



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 9165/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Montague Resources Australia Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 77/1065
Local Government Area: Shire of Yilgarn
Colloquial name: NA

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 March 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: 511: Medium woodland; salmon gum & morrel (GIS Database). A targeted flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by AECOM during August, September and October, 2020. No vegetation community mapping was undertaken for the application area due to only part of the tenement being included in the survey (AECOM, 2020), and due to the disturbed nature of the application area
Clearing Description	Montague Resources Australia Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 0.42 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 0.42 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration rehabilitation. The project is located approximately 85 kilometres south-east of Southern Cross, within the Shire of Yilgarn.
Vegetation Condition	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994); To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The vegetation condition was derived from aerial imagery (GIS Database).

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.

Comments	Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle The application area occurs within the Southern Cross (COO2) sub-region of the Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). This sub-region is characterised by subdued relief, comprising of gently undulating lands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone hills (CALM, 2002). The valleys of this sub-region have Quaternary duplex and gradational soils, with chains of saline playa-lakes supporting dwarf shrub lands of samphire. Around these lakes, diverse <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodlands, rich in endemic eucalypts occur on the low greenstone hills, valley alluvials and broad plains of calcareous earth (CALM, 2002). At mid-level, the granite basement outcrops and supports swards of <i>Borya constricta</i> , with stands of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> , while the upper-levels are comprised of the eroded remnants of a lateritic duricrust giving way to yellow sand-plains, gravelly sand-plains and lateritic breakaways. Mallees and scrub-heaths occur on the uplands and sand lunettes associated with playas along
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the broad valley floors and sand sheets around the granite outcrops (CALM, 2002).

No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority flora have been located within the application area (AECOM, 2020; GIS Database).

The Threatened flora species *Eremophila verticillata*, commonly known as whorled eremophila, is known to occur in the local area and numerous records were identified during the flora survey (AECOM, 2020). Prior to any potential impact to this species, a current Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Permit to Take Declared Rare Flora issued pursuant to Section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* or a current Threatened Flora Authorisation issued pursuant to section 40 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, must be obtained.

The application area is located within the Ironcap Hills Vegetation Complexes (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill) (banded ironstone), a Priority 3 ecological community (PEC) (AECOM, 2020, GIS Database). This PEC covers an area of 11, 814.676 hectares, and encompasses a large area that may potentially contain banded ironstone formations. The application areas do not contain the presence of banded ironstone formations, so it is considered unlikely that the proposal will have an impact on the values of this PEC.

No weeds have been recorded during the surveys of the application area (AECOM, 2020). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. This can in turn lead to greater rates of infestation and further loss of biodiversity if the area is subject to repeated fires. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The fauna habitat within the application area is in a degraded nature and is considered unlikely to support any conservation significant fauna species (GIS Database).

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

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.

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

AECOM (2020) completed a targeted fauna survey between 22 to 23 August, and 29 September to 2 October 2020, to collect information on Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* - Vulnerable) on five tenements including M77/1065. The assessment included:

- All survey areas were traversed on foot, walking linear traverses 10 m apart.
- Malleefowl mounds were recorded wherever encountered.
- Mapping of transects and Malleefowl mound locations.

Malleefowl are large ground dwelling birds that rarely fly unless alarmed. They are largely confined to arid and semi-arid woodland that is dominated by Mallee eucalypts on sandy soils, with less than 430 millimetres of rainfall annually. They may also be found in Mulga, *Acacia aneura*, and other sclerophyllous associations. In Western Australia Malleefowl may also be found in coastal heath where shrubs produce sufficient leaf litter for use in nest mounds (DEC, 2015).

During the survey, no signs of Malleefowl, including birds, tracks or mounds were identified on Mining Lease M77/1065 (AECOM, 2020).

Due to the disturbed nature and size of the application area, and the proposal being for mineral exploration rehabilitation, it is expected that the proposed works will result in a net improvement to the local environment once rehabilitation works have been completed. The proponent has advised that no vegetation clearing is

proposed to complete the rehabilitation, and that a permit is being sought in case of incidental vegetation disturbance from heavy vehicles (AECOM, 2020). Based on the above, the proposal area is not considered to be significant habitat for any fauna species.

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

Methodology AECOM (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, threatened flora.

Comments Proposal is at variance to this Principle

There are several known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area identified several populations of *Eremophila verticillata* (Threatened) (AECOM, 2020). *Eremophila verticillata*, commonly known as whorled eremophila, is a flowering plant in the figwort family, *Scrophulariaceae* and is endemic to Western Australia (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). It is a low, spreading or rounded shrub with a strong odour, small leaves pressed against the stem and purple flowers (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

Mining Lease M77/1065 contains approximately 7,259 individuals of *Eremophila verticillata*, with the application area intercepting two populations, one with approximately 26+ individuals, and one with approximately 1-5 individuals (AECOM, 2020). Based on this information, the proposed clearing area could potentially impact on less than 0.005% of the tenement population.

No vegetation clearing is proposed as part of this proposal to rehabilitate five historical drillholes (AECOM, 2020). Due to the presence of *Eremophila verticillata* and the associated Environmentally Sensitive Areas, the engagement of heavy vehicles to complete the rehabilitation pose a potential threat to the vegetation in the immediate area, and as a precaution the proponent has submitted a clearing permit application (AECOM, 2020).

For any exploration rehabilitation activities within 50 metres of known records of *Eremophila verticillata*, a current Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Permit to Take Declared Rare Flora issued pursuant to Section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* or a current Threatened Flora Authorisation issued pursuant to section 40 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, must be obtained.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. As the proposal is for rehabilitation activities, it is expected that the proposed works will result in a net improvement to the local environment once rehabilitation works have been completed. Also, due to the small size of the proposal areas and size of the population present, these areas aren't considered necessary for the continued existence of *Eremophila verticillata*.

Methodology AECOM (2020)

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

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 (AECOM, 2020).

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

Methodology AECOM (2020)

GIS Database:

- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 98% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the IBRA Coolgardie Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 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% remains at the bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

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

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DBCA managed lands
IBRA Bioregion – Coolgardie	12,912,204	12,648,491	~98	Least Concern	16.37
Beard vegetation associations – WA					
511	700,693	520,615	~74	Least Concern	15.00
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 Environmental Strategies, 2020; GIS Database).

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

Methodology Blueprint Environmental Strategies (2020)

GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

The application has been mapped as soil type Ya28, which Northcote (1960-68) describes as sandy plains with some clay pans and small salt lakes, dunes and lunettes; chief soils are sandy alkaline mottled yellow soils. The topography of the application area is relatively flat (GIS Database).

Blueprint Environmental Strategies (2020) has advised that:

- No clearing is proposed to be undertaken for the rehabilitation.
- The proposed area of clearing for rehabilitation is considered minimal at 0.42 ha.

- The proposed rehabilitation activity is not expected to cause any appreciable land degradation:
- The removal of sample bags will not impact the risk of waterlogging, acidification, salinization: deep subsoil compaction or erosion.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle. As clearing is unlikely to occur, it is considered unlikely that the proposed activity will result in land degradation.

Methodology Blueprint Environmental Strategies (2020)

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 Jilbadji Nature Reserve which is located approximately 11 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

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

There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of underground water.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

The climate of the region is semi-arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 292.8 millimetres per year (BoM, 2021). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Blueprint Environmental Strategies, 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 Environmental Strategies (2020)
BoM (2021)

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 8 February 2021 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, 2021). 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, 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

- AECOM (2020) Targeted Flora Survey E77/1773, E77/2080, E77/2188, M77/477, M77/1065. Unpublished report prepared for Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd, November 2020.
- Blueprint Environmental Strategies (2020) Clearing Permit – Purpose Permit Application for Exploration on M77/1065 Assessment of Clearing Principles. Unpublished report prepared for Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers by Blueprint Environmental Strategies, December 2020.
- BoM (2021) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Southern Cross. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 15 March 2021).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2015) Fauna Profiles – Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* (Gould, 1840)). Department of Environment Conservation, February 2012.
- DPLH (2021) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 15 March 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. <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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann, G. G., Bettenay, E., Churchward, H. M., Van Dijk, D. C., Dimmock, G. M., Hubble, G. D., Isbell, R. F., McArthur, W. M., Murtha, G. G., Nicolls, K. D., Paton, T. R., Thompson, C. H., Webb, A. A. and Wright, M. J. (1960-1968). Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10. With explanatory data (CSIRO Aust. and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998–). FloraBase – The Western Australian Flora - *Eremophila Verticillata*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 15 March 2021).

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
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)
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
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	<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.