Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4177/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Argyle Diamonds Limited**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Diamond (Ashton Joint Venture) Agreement Act 1981, Mining Lease 259SA (AM 70/259)*
Local Government Area: Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Colloquial name: Wandarrie Camp Expansion Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.5		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 10 March 2011

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard vegetation association have been mapped at a 1:250,000 scale for the whole of Western Australia. The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as:

Beard vegetation association 833 - Grasslands, short bunch grass savanna sparse low tree; scattered Snappy Gum over arid short grass on plains (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database).

A desktop survey by Argyle Diamonds (2010) of numerous flora surveys conducted over the application area and surrounding region identified one vegetation complex within the application area:

Hills Complex vegetation - Kimberley low tree steppe, frosted Bloodwood steppe woodland, Bloodwood curly spinifex tree savanna, cotton tree low steppe, Celtis-Pouteria scrub, Halls Creek gum low tree steppe and mixed dwarf shrub steppe (Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

Clearing Description

Argyle Diamonds is proposing to clear up to 2.5 hectares of native vegetation within the application area for the Wandarrie Camp Extension project (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). The clearing of vegetation is required as the current Wandarrie accommodation camp has reached capacity and additional accommodation is required to house the additional staff required for the completion of the construction of the underground mine.

The vegetation will be cleared using a dozer with vegetation stockpiled for use in rehabilitation.

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The application area is located in the Ord Victoria Plains bioregion of Western Australia and is situated approximately 113 kilometres south-west of Kununurra.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

The application area occurs within the Ord (OVP1) subregion of the Ord Victoria Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by level to gently undulating plains with scattered hills on Cambrian volcanic and Proterozoic sedimentary rocks; vertosols on plains and predominantly skeletal soils on hills (CALM, 2002). The overall vegetation is grassland with scattered Bloodwoods (*Eucalyptus* sp.) and Snappy Gum (*Eucalyptus brevifolia*) with spinifex and annual grasses (CALM, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area consists of Beard vegetation association 833, which is common and widespread throughout the Ord Victoria Plains bioregion with approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Shepherd, 2009; GIS Database). The application area is located in the Northern

Botanical Province, within the East Kimberley near the point where three of the four Kimberley Botanical Districts meet (Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

The application area was mapped by Dames and Moore (1982) as Hills Complex vegetation: comprised of Kimberley low tree steppe, frosted Bloodwood steppe woodland, Bloodwood curly spinifex tree savanna, Cotton tree low steppe, Celtis-Pouteria scrub, Halls Creek gum low tree steppe and mixed dwarf shrub steppe.

Analysis of aerial photography indicates this vegetation type to be in a 'good' condition (Argyle Diamonds, 2010; Keighery, 1994). A total of 206 vascular plant taxa from 124 genera and 51 families were recorded as part of surveys conducted near the application area for the underground project (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). Botanical studies on the wider Argyle lease area have recorded a total of 466 taxa (Mattiske, 2004). No Declared Rare Flora (DRF) or Priority flora species have been previously recorded within the operational areas surrounding the application area or the application area itself (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). A search on the Department of Environment and Conservation Declared Rare and Priority Flora databases revealed no DRF or Priority Flora species that may potentially occur in the application area. No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded or identified within the application area (GIS Database).

A fauna review of the Argyle lease area was undertaken by Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2005) in January 2005. The review concluded that the Argyle area is rich in reptile, amphibian and avifauna, with an abundance of waterbirds drawn to the natural riverine systems and artificial water sources associated with the mining operation. A large number of conservation significant species have previously been recorded from the lease area. However, the faunal habitats present within the subregion are common and widespread within the subregion and fauna assemblages conducted within the Argyle lease area are not likely to be different to that found in similar habitat located elsewhere in the region (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2005).

The vegetation communities identified within the application area are typical of the floristics of the Ord Victoria Plains bioregion and are not likely to be of higher biodiversity than the surrounding areas (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). The proposed clearing of 2.5 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to have a significant impact on the biological diversity of the region.

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

Methodology

Argyle Diamonds (2010)
Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2005)
CALM (2002)
Dames and Moore (1982)
Keighery (1994)
Mattiske (2004)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Subregions)
- Pre-European vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No fauna surveys have been conducted over the application area. Several fauna surveys have been undertaken at the Argyle Diamond Mine Lease area, during 1980/1981, 2000 and 2002. In addition, the annual Rio Tinto Bird Watch has been undertaken at the mine site since 2001 (Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

In 2005, a general review of the local fauna was undertaken by Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2005). As a result of previous surveys at the Argyle lease, 27 native mammals, 79 reptiles and 19 amphibians and 219 bird species have been recorded. This includes 27 bird species listed under the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement or China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, 24 of which are waterbirds (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2005). There are two species of mammals and one species of reptile listed as Threatened Species under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or protected under Western Australian legislation that may potentially occur within the application area (DEC, 2011; Argyle Diamonds, 2010). Of these species, the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), Lakeland Downs Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownesis*) and Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) have been recorded on the Argyle lease (DEC, 2011; Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

The distribution and abundance of the mammal fauna on the Argyle Lease area is highly seasonally dependent, and the amphibian and reptile fauna of the lease area is extensive with species from both the more arid and wetter northern zones being present. Many of the amphibians and reptiles recorded from the lease area are common to the Spinifex and sorghum grasslands found on the alluvial plains of the region (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2005). A high number of waterbird species have previously been recorded from the lease area. The existing natural riverine systems of the local area and 'man-made' tailings storage facility and numerous water storage dams associated with the mining operation provide suitable habitat for waterbird species (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2005).

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation remains within the Ord Victoria Plain bioregion. No significant fauna habitats were identified in aerial photography or the desktop survey (Argyle Diamonds, 2010), and the habitat present within the application areas are considered to be widespread within the region (CALM, 2002). Given the extent of native vegetation remaining in the local area and bioregion, the vegetation to be cleared does not represent a significant ecological linkage in a regional context. The proposed clearing of 2.5 hectares is not likely to support significant habitat for fauna populations as it is well represented in the local and regional area.

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

Methodology
Argyle Diamonds (2010)
Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2005)
CALM (2002)
DEC (2011)
Shepherd (2009)

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the application area (GIS Database). A search of the Department of Environment and Conservation's NatureMap database identified no DRF species as occurring within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DEC, 2011).

No flora survey has been conducted in the application area, however surrounding areas previously surveyed did not find any DRF (Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

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

Methodology
Argyle Diamonds (2010)
DEC (2011)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List

(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

A search of the available databases shows that there are no Threatened Ecological Communities situated within 100 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

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

Methodology
GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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 Ord Victoria Plain IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). Shepherd (2009) reports that approximately 100% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in this bioregion. Beard vegetation association 833 retains approximately 100% of its pre-European extent, which is more than the 30% threshold level recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (EPA, 2000).

The vegetation within the application area is recorded as Beard vegetation association 833: Grasslands, short bunch grass savanna sparse low tree; scattered snappy gum over arid short grass on plains (GIS Database; Shepherd, 2009).

According to Shepherd (2009) approximately 99.9% of the Beard vegetation association remains within the Ord Victoria Plain bioregion (see table below).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in IUCN Class I-IV Reserves
IBRA Bioregion - Ord Victoria Plain	38,497.6	38,497.6	~100	Least Concern	-
Beard vegetation associations - State					
833	38,674.9	38,674.9	~100	Least Concern	-
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
833	5,497,881.8	5,497,223.9	~99.9	Least Concern	15.98

* Shepherd (2009)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (regions - subregions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be growing in association with any watercourse or wetland.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- Geodata 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application area overlaps two land systems which are broadly mapped as the MacPhee land system and O'Donnell land system (GIS Database).

The MacPhee land system is comprised of several small patches of undulating sandy granite country in the north-western portion of the area (GIS Database). The O'Donnell land system is comprised of stony undulating country with scattered hills, loamy skeletal soils, also restricted cracking clay plains, supporting open snappy gum woodlands with Spinifex, arid short grasses and tussock grasslands (GIS Database).

The soils in the Argyle Lease area vary from skeletal to extensive silt and sandy flats. The area of proposed disturbance can be characterised as lithosols, the soils of this unit being predominantly coarse textured (stony and rocky), weakly coherent in the moderately moist state and non-calcareous (Argyle Diamonds, 2010).

The application area is comprised of steep hill slopes associated with underlying extensively folded and faulted sedimentary units. The soil type of the application area and regional area is generally comprised of quartz sandstone, massive siltstone and shales, and the overlying Lissadell formation which is of similar composition (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). These soil types are susceptible to wind erosion (Schoknecht, 2002).

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

Methodology Argyle Diamonds (2010)
Schoknecht (2002)
GIS Database:
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

(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 proposed application area is not located within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Purnululu National Park, located approximately 48 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance separating Purnululu National Park and the application area, the proposed clearing does not provide an important ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor and is not likely to impact the environmental values of the conservation area.

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

Methodology

GIS Database:
- DEC 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

The available databases show that the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The nearest permanent water course (Bow River) is eight kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).

The groundwater in the application area is generally of marginal salinity (500-1,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids) (GIS Database). The application area occurs within the Ord River catchment, and given the size of the Ord River catchment area (4,526,080 hectares) (GIS Database) in relation to the application area, the clearing of 2.5 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to deteriorate the quality of surface or underground water.

The application area experiences a dry hot tropical, semi-arid climate with tropical rainfall (CALM, 2002). The application area receives an average annual rainfall of 762.4 millimetres/year with an average annual pan evaporation rate of approximately 2,600-2,800 millimetres/year (BoM, 2011). The surrounding area contains numerous ephemeral drainage lines with flows restricted largely to the wet season when rainfall allows rapid flows in these areas (Argyle Diamonds, 2010). Given the size of the proposed clearing of the removal of 2.5 hectares of native vegetation is not likely 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

Argyle Diamonds (2010)
BoM (2011)
CALM (2002)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area experiences a dry hot tropical, semi-arid climate with tropical rainfall, where the annual evaporation rate exceeds the annual rainfall (CALM, 2002; BoM, 2011). Any surface water resulting from normal rain events is expected to be short lived and evaporate.

The application area is located within the Ord River catchment area (4,526,080 hectares) (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of 2.5 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to significantly impact on the drainage characteristics of the catchment or the local area, or increase the potential for flooding within the application area.

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

Methodology

BoM (2011)
CALM (2002)
GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

The clearing permit application was advertised on 7 February 2011 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to the application.

There are no Native Title claims over the area under application. 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 (GIS Database). 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 Environment and Conservation and the Department of Water, 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

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court

4. References

Argyle Diamonds (2010) Wandarrie Camp Expansion clearing application supporting documentation, December 2010.

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2005) Review of Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna of the Argyle Diamond Lease and East Kimberley (including impacts of proposed mine expansion near Limestone Creek). Unpublished report prepared for Argyle Diamond Mine Pty Ltd, January 2005.

BoM (2011) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Argyle Aerodrome, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, viewed 14 February 2011, <http://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_002064.shtml>.

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Ord Victoria Plains 1 (OVP1 - Ord subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Dames and Moore (1982) Environmental Review and Management Programme, Argyle Diamond Project. Unpublished report prepared for Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Ltd, 1982.

DEC (2011) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia Biodiversity, Department of Environment and Conservation, viewed 03 March 2011, <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.

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

Mattiske Consulting (2004) Flora and Vegetation Survey, Expansion of Waste Dumps and Area Associated with Underground Expansion near Limestone Creek. Unpublished report prepared for Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Ltd, March, 2004.

Schoknecht (2002) Soil Groups of Western Australia: A simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia. Resource Management Technical Report 246.

Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC), Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
DEP	Department of Environment Protection (now DEC), Western Australia
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs
DLI	Department of Land Information, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC), Western Australia
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources (now DMP), Western Australia

DOLA	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia
DoW	Department of Water
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
RIWI Act	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{Atkins, K (2005). *Declared rare and priority flora list for Western Australia, 22 February 2005.* Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1	**Priority One - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P2	**Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.
P3	**Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.
P4	**Priority Four – Rare taxa**: taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.
R	**Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa** *(= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable)*: taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.
X	**Declared Rare Flora - Presumed Extinct taxa**: taxa which have not been collected, or otherwise verified, over the past 50 years despite thorough searching, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

{Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005} [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950] :-

Schedule 1	**Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct:** being fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 2	**Schedule 2 – Fauna that is presumed to be extinct:** being fauna that is presumed to be extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 3	**Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement:** being birds that are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.
Schedule 4	**Schedule 4 – Other specially protected fauna:** being fauna that is declared to be fauna that is in need of special protection, otherwise than for the reasons mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

{CALM (2005). *Priority Codes for Fauna.* Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1	**Priority One: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, active mineral leases. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
P2	**Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
P3	**Priority Three: Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.
P4	**Priority Four: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed,

or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and which are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands.

P5 **Priority Five: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Categories of threatened species (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)*

EX **Extinct:** A native species for which there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

EX(W) **Extinct in the wild:** A native species which:
(a) is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or
(b) has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

CR **Critically Endangered:** A native species which is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

EN **Endangered:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered; and
(b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

VU **Vulnerable:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered or endangered; and
(b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

CD **Conservation Dependent:** A native species which is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.