Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9980/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd
Application received:	9 June 2026
Application area:	40 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production and Associated Activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 36/27 Mining Lease 36/55 Mining Lease 36/150 Mining Lease 36/313 Mining Lease 36/695
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Leonora
Colloquial name:	Barren Lands Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 471 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

Clearing permit CPS 9980/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 9 March 2023 and was valid from 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2026. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 471 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

The application is for an extension of the expiry date of Clearing Permit CPS 9980/1 for an additional five years.

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 30 July 2025), a total of 2.02 hectares of native vegetation has been cleared under CPS 9980/1.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	18 August 2026
Decision area:	40 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse.

After reviewing the available information and the applicant's proposed minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer concluded that the proposed clearing is unlikely to pose an unacceptable environmental risk, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 9980/1.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weed; and
- avoid clearing watercourses where practicable and ensure surface flows are maintained or reinstated downstream.

2. Detailed assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures has been provided. Impacts to environmental values can continued to be managed under permit conditions.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with sections 51KA (1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. A review of the current environmental information and values within the application area indicates that the assessment against the clearing principles remains unchanged from that documented in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9980/1; Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j) were considered "not likely to be at variance"; Principle (e) was considered "not at variance"; and Principle (f) was considered "at variance" due to the presence of several minor ephemeral drainage lines within the application area, and remains conditioned on the permit.

2.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing principle (a)

A flora and vegetation survey undertaken by 360 Environmental Consulting in August 2019. No Threatened or Priority flora were recorded. There are 13 Priority flora species records within a 40 kilometres of the application area (360 Environmental Consulting, 2019). Two of these species were considered to have a medium likelihood of occurrence within the application area; *Eremophila pungens* (P4); and *Grevillea inconspicua* (P4).

Eremophila pungens (P4).

Eremophila pungens is typically associated with sandy loam and clayey sand over laterite environments occurring on plains, ridges and breakaways (WAH, 1998-). While the application area contains habitat that could be considered of moderate suitability for this species, the species was not recorded by 360 Environmental (2019). Approximately 600 plants initially identified as potential *Eremophila pungens* were subsequently examined by a taxonomist and compared with reference specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium, confirming them to be *Eremophila georgei*, a species that is not considered conservation significant.

Surveys were conducted in August, which coincides with the known flowering period of *Eremophila pungens* (360 Environmental, 2019; WAH, 1998-). Furthermore, *Eremophila pungens* is known from multiple IBRA regions and is represented by numerous records in Florabase, including Wanjarri Nature Reserve, located approximately 60 kilometres northeast of the application area, and several other conservation reserves to the north and northeast (WAH, 1998-). Available databases did not identify any records of this species within a 50 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database).

Grevillea inconspicua (P4).

The closest known record of *Grevillea inconspicua* is approximately 15 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). The species is typically associated with loam and gravel substrates, often occurring along drainage lines, rocky outcrops and creeklines (WAH, 1998-). While suitable habitat for the species is present within parts of the application area (360 Environmental, 2019), targeted flora surveys did not record *Grevillea inconspicua* (360 Environmental, 2019; WAH, 1998-).

Grevillea inconspicua is relatively well represented across the Murchison bioregion, with numerous records d in Florabase (WAH, 1998-), including Wanjarri Nature Reserve to the northeast of the application area, and several other conservation reserves to the north and east of the application area, within approximately 60 kilometres from the application area. Multiple populations of *Grevillea inconspicua* have been recorded outside the application area, including observations documented during the 360 Environmental (2019) survey and records identified through database searches (360 Environmental, 2019; GIS Database).

Conclusion

Given the absence of confirmed records within the survey area, the lack of records in the surrounding locality, and the high level of confidence associated with survey timing and identification efforts, the proposed clearing is considered not likely to impact both *Grevillea inconspicua* and *Eremophila pungens* on a local, or regional scale.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- watercourse management to avoid riparian vegetation and maintain existing surface flow.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 24 July 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). 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 three registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the Mining Act 1978 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.

