

Design for a better *future /*

AIRTRUNK

**ANNUAL COMPLIANCE
REPORT**
(EPBC 2019/8417)
31/10/2021 TO
31/10/2022

COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AT
210 SWANN DRIVE,
DERRIMUT, VICTORIA



FEBURARY 2023

PUBLIC

Question today *Imagine tomorrow* Create for the future

Annual Compliance Report

(EPBC 2019/8417)

31/10/2021 to 31/10/2022

Commercial Development at 210 Swann Drive, Derrimut, Victoria

AirTrunk

WSP




Level 15, 28 Freshwater Place
Southbank VIC 3006

Tel: +61 3 9861 1111

Fax: +61 3 9861 1144

wsp.com

REV	DATE	DETAILS
1	16/02/2023	Final

	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
Prepared by:	Justin Pegg	17/02/2023	
Reviewed by:	Imogen Merlot	17/02/2023	
Approved by:	Rodney van der Ree	17/02/2023	

This document may contain confidential and legally privileged information, neither of which are intended to be waived, and must be used only for its intended purpose. Any unauthorised copying, dissemination or use in any form or by any means other than by the addressee, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error or by any means other than as authorised addressee, please notify us immediately and we will arrange for its return to us.

Our ref: PS120946-ECO-ACR_YR3-Rev0

Your ref: EPBC 2019/8417

By email and post
post.approvals@environment.gov.au

16 February 2023

Public

Audit and Assurance Section
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601

To Whom It May Concern

Annual Compliance Report

(EPBC 2019/8417)

31/10/2021 to 31/10/2022

Commercial Development at 210 Swann Drive, Derrimut, Victoria

This Annual Compliance Report documents compliance against conditions of approval and provides results of annual offset site monitoring for EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2019/8417) for the 31/10/2021 – 31/10/2022 reporting period.

I hope this satisfies your requirements on this matter. If clarification or further information is sought, please contact me on 03 8662 6260 or justin.pegg@wsp.com.

Yours sincerely



Justin Pegg
Associate Ecologist

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORTING.....	1
1.1	PROJECT – ACTION.....	1
1.2	APPROVAL UNDER THE EPBC ACT	1
1.3	COMPLIANCE REPORT	1
2	ANNUAL MONITORING – OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	8
2.1	SUMMARY OF RESULTS	8
	REFERENCES.....	10

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1.1	APPROVAL CONDITIONS COMPLIANCE	2
-----------	--------------------------------------	---

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	MAPS OF IMPACT AREA AND OFFSET AREA REPLICATED FROM EPBC APPROVAL 2019/8417
APPENDIX B	OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN; ANNUAL MONITORING APPENDICES
APPENDIX C	LANDOWNER REPORTING
APPENDIX D	DECLARATION OF ACCURACY
APPENDIX E	WSP PHOTOPOINTS – NOVEMBER 2022

1 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORTING

1.1 PROJECT – ACTION

In 2019, AirTrunk Operating Pty Ltd proposed to establish a commercial development at 210 Swann Drive, Derrimut, Victoria. The proposed action was referred to the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (EPBC 2019/8417) for impacting 2.444 hectares of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed Threatened Ecological Community ‘Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain’ (NTGVVP) – Critically Endangered, and 2.444 hectares of habitat for the Vulnerable Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar*.

1.2 APPROVAL UNDER THE EPBC ACT

AirTrunk Operating Pty Ltd received approval for the action on 23 October 2019. One of the conditions of approval (Condition 12 of EPBC Act Approval 2019/8417) was to provide DCCEEW with an Annual Compliance Report, to be submitted within 60 days of the anniversary of the date of commencement/approval.

As per the Deed of Agreement with DCCEEW dated 14 April 2020, EPBC approval (2019/8417) was transferred from AirTrunk Operating Pty Ltd, to Air Trunk Pty Ltd (as trustee for AirTrunk Melbourne Land Trust).

1.3 COMPLIANCE REPORT

The reporting period for this compliance report is the third 12 month-period following commencement of the action which occurred on 31/10/2019. This is the third compliance report and covers the period 31/10/2021 – 31/10/2022. The final compliance report is to be for the period 31/10/2029 – 31/10/2030.

The compliance against approval conditions is provided in Table 1.1 below. Compliance reporting has been undertaken as per the Federal *Annual Compliance Reporting Guidelines* (DoE, 2014).

To assess annual compliance WSP has fulfilled requirements for ecological third party annual monitoring and reporting commitments as per the approved Offset Management Plan (OMP) (EHP, 2019a) for year 1 of the offset. Annual reporting undertaken by WSP against the OMP commitments is provided in Appendix B-1. Landowner annual monitoring and reporting commitments are provided in Appendix C.

As required by the *Annual Compliance Reporting Guidelines* (DoE, 2014), the declaration of accuracy is attached as Appendix D.

Mapping of the action area and offset area as shown in the Approval have been provided in this report for convenience below.

Table 1.1 Approval conditions compliance

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
1	In the study area, the approval holder must not clear more than: a 2.444 hectares of NTGVVP. b 2.444 hectares of Striped Legless Lizard habitat.	Compliant	Clearance was undertaken in accordance with the EPBC Approval and can be confirmed in writing by Air Trunk if required.
2	Prior to the commencement of the action, to compensate for the loss of up to 2.444 ha of NTGWP and 2.444 ha of Striped Legless Lizard habitat, the approval holder must control the offset area, must provide the Department with written evidence of the approval holder's effective management authority over the offset area, and must implement the offset management plan at the offset area. The approval holder must continue to implement the offset management plan until the approval expires.	Compliant	Landowner confirmed commencement of management, as per Offset Management Plan (EPBC 2019/8417) on 21 October 2019 via email. DCCEEW notified via EMKC pty. ltd. on behalf of AirTrunk- email dated 29 October 2019.
3	Within 5 months of the date of approval, the approval holder must secure the offset area.	Compliant	Credit Trade Agreement securing the offset area signed 23 December 2019.
4	Notify department with: a written evidence that offset has been secured. b Shapefile of offset attributes	Compliant	a Department notified by email on 29 October 2019. b Shapefile submitted via email on 9 October 2019. Emailed to Robert.Kirby@Environment.gov.au .

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
5	The approval holder must implement the CEMP and weed measures for the duration of the approval.	Compliant	Communication via email on 15/12/2020 from a senior project manager of [REDACTED] Pty. Ltd - construction contractors for AirTrunk], confirming compliance with the CEMP stating: <i>“[REDACTED] have adhered to the measures identified in the [Preliminary Documentation] and CEMP by routinely and continuously monitoring and managing the weeds on the 210 site throughout the development construction works. Inspections have been undertaken by our on site Health, Safety and Environment Committee made up of Built personnel, Airtrunk representative and sub-contractor representative during their weekly site walks.”</i>
6	Notify department of commencement of the action within 10 business days of commencement.	Compliant	Action commenced on 31 October 2019. Department notified via EMKC email on 29 October 2019.
7	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister.	Not applicable	Action commenced on 31 October 2019.
8	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	Compliance recording requirements were met for years 1 & 2 in Annual Compliance Reports – ACRs, published at: https://www.airtrunk.com/policies-reports/ Compliance recording requirements will be met for year 3 with this report to be published at the same link.
9	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.	Not applicable	To be submitted electronically to DCCEEW upon request if required.

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
10	<p>The approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a submit plans electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister; b publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of the date the plan is approved by the Minister or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister or the Department, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister; c exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and d keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval. 	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Mapping undertaken in Year 1 as a part of the ecological monitoring is provided in Appendix B-5 in this report. b Plan is to be published by, and hosted on, AirTrunk's website at https://www.airtrunk.com/policies-reports/. c No ecologically sensitive data has been published to date. d Plans remain published on website until all approval requirements are satisfied.
11	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan, is prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan.	Compliant	<p>Minister has received plans. Offset Management Plan provided as a part of the final Preliminary Documentation – 19 September 2019.</p> <p>Year 3 digital data collected by WSP is to be sent with this Annual Compliance Report in addition to datasets previously sent for Years 1 and 2.</p>

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
12	<p>The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period; b notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website; c and provide the weblink for the compliance report within five business days of the date of publication; d keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires; e exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and f where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication. 	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Compliance will be published by AirTrunk at https://www.airtrunk.com/policies-reports/ b Notification to be provided by email complete with this report. c Link to be sent to post.approvals@environment.gov.au d Report will remain published on website until all conditions of this approval satisfied. e No ecologically sensitive data has been provided. f Not applicable, as no ecologically sensitive data has been provided.

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
13	<p>The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a any condition which is or may be in breach; b a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance; and c the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. <p>In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.</p>	Compliant	No incidents or non-compliances have occurred in the year 3 reporting period.
14	<p>The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; b the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and c the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. 	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Issues were raised with the Landowner. See landowner report in Appendix C. b Potential impact of offset management issues raised being a decline in offset quality, has the potential for a non-compliance, however this is not yet considered to be a non-compliance. c See landowner report in Appendix C.
15	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister.	Not applicable	Not requested by Minister

CONDITION OF APPROVAL	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANT/NON-COMPLIANT	EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLAIMS REGARDING COMPLIANCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE
16	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department; b only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and c submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria. 	Not applicable	Not requested by Minister
17	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Not applicable	Not requested by Minister
18	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	Compliant	AirTrunk can confirm the Action has been completed, as the footprint of the building works is complete.

a

2 ANNUAL MONITORING – OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Annual monitoring to evaluate progress must be evaluated against the objectives set out in section 8 of the Offset Management Plan (OMP) (EHP, 2019a). Results have been compiled against these objectives in reference to Table 8 of the OMP (EHP, 2019a). This table is provided in Appendix B.

2.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

2.1.1 DETAILED VEGETATION MONITORING

Detailed vegetation monitoring was undertaken as per Section 8.2 of the OMP. Detailed vegetation monitoring is to be undertaken in years 1 – 4, 6, 8 & 10. The full results of this monitoring are provided in Appendix B.

YEAR 3 MONITORING SUMMARY

Key results of vegetation monitoring are summarised below:

- Biomass percentage cover was assessed as being 58.2 %, which is up from Year 2 levels. Inter-tussock space was assessed as being 2.7 %, which is a decrease from 4.3 % in year 2. See Table B.3 in Appendix B-2. Targets as per the OMP for biomass percentage cover and inter-tussock space are 20-40% and >20% respectively. Biomass and inter-tussock space indicate a reduction in quality from year 2, however this should be considered in the context of 2021 and 2022 being declared La Niña years, with higher than average rainfall which would have encouraged substantial vegetative growth.
- Coverage of high threat – HT, exotic weeds was assessed as being at 29%, this is up from the previous year (15 %) although still down from the 40 % levels of year 1. WSP observations concur with Landowner reporting, in that there has been no increase in coverage of the majority of HT weeds being Spear Thistle, Toowoomba Canary-grass, Saffron Thistle, Horehound, Galenia, Chilean Needle-grass and Bathurst Burr. It should be noted that, at the time of assessment there remained large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma*, and other untreated grassy herbaceous weeds. See image 1 Table B.5.
- Plains Grassland EVC 132 was assessed as having a Habitat Hectare score of 41/100 against the (correct) *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland EVC 132_63 benchmark. This was previously assessed as EVC 132_61 *Heavier* soils Plains Grassland scoring 47.44/100. This score is considered unchanged from the previous year as all VQA scoring components, except the Understory, were unchanged. The reduction in understory scoring from 20 – 15 is not indicative of a reduction in quality in year 3. This scoring is simply considered more reflective of the actual quality of the vegetation in comparison to it's likely pre-1750 quality. This score will likely increase again following successful implementation of future management.

2.1.2 STRIPED LEGLESS LIZARD MONITORING

Striped Legless Lizard population monitoring was undertaken as per section 8.3 of the OMP. Results of Striped Legless Lizard monitoring is provided in Table B.4, Appendix B-3. The location of the tile grids checked is shown in Appendix B-5.

Striped Legless Lