

## **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

## 1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 9116/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Wyloo Metals Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Exploration Licence 45/4940

Local Government Area: Shire of Broome
Colloquial name: Salt Creek Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 18 February 2021

## 2. Site Information

## 2.1. Existing environment and information

## 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

#### **Vegetation Description**

The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 73: Grasslands, short bunch grass savanna, grass; salt water grassland (*Sporobolus virginicus*) (GIS Database).

No flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area. The application area is located within two wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia: Eighty Mile Beach System and Mandora Salt Marsh. The following wetland types have been recorded within these two wetlands (DAWE, 2021):

Eighty Mile Beach System:

## A5 - Marine and coastal zone wetlands

Sand, shingle or pebble beaches; includes sand bars, spits, sandy islets.

## A7 - Marine and coastal zone wetlands

Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats

#### **B4** - Inland wetlands

Riverine floodplains; includes river flats, flooded river basins, seasonally flooded grassland, savanna and palm savanna.

## B10 - Inland wetlands

Seasonal/intermittent freshwater ponds and marshes on inorganic soils; includes sloughs, potholes; seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes.

### Mandora Salt Marsh:

#### B1 - Inland wetlands

Permanent rivers and streams; includes waterfalls.

#### B8 - Inland wetlands

Seasonal/intermittent saline lakes.

## B12 - Inland wetlands

Seasonal saline marshes

#### B15 - Inland wetlands

Peatlands; forest, shrub or open bogs.

## B17 - Inland wetlands

Freshwater springs, oases and rock pools.

Clearing Description Salt Creek Project.

Wyloo Metals Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 0.11 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1.375 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 221

kilometres southwest of Broome, within the Shire of Broome.

**Vegetation Condition** 

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate

(Keighery, 1994).

to

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from analysis of aerial imagery.

The proposed clearing is for the purpose of creating 11 drill pads for sonic drill rigs.

## 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 Pindanland subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Dampierland Bioregion (GIS Database). The Pindanland subregion is characterised by sandplains overlaying sandstones with pindans, supporting hummock grasslands on hills; marine deposits on coastal plains, with magal, samphire – *Sporobolus* spp. grasslands, *Melaleuca alsophila* low forests, and *Spinifex* spp. – *Crotalaria* spp. strand communities; and alluvial plains supporting tree savannahs of ribbon grass- bluegrass grasses with scattered coolabah and riparian forests of river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Cadjeput (*Melaleuca* spp.) fringe drainages (CALM, 2002).

The application area consists of 11 proposed drill holes within two wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DAWE, 2021). Eight proposed drill holes are located within the Eighty Mile Beach System and three are located within the Mandora Salt Marsh (DAWE, 2021, GIS Database). Each drill hole area is approximately 0.125 hectares, and are dispersed over approximately 12,800 hectares (GIS Database). No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are known to occur within the application area (GIS Database; DBCA, 2021).

NatureMap identified a total of 75 flora species from 25 families and 45 genera that have been previously recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, including three weed species (DBCA, 2007-). No Threatened flora have been previously recorded. Two Priority flora have been previously recorded: *Lawrencia* sp. Anna Plains (N.T. Burbidge 1433) (P3) and *Terminalia kumpaja* (P3) (DBCA, 2007-). No records of these two Priority flora are located within the 11 proposed drill hole areas. The proposed total clearing of 0.11 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to impact the conservation status of either of these two Priority flora species.

NatureMap identified a total of 158 fauna species previously recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (DBCA, 2007-). The 158 fauna species recorded includes three amphibian, 130 bird, one mammal and 24 reptile species (DBCA, 2007-). 28 of the bird species are protected under international agreement, and six birds are listed as Threatened (DBCA, 2007-). All conservation significant fauna species are highly mobile and unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

The vegetation association, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represented in surrounding areas (DAWE, 2021; GIS Database). The application areas is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.

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

## Methodology

CALM (2002) DAWE (2021)

DBCA (2007-)

DBCA (2021)

## 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

No fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area.

Vegetation of the Eighty Mile Beach System consists of open-shrubland (mangrove), open-tussock grassland on the coastal plain, and open-scrub in the swamps (DAWE, 2021). Vegetation of the Mandora Salt Marsh consists of low shrubland (samphire) over much of the wetland, closed-scrub (mangrove) along the creek; and open-forest and sedgeland in at Mandora Soak (DAWE, 2021). The surrounding (dryland) areas support tall open-shrubland (DAWE, 2021).

The Eighty Mile Beach System is an important migration stop-over area for shorebirds in East Asia – Australasia, supporting more than 300,000 birds (DAWE, 2021). It is one of the most important sites in the world for migration of Threatened fauna species, great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*, CR federal and VU state) (DAWE, 2021).

The Mandora Salt Marsh is a major breeding area for stilts and terns (DAWE, 2021).

A desktop assessment identified 28 birds species protected under international agreement previously recorded within 20 kilometres of the application areas (DBCA, 2007-). In addition to great knot, five other birds species listed as Threatened have previously been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area: curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*, CR federal and VU state), greater sand plover (Charadrius leschenaultii, VU federal and state), lesser sand plover (Charadrius mongolus, EN federal and state), eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*, CR federal and VU state), and Australian painted snipe (*Rostratula australis*, VU federal) (DBCA, 2007-).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. However, the small area of clearing (0.11 hectares) is unlikely to significantly impact breeding or foraging habitat for any fauna species that may utilise the area.

#### Methodology DAWE (2021)

DBCA (2007-)

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; DAWE, 2021).

The vegetation association within the application area is common and widespread within the region (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

DAWE (2021)

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). DBCA (2021) have advised that there are no known TECs located within the application area.

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

## Methodology

DBCA (2021)

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 Dampierland Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Dampierland Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 73: Grasslands, short bunch grass savanna, grass; salt water grassland (*Sporobolus virginicus*) (GIS Database). Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of vegetation association 73 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  – Dampierland	8,343,944	8,319,879	~99	Least Concern	1.77
Beard vegetation associations  – WA					
73	259,384	258,168	~99	Least Concern	11.87
Beard vegetation associations  – Dampierland Bioregion					
73	240,283	239,716	~99	Least Concern	11.66

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

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

The application area is located within two wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands: Eighty Mile Beach System and Mandora Salt Marsh (DAWE, 2021). The Eighty Mile Beach System is approximately 40,000 hectares in size while the Mandora Salt Marsh spans approximately 80,000 hectares (DAWE, 2021).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle, as the application area is located within two Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. However, the proposed clearing of up to 0.11 hectares of native vegetation is minimal compared to the total combined areas of Eighty Mile Beach System and Mandora Salt Marsh, and is unlikely to cause significant impact to the environmental values of these wetlands.

## Methodology DAWE (2021)

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

All 11 proposed drill holes are located within the Anna land system (GIS Database). This land system has been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the

<sup>\*\*</sup> Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The Anna land system is described as paleo-tidal coastal plain with saline soils supporting tussock grasses and halophytic vegetation (Cotching, 2005). This land system is not prone to erosion and is stable under relatively high disturbance (Cotching, 2005).

The proposed clearing of up to 0.11 hectares of native vegetation 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 Cotching (2005)

GIS Database:

- Landsystem Rangelands

## (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 two wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia: Eighty Mile Beach System and Mandora Salt Marsh (DAWE, 2021). These wetlands are of conservation significance, however the impacts to these two wetlands are likely to be minimal due to the small area of clearing proposed (0.11 hectares). Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

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

## Methodology DAWE (2021)

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). The nearest PDWSA is the De Grey River Water Reserve, located approximately 183.5 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows or quality, or 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

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 dry hot tropical and semi-arid with summer rainfall (CALM, 2002). The average annual rainfall of approximately 626 millimetres per year (BoM, 2021). The application area resides within the inter-tidal flats and coastal floodplain of the Eighty Mile Beach System, and the western edge of Mandora Salt Marsh (DAWE, 2021). The clearing of 0.11 hectares of native vegetation 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 (2021)

CALM (2002)

**DAWE (2021)** 

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

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

#### Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 December 2020 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), inviting submissions from the public. A submission was received in relation to this application regarding Aboriginal Heritage issues. A written response was provided on the matters raised.

There is one native title claim (WC1998/065) over the area under application (DPLH, 2021). 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, 2021). 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 (2021)

## 4. References

BoM (2021) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Broome Airport. Bureau of Meteorology. <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/">http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/</a> (Accessed 29 January 2021).

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Cotching, W. E. (2005) An inventory of rangelands in part of the Broome Shire, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 93.

DAWE (2021) Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. <a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands">https://www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands</a> (Accessed 10 February 2021)

DBCA (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <a href="https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/">https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/</a> (Accessed 12 February 2021).

DBCA (2021) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 9116/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia, January 2021.

DPLH (2021) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <a href="https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS">https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS</a> (Accessed 27 January 2021).

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. <a href="https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics">https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics</a>

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

BC Act Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, 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
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 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

**DPLH** Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia

**DRF** Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)

**DWER** Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia

EP Act Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia

**EPA** Environmental Protection Authority, 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.