

CONSERVATION CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

For Western Australian Fauna and Flora

Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna or flora¹ are species² which have been adequately searched for and are deemed to be, in the wild, threatened, extinct or in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such.

Categories of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna and flora are:

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 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](#)³, 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.

Examples of use:

- The western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is listed as a critically endangered threatened species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Western ringtail possum is listed as critically endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: CR.

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.

Examples of use:

- *Caladenia hopperiana* is listed as an endangered threatened species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- *Caladenia hopperiana* is listed as endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: EN.

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.

Examples of use:

- The forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) is listed as a vulnerable threatened species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Forest red-tailed black cockatoo is listed as vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: VU.

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).

Examples of use:

- *Acacia kingiana* is listed as an extinct species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- *Acacia kingiana* is listed as extinct under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: EX.

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 fauna or flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

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)⁴, China (CAMBA)⁵ or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA)⁶, and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention)⁷, 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.

Examples of use:

- The wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*) is listed as a specially protected migratory species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Wedge-tailed shearwater is listed as migratory under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: MI.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent)

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.

Examples of use:

- The wambenger, south-western brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger*) is listed as a specially protected species of special conservation interest under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Wambenger, south-western brush-tailed phascogale, is listed as conservation dependent under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: CD.

OS Species otherwise in need of special protection (other specially protected)

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.

Examples of use:

- The dugong (*Dugong dugon*) is listed as a specially protected species otherwise in need of special protection under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Dugon is listed as other specially protected fauna under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: BC Act, row text: OS.

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.

1 Priority 1: 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.

Examples of use:

- *Borya stenophylla* is listed as a Priority 1 species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- *Borya stenophylla* is listed as Priority 1 on the DBCA Priority Flora List.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: DBCA, row text: P1.

2 Priority 2: 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.

Examples of use:

- *Caladenia nivalis* is listed as a Priority 2 species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- *Caladenia nivalis* is listed as Priority 2 on the DBCA Priority Flora List.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: DBCA, row text: P2.

3 Priority 3: 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.

Examples of use:

- *Acacia nitidula* is listed as a Priority 3 species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- *Acacia nitidula* is listed as Priority 3 on the DBCA Priority Flora List.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: DBCA, row text: P3.

4 Priority 4: 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.

Examples of use:

- *Banksia aculeata* is listed as a Priority 4 species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- *Banksia aculeata* is listed as Priority 4 on the DBCA Priority Flora List.
- Listing reference in a table: column heading: DBCA, row text: P4.

¹ The definition of flora includes algae, fungi, and lichens.

² Species includes all taxa (plural of taxon - a classificatory group of any taxonomic rank, e.g. a family, genus, species or any infraspecific category i.e. subspecies or variety, or a distinct population).

³ Western Australia has assigned species to threat categories using the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria* since 1996 (referencing all criteria).

⁴ JAMBA - first included in the WA migratory species list in 1980.

⁵ CAMBA - first included in the WA migratory species list in 2010.

⁶ ROKAMBA - first included in the WA migratory species list in 2010.

⁷ Bonn Convention (Birds) - first included in the WA migratory species list in 2015.