



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 9411/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Raymond Francis

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Leases 51/12, 51/31, 51/96, 51/572, 51/794  
Local Government Area: Shire of Meekatharra  
Colloquial name: N/A

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Prospecting Activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 22 October 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:

1128: Mosaic: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered *Acacia sclerosperma* & bowgada over saltbush & bluebush/Succulent steppe; samphire (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area and surrounding region by MWH during 14 to 17 July 2015. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (MWH, 2015):

**LB**  
Bare lake bed (playa).

**VA01**  
*Maireana* chenopod shrubland - Scattered shrubs of *Maireana pyramidata* and *Cratystylis subspinescens* over low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana tomentosa*, *Maireana triptera* and *Dissocarpus paradoxus* over scattered low tussock grassland of *Aristida contorta* on red/brown sandy, clay loam.

**VA02b**  
*Acacia* scattered tall shrubland - Scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia pteraneura* over open low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana pyramidata*, *Maireana triptera* and *Rhagodia eremaea* over very open low tussock grassland of *Aristida contorta* on red/brown stony, loamy sand with stony surface.

**VA03**  
*Tecticornia* samphire shrubland - Mosaic of mid to tall samphire shrubland dominated by *Tecticornia* species on moist clay.

**VA04**  
*Acacia* open tall shrubland - Open tall shrubland to scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia fuscaneura* and occasional *Acacia synchronicia* over open mid shrubland of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei*, *Senna* sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) and *Eremophila* spp. over scattered low shrubs of *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Solanum lasiophyllum* over open low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* and *Sclerolaena* spp. over very open low tussock grassland of *Aristida contorta* and *Enneapogon caeruleascens* on skeletal red/brown loamy sand with ironstone outcropping.

**VA06**  
*Salsola* low chenopod shrubland - Scattered mid shrubs of *Maireana pyramidata* and *Eremophila longifolia* over low chenopod shrubland to low open chenopod shrubland of *Salsola australis*, *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Dissocarpus paradoxus* over scattered low herbs of *Swainsona paradoxa* on red/orange fine clayey loam.

**VA07a**

*Acacia* scattered low trees - Scattered low trees of *Acacia pteraneura* over scattered tall shrubs of *Hakea preissii* over mid shrubland of *Senna* sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26), *Senna* sp. Billabong (J.D. Alonzo 721) and *Eremophila* sp. A on red/orange loamy sand.

#### VA08

*Acacia* scattered tall shrubland - Isolated patches of mid shrubs of *Acacia sclerosperma* subsp. *sclerosperma* over scattered low shrubs to open low shrubland of *Frankenia laxiflora*, *Sclerolaena fimbriolata* and *Enchylaena tomentosa* var. *tomentosa* over open low tussock grassland of *Eragrostis eriopoda* and *Enneapogon caeruleus* on orange/red loamy sand with gypsum outcropping.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Raymond Francis proposes to clear up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 129 hectares, for the purpose of prospecting activities. The project is located approximately 33 kilometres south-west of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);  To:  Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by MWH (2015).  The proposed clearing is for prospecting activities. This permit will lie within CPS 6832/4 and CPS 9070/2.

### 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 clearing permit application area is located within the Western Murchison subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Murchison Bioregion (GIS Database). The Western Murchison subregion is characterised by Mulga low woodlands, often rich in ephemerals (usually with bunch grasses). Surfaces associated with the occluded drainage occur throughout, with hummock grasslands on Quaternary sandplains, saltbush shrublands on calcareous soils and Tecticornia low shrublands on saline alluvia (CALM, 2002).

The flora survey of the application area and surrounding region by MWH (2015) recorded a total of 105 flora taxa from 28 families and 50 genera. The floral diversity recorded is consistent with other salt lake landforms in the Murchison region (MWH, 2015). No species of Threatened flora were recorded within the application area (MWH, 2015; GIS Database). The flora survey did not identify any species of Priority flora, however, the Priority 3 species *Tecticornia cymbiformis* is known at Lake Annean and may be present within the application area (MWH, 2015). The proposed clearing of 10 hectares of native vegetation for prospecting activities is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of this species.

There are no Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities mapped within the application area (GIS Database).

Three introduced species, *Acetosa vesicaria*, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Citrullus lanatus* were recorded within the application area (MWH, 2015). 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 proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

A level 1 fauna survey was conducted over the application area and identified six broad fauna habitats (MWH, 2015). The diversity of habitats are similar to those of other salt lake habitats throughout the Murchison region (MWH, 2015). Lake Annean supports breeding habitat for a high number of waterbirds during periods of inundation (DAWE, 2021). During times of flooding there is the potential for the application area to contain a high level of faunal diversity. The proposed clearing of 10 hectares is not expected to have a significant impact on the biological diversity of Lake Annean.

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

**Methodology** CALM (2002)  
DAWE (2021)  
MWH (2015)

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 may be at variance to this Principle**

There have been six broad faunal habitat types mapped within the application area (MWH, 2015):

1. Lake Playa;
2. Samphire;
3. Ironstone Hills;
4. Stony Plain;
5. Chenopod Shrubland; and
6. Dunefields.

There were no conservation significant fauna recorded within the application area (MWH, 2015). The Meekatharra Slider (*Lerista eupoda*) (Priority 1) was recorded at two locations outside the application area within the Dunefield habitat (MWH, 2015). This species is restricted to the Murchison region in an area between Meekatharra and Cue (DBCA, 2007-). Potential impacts to the Meekatharra Slider as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a restricted clearing condition. This condition does not allow the clearing of native vegetation within the Dunefields habitat. Further survey work to determine the extent of the Dunefield habitats and the Meekatharra Slider in the local area is recommended.

The Ironstone Hills habitat is widespread within the local and regional area. The surface and substrate consisted of a high proportion of stony fragments which is not preferential for burrowing species. Given the degraded condition of this habitat and the limited shelter the habitat provides, it was not deemed likely to support species of conservation significance (MWH, 2015).

The Samphire and Chenopod Shrubland habitat types are restricted to the lake Annean margins within the application area and surrounding region (MWH, 2015). The Chenopod shrubland habitat has potential for burrowing species in the higher margins of the lake dunes, and the lower areas of this habitat are less likely to support fauna species due to the habitat being prone to flooding and the lack of shelter (MWH, 2015). The Samphire habitat has limited potential to support fauna due to limited cover in the form of woody debris, hollows or crevices, however after periods of inundation, this habitat is likely to support foraging migratory wading birds and is likely to provide nesting habitat for marine species (MWH, 2015). The proposed clearing of 10 hectares is not expected to have a significant impact on the biological diversity of Lake Annean, given the lake is over 12,000 hectares in size (GIS Database).

The Stony Plain habitat is widespread within the local and regional area (MWH, 2015). This habitat type may provide refuge and foraging habitat various mammal, avifauna and reptiles, including some migratory birds and conservation significant fauna (MWH, 2015). This habitat is common in the surrounding area and are likely to be used by fauna species as a part of a larger range. It is therefore unlikely that fauna species would be specifically reliant on the Stony Plain habitat within the application area.

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

**Methodology** DBCA (2007-)  
MWH (2015)

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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). The flora survey of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (MWH, 2015).

The vegetation associations within the application area are common and widespread within the region (MWH, 2015; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of Threatened flora.

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

**Methodology** MWH (2015)

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 (MWH, 2015).

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

**Methodology** MWH (2015)

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 Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Approximately 98% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 1128 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 98% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application 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
- 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 waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The application area is situated over part of the non-perennial Lake Annean (GIS Database). Lake Annean is largely dry and fills every five to ten years (DAWE, 2021). The vegetation type VA03 is a samphire community growing in association with Lake Annean, and is considered to be a groundwater dependent ecosystem and is important as foraging and breeding habitat for migratory birds visiting Lake Annean (MWH, 2015).

The clearing of riparian vegetation has the potential to cause localised erosion and degrade faunal habitats. However, given the proposed clearing is spread over a large area, it is not anticipated that it will have a significant impact on Lake Annean, which is over 12,000 hectares in size (GIS Database). 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.

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

**Methodology** DAWE (2021)

MWH (2015)

GIS Database:

- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear

- Imagery

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

**Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**

The application area lies within the Carnegie land system (GIS Database). This land system has been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development).

The Carnegie land system consists of salt lakes with fringing saline alluvial plains, kopi dunes and sandy banks, supporting halophytic shrublands. Wind erosion of lake margins may be exacerbated by loss of stabilising perennial shrubs (Payne et al., 1998).

Potential impacts from land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

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

**Methodology** Payne et al. (1998)

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 does not lie within any conservation areas or Department of Parks and Wildlife managed lands (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the ex-Lakeside lease which is located approximately 87 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing will not 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** 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, however a small section of Lake Annean intersects the application area (GIS Database). Temporary localised flooding may occur following heavy rainfall events, however the proposed clearing of 10 hectares of native vegetation 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  
- Imagery  
- 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**

With the average annual evaporation rate exceeding the average annual rainfall of the regional area, there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains (BoM, 2021; GIS Database). Given the likelihood of little surface flow, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The application area sits partially within Lake Annean, where temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events, with the whole lake filling from episodic flooding every five to ten years (DAWE,

2021; GIS Database). 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** BoM (2021)  
DAWE (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 3 September 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 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, Meekatharra Airport. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 21 September 2021).
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DAWE (2021) Directory of Important Wetlands. Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/report.pl?smode=DOIW&doiw\\_refodelist=WA056](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/report.pl?smode=DOIW&doiw_refodelist=WA056) (Accessed 21 September 2021).
- DBCA (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 29 September 2021).
- DPLH (2021) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 21 September 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.
- MWH (2015) Lake Annean Flora and Fauna Assessment. Prepared for Metals X Limited by MWH Australia Pty Ltd, September 2015.
- Payne, A L, van Vreeswyk, A M, Leighton, K A, Pringle, H J, and Hennig, P. (1998) An inventory and condition survey of the Sandstone-Yalgoo-Paynes Find area, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 90. Department of Agriculture and Food, Perth, Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BC Act</b>	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DAWE</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DBCA</b>	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.