A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The project is located approximately 19 kilometres southwest of Leinster, within the Shire of Leonora, in the extensive land use zone (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is grazing of native pastures, conservation, mining activity and urban development.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>The application area is not considered to be an ecological linkage to other areas of vegetation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The nearest conservation area is the Wanjarri Nature Reserve, which is located approximately 61 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
18: Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura); and
39: Shrublands; mulga scrub (GIS Database).
A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by 360 Environmental Consulting during August 2019. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (360 Environmental, 2019):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation Association</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>AcMpSe</td><td>Acacia craspedocarpa open shrubland;</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aspp.Espp.Saxs</td><td>Mixed Acacia spp. open shrubland over mixed Eremophila spp. and Senna artemisioides subsp. x sturtii shrubland;</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aspp.SaxsEspp</td><td>Open shrubland of Acacia papyrocarpa or Acacia mulganeura over Senna artemisioides subsp. x sturtii shrubland;</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aspp.Espp.Ps</td><td>Open shrubland of Acacia mulganeura and Acacia paraneura over open shrubland of Eremophila spp.; and</td></tr>
<tr><td>ArEffPo</td><td>Open shrubland of Acacia resinimarginea over sparse shrubland of Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation survey (360 Environmental, 2019) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good to a Completely Degraded condition (Keighery). The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix B.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The climate of the region is arid, with an annual average rainfall of approximately 251.6 millimetres (BoM, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>The soil is mapped as Fa7 (GIS Database). The Fa7 soil unit is described as Greenstone hills and low ranges with some slate and basalt: dominant soils are shallow stony earthy loams on the steep slopes while and overlying red-brown hardpan occur on the stony pediments.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The application area is located within the Salinaland Plains Zone (DPIRD, 2026). This zone is characterised by sandplains (with hardpan wash plains and some mesas, stony plains and salt lakes) on granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton with red sandy earths, red deep sands, red shallow loams (sometimes with hardpans) and red loamy earths (DPIRD, 2026). A large part of the application area has been previously disturbed by mining and exploration activities.</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
Hydrogeography and waterbodies	There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area, however, there are several minor non-perennial watercourse present (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area (RIWI Act); however, it is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database).
Flora	A flora survey undertaken by 360 Environmental Consulting in 2019 identified records of 13 Priority flora species within 40 kilometres of the application area (360 Environmental Consulting, 2019). None of these records were within the application area (GIS Database). 360 Environmental Consulting did not record any Threatened or Priority flora species within the application area (360 Environmental Consulting, 2019). Of the 13 Priority species identified, two were considered to have a medium likelihood of occurrence; *Eremophila pungens* (P4); and *Grevillea inconspicua* (P4). Current database records indicate Four Priority Flora species within a 50 kilometre radius, however the closest measuring approximately 15 kilometres from the application area, with suitable habitat for this particular species not identified within the application area (360 Environmental Consulting, 2019).
Ecological communities	There are no mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) within the application area and the closest being approximately 30 kilometres north of the application area (Lake Miranda west calcrete groundwater assemblage types on Carey palaeodrainage on Yakabindie Station) and 30 kilometres southwest of the application area (Pinnacles calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Raeside palaeodrainage on Pinnacles Station) (GIS Database).
Fauna	No conservation significant fauna species, or Priority or Threatened fauna species that have been recorded within the application area (360 Environmental Consulting; 2019, GIS Database).

Appendix B. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types. Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix C. Sources of information

C.1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics

- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

C.2. References

360 Environmental (2019) Agnew Gold Project: Barren Lands Survey Area. Vegetation, Flora, Fauna and Soil Survey. Prepared for Goldfields. September 2019

BoM (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Leinster AERO. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 11 August 2026).

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 27 July 2026).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 11 August 2026).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Western Australian Herbarium (WA Herbarium) (1998-) (WAH, 2018-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 13 August 2026).

Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government

DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T 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 the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

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.

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.

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.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

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).

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.

Specially protected species

SP **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).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or 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.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS **Other specially protected species**

Species 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).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P **Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey 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 prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status 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 – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

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, for example, 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 for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

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. These species need 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 a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

(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.

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

(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.

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

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

(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.

(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.

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