Scientific surveys are used to estimate populations of plant and animal species. These codes are used to represent the status of populations.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions maintains the following listings:
- threatened native plants (flora)
- threatened animals (fauna)
- threatened ecological communities

Protection is needed for critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species and ecological communities because they are under identifiable threat of extinction (species) or collapse (ecological communities). Research these lists for Western Australia and reflect on your thoughts below.