

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 9350/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Fortescue Metals Group Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 47/915
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Pilbara Transmission Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
12.4		Mechanical Removal	Powerline and associated infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 26 October 2021

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (GIS Database):</p> <p>111: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; <i>Eucalyptus gamophylla</i> over hard spinifex.</p> <p>There has been previous flora and vegetation surveys undertaken which cover areas of the permit boundary. A desktop review of the previous surveys has consolidated the vegetation mapping that covers the permit area (Ecoscape, 2018). The following five vegetation communities have been mapped within the permit area (FMG, 2021):</p> <p>AaAbTe: <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> and <i>Acacia atkinsiana</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland;</p> <p>AaAvCc: <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Hakea lorea</i> subsp. <i>lorea</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia victoriae</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>oligophylla</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> tussock grassland;</p> <p>AaSvCc: <i>Acacia aneura</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Sida</i> sp. verrucose glands (F.H. Mollemans 2423) and <i>Sclerolaena cornishiana</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Abutilon otocarpum</i>, <i>Malvastrum americanum</i> and <i>Boerhavia coccinea</i> sparse herbland and <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> tussock grassland;</p> <p>AhGwTe: <i>Atalaya hemiglauca</i> low open woodland over <i>Grevillea wickhamii</i> and <i>Acacia pyrifolia</i> mid open shrubland, over <i>Corchorus lasiocarpus</i>, <i>Indigofera monophylla</i> and <i>Tephrosia rosea</i> var. Fortescue creeks (M.I.H. Brooker 2186) low open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i>; and</p> <p>ApAaTe: <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Hakea lorea</i> subsp. <i>lorea</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia atkinsiana</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Hibiscus sturtii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland.</p>
Clearing Description	<p>Pilbara Transmission Project.</p> <p>Fortescue Metals Group Ltd proposes to clear up to 12.4 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 131.5 hectares, for the purpose of constructing a 220 kV power transmission line. The permit spans approximately 10 kilometres and is located approximately 64 kilometres northeast of Tom Price, within the Shire of Ashburton.</p>
Vegetation Condition	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The proposed clearing is for Stage 4 of the construction of a 220kV power transmission line. Clearing for Stages 1-3 of the project were previously approved under clearing permits 8716/1, 8834/1 and 9282/1 respectively.

Impacts to vegetation will be minimised by utilising cleared areas where possible, placing infrastructure outside of sensitive areas and selectively clearing/pruning vegetation where required (FMG, 2021).

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**

Flora and vegetation surveys that have covered the permit area have identified five vegetation communities (FMG, 2021). None of the vegetation communities were considered to be a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (Ecoscape, 2018; FMG, 2021; GIS Database).

The consolidated flora information (which covers a much larger area than the permit boundary) included a total of 495 flora taxa from 179 genera and 58 families (Ecoscape, 2018). Given the permit area only covers a small part of this larger survey dataset, it would be expected that only a small number of these species are present within the permit area. There are no records of Threatened or Priority flora species within the permit area (Ecoscape, 2018; FMG, 2021; GIS Database).

No weed species were recorded within the permit boundary during previous flora surveys (FMG, 2021). Weeds have the potential to out-compete native flora and reduce the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the introduction of weeds may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The permit area passes over three different fauna habitats with the majority of the permit area covered by the 'stony plains and low rises with hummock grassland' habitat (Spectrum Ecology, 2018; FMG, 2021). This habitat is not likely to contain a diversity of microhabitats that support a large number of fauna species (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). The proposed clearing will only impact a small amount of habitat at each location and is not expected to have a significant impact on fauna diversity in the local area.

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

Methodology Ecoscape (2018)
FMG (2021)
Spectrum Ecology (2018)

GIS Database:

- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(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**

There has been numerous fauna surveys undertaken which cover areas of the permit boundary. A desktop review of the previous surveys has consolidated the habitat mapping and fauna records within the permit area (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). The following fauna habitats have been mapped within the permit area (FMG, 2021):

- Minor drainage line
- Mulga woodland
- Stony plains and low rises with hummock grassland.

The vegetation of the 'stony plains and low rises with hummock grassland' habitat is typically dense *Triodia* hummock grassland with scattered mixed shrubs and is often intersected by minor drainage lines (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). The substrate present within this habitat typically does not attract the construction of burrows with the exception of small reptiles which dig shallow burrows (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). Fauna species within this habitat typically utilise the hummock grasslands and the scattered shrubs for shelter and food resources (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). This was the most dominant habitat with 111.6 hectares (over 80%) mapped within the permit area (FMG, 2021). This habitat is not likely to represent significant habitat for fauna species in the permit area.

The 'minor creekline' habitat has sandy areas that often suitable for burrow construction and small pools of water often accumulate after heavy rainfall creating increased food resources (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). Fauna will often utilise areas of dense vegetation for shelter however, habitats associated with large trees and hollows is much more limited than areas (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). This habitat is often used as a dispersal corridor for species moving through the landscape. There is 1.7 hectares of this habitat mapped within the permit area (FMG, 2021).

The vegetation of the 'mulga woodland' habitat is dominated by *Acacia aneura* and can also include areas dominated by *Acacia xiphophylla* (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). Woody litter and leaf litter can be present, but is

only usually in patches typically concentrated under patches of trees which create microhabitats and shelter for fossorial species (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). Small flocks of foraging birds will often utilise denser patches of trees in this habitat (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). There is 16.4 hectares of this habitat within the permit area (FMG, 2021).

There has been no fauna species of conservation significance recorded within the permit area (FMG, 2021). Several conservation significant fauna species have been recorded from habitats along the other areas of the Pilbara Transmission Project including the Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis* – Vulnerable), Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi* – Priority 4), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus* – Endangered) and Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani* – Priority 4) (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). The Northern Quoll was largely recorded near creekline and river habitat suggesting that these areas are significant for dispersal and foraging for this species (Spectrum Ecology, 2018). Given the importance of riparian vegetation for this and other species, potential impacts to fauna may be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

The design and placement of power poles and access tracks has been considered to avoid watercourses, drainage lines, creeklines and granite outcrops where possible and to use cleared areas associated with rail access tracks whenever practicable (FMG, 2021). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact any fauna species at a regional scale.

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

Methodology FMG (2021)
Spectrum Ecology (2018)

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

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

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the permit area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the permit area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Ecoscape, 2018; FMG, 2021). Based on the habitat present, Threatened flora species known from the Pilbara are not likely to be present within the permit area 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 Ecoscape (2018)
FMG (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 permit area (GIS Database).

The flora and vegetation surveys over the permit area have not identified any TECs (Ecoscape, 2018).

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

Methodology Ecoscape (2018)

GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers

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

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99.57% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard

vegetation association 111 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 99.9% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The permit area does not contain any remnants nor does it form part of any remnants in the local area (GIS Database).

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

Methodology Government of Western Australia (2019)

GIS Database:

- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments **Proposal is at variance to this Principle**

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). It does intersect several minor ephemeral watercourses (GIS Database). None of the vegetation communities were identified as being potential groundwater dependent vegetation (FMG, 2021).

Areas of vegetation associated with major rivers and creeklines were identified as higher value fauna habitat as they tend to contain a diversity of microhabitats, can have ephemeral water pools and act as a corridor for dispersal (Spectrum Ecology, 2018).

The clearing of riparian vegetation has the potential to cause localised erosion and degrade faunal habitats. However, given the proposed clearing is spread over the permit area, it is not anticipated that it will have a significant impact on minor drainage lines. Provided disturbance to riparian habitats is avoided or minimised where possible, and weed hygiene procedures are followed, the proposed works are not expected to substantially impact these vegetation units. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation may be minimised through the implementation of a vegetation management condition requiring surface water flows to be maintained where watercourses are impacted.

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

Methodology FMG (2021)
Spectrum Ecology (2018)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear

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

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

The application area lies within the Boolgeeda, Jurrawarrina and Urandy land systems (GIS Database). These land systems have been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The Boolgeeda land system is described as stony lower slopes and plains below hill systems supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands and mulga shrublands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). This land system is generally not prone to degradation and is not susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The Jurrawarrina land system consists of hardpan plains and alluvial tracts supporting mulga shrublands with tussock and spinifex grasses (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Some hardpan washplains, drainage tracts and groves within this land system are moderately susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Drainage tracts are present where this land system is mapped within the permit area (GIS Database).

The Urandy land system is described as having stony plains, alluvial plains and drainage lines supporting shrubby soft spinifex grasslands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). This land system covers over 70% the permit area (GIS Database). The majority of the land system is not susceptible to erosion or vegetation degradation (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The majority of the permit area has a low risk of degradation and erosion. The proposed clearing is for a narrow corridor for a powerline which will only clear small amounts of vegetation of each land system as it traverses the length of the corridor. Whilst there are is one land system which has a higher risk of erosion, the

small amounts of clearing at each location are not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The powerline route also follows the existing rail line and is situated in previously disturbed areas where possible.

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

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)

GIS Database:
- Landsystem Rangelands

(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 is an approximate 400 metre stretch of the permit boundary that passes through the former Mt Florence pastoral lease which is managed by DBCA (GIS Database). The permit boundary intersects the northern boundary of this area and runs adjacent to the existing Nanutarra Road (GIS Database). No conservation significant vegetation communities, flora or fauna have been recorded within the section of the permit boundary in this conservation area (FMG, 2021). The proposed clearing of a narrow, linear corridor for a powerline is not likely to have a significant impact on the environmental values of this area.

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

Methodology FMG (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 proposed clearing of 12.4 hectares within a permit boundary of approximately 131.5 hectares is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of underground water.

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear, however the permit boundary intersects several ephemeral watercourses (GIS Database). Whilst the proposed clearing will impact on several watercourses, the clearing for the purpose of a powerline is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows.

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**

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines and watercourses are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. The proposed clearing of 12.4 hectares for the purpose of a powerline is not likely to cause an increase in the incidence or intensity of flooding in the local area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 6 July 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 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.

The clearing permit is related to the broader Pilbara Transmission Project which was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) on 26 November 2018. On 28 February 2019 the EPA determined that the proposal did not require assessment under Part IV of the EP Act, and could be dealt with under Part V Division 2 of the EP Act (clearing of native vegetation provisions) (EPA, 2019).

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)
EPA (2019)

4. References

- DPLH (2021) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
<https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 22 October 2021).
- Ecoscope (2018) Pilbara Transmission Project Flora and Vegetation Desktop Assessment. Report prepared for Fortescue Metals Group, by Ecoscope, 20 November 2018.
- EPA (2019) Notice of Referral Determination – Pilbara Transmission Project. Available online at [CMS17515-CD-050319.pdf](https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/CMS17515-CD-050319.pdf) ([epa.wa.gov.au](https://www.epa.wa.gov.au))
- FMG (2021) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Documentation – Pilbara Transmission Project – Stage 4. Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, July 2021.
- 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.
- Spectrum Ecology (2018) Pilbara Transmission Project Terrestrial Fauna Desktop Assessment. Report prepared for Fortescue Metals Group, by Spectrum Ecology, 19 October 2018.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.

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.