granite outcrops. The scrubs are rich in endemic acacias and <i>Myrtaceae</i> (CALM, 2002). |
|-----------------|---|

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by AECOM (2020) during November, 2019 encompassing the application area and surrounding vegetation. A total of 15 flora species from 10 genera and seven families were recorded within the survey area (Blueprint, 2020). Families with the highest representation are *Myrtaceae* (six species), *Fabaceae* (three species) and *Chenopodiaceae* (two species). Species diversity was low, varying between six to twelve native species per quadrat (20 metres x 20 metres)(AECOM, 2020; Blueprint, 2020).

The application area occurs within the Lake Cronin area which was listed on the Register of National Estate due to its high level of flora and fauna diversity and endemism (EPA, 2009). According to the Environmental Protection Authority (2009), the region supports extensive shrubland, sandplain and woodland environments including an excellent representation of a range of vegetation types that are now extensively cleared in the Wheatbelt. Based on its high biodiversity conservation significance and competing land use interests, various forms of conservation reservation and management are proposed for the area (EPA, 2009).

No Threatened Ecological Communities, Threatened flora or Priority flora were recorded within the application area during the flora and vegetation survey (Blueprint, 2020). The application area is however located within the boundary of the Priority Ecological Community (PEC) "Ironcap Hill Vegetation Complexes", which includes Mt Holland, Middle Ironcap Hill, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill (Blueprint, 2020; GIS Database). This PEC occurs in a linear formation along numerous ridges extending both north and south of the survey area (Blueprint, 2020). Less than one percent of this PEC will be impacted by the proposed clearing therefore, it is not likely to have a significant impact on this PEC. The nature of the proposed clearing is also low impact, being for exploration comprising of Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling and/or Rotary Air Blast (RAB) drilling (Blueprint, 2020).

One introduced flora species was recorded within the application area during the flora and vegetation survey however, there are several weed species recorded surrounding the application area (Blueprint, 2020). Potential impacts on biological diversity from weeds may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The application area supports one fauna habitat type: Mallee Woodland (Blueprint, 2020). Mallee Woodland is common and widespread in the local area and extends well beyond the application area (Blueprint, 2020). Four fauna species of conservation significance have previously been recorded in the local area as part of studies conducted for the Early Grey Lithium Project 20 kilometres north of the survey area (Blueprint, 2020). None of these species were observed during the field survey and no indirect evidence was recorded (Blueprint, 2020).

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (Blueprint, 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 AECOM (2020)
Blueprint (2020)
CALM (2002)
EPA (2009)

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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

A Vertebrate Fauna Survey was completed of Exploration Licence 77/1535 comprising a desktop assessment and field survey on 3 November 2019 (AECOM, 2020).

The following fauna habitat has been recorded within the application area (AECOM, 2020; Blueprint, 2020):

- Mallee Woodland

No significant fauna habitats were recorded within the application area and the Mallee Woodland habitat is common and widespread in the local area and extends well beyond the application area (Blueprint, 2020).

Four fauna species of conservation significance have previously been recorded in the local area as part of studies conducted for the Early Grey Lithium Project, 20 kilometres north of the survey area (Blueprint, 2020):

- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii* – Vulnerable);
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* – Vulnerable);
- Western Brush Wallaby (*Notamacropus Irma* – Priority 4); and
- Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* – Priority 4).

The fauna habitat within the application area is likely to be utilised only for foraging habitat for the above species due to the open understorey and disturbed/compacted ground condition (Blueprint, 2020).

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

Methodology AECOM (2020)
Blueprint (2020)

GIS Database:
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Fauna

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Blueprint, 2020).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (Blueprint, 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 Blueprint (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 (Blueprint, 2020).

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

Methodology Blueprint (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 Coolgaride 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 511: Medium woodland; salmon gum & morrel (GIS Database). Approximately 74% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at the state level and approximately 94% at the bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

Large areas of vegetation have been cleared in the broader Wheatbelt region. However, in the north-easter Wheatbelt and the area surrounding this proposal, there are large areas of intact native vegetation (GIS Database). 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 | | | | | |
| 511 | 700,693 | 520,615 | ~74 | Least Concern | 15 |
| Beard vegetation associations – Coolgardie Bioregion | | | | | |
| 511 | 464,424 | 435,177 | ~94 | Least Concern | 19.32 |

* 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 (Blueprint, 2020; GIS Database).

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

Methodology Blueprint (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**

Major soil types in the region include calcareous loamy earths, red and yellow loamy earths and alkaline deep and shallow sandy duplexes with some yellow sandy earths, salt lake soils, yellow deep sands and red shallow loamy duplexes (Tille, 2006).

Two soil landscape system have been mapped within the survey area:

- 261X17 – Slopes and valleys; and
- 261Ya28 – Sandy plains with some clay pans and small salt lakes, dunes and lunettes.

The proposed clearing of up to 1.62 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 19.4 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation. However, sandy soils are known to be susceptible to wind erosion, therefore it is important to minimise the length of time the land is left open following clearing. Potential impacts from the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

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

Methodology Tille (2006)

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 Lake Cronin Nature Reserve which is located approximately 1.43 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of this or any other 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). 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 342 millimetres per year (Blueprint, 2020). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Blueprint, 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 Blueprint (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 21 September 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 (WC2000/007) 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

- AECOM (2020) Flora and Fauna Assessment E77/1535. Unpublished report prepared for Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy and Fertilisers by AECOM, June 2020.
- Blueprint (2020) Clearing Permit – Purpose Permit Application for Exploration on E77/1535, Assessment of Clearing Principles. Unpublished report prepared for Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy and Fertilisers by Blueprint Environmental Strategies Pty Ltd, August 2020.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 26 October, 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.
- EPA (2009) Advice on Conservation Values and Review of Nature Reserve Proposals in the Lake Cronin Region. Advice of the Environmental Protection Authority to the Minister for Environment under Section 16(e) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Report Number 1329. Published Report Prepared by the Environmental Protection Authority, June 2009. Government of Western Australia, 2013.
- 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.
- Tille, P J. (2006), Soil-landscapes of Western Australia's rangelands and arid interior. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Perth. Report 313.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| BC Act | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia |
| 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) |
| DAWE | Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government |
| DBCA | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia |
| DEC | Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER) |
| 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) |
| DoE | Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DAWE) |
| DoEE | Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE) |
| DoW | Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER) |
| DPaW | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA) |
| DPIRD | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia |

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|-----------------|---|
| DPLH | Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia |
| DRF | Declared Rare Flora |
| DSEWPac | Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DAWE) |
| DWER | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia |
| EP Act | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Authority, 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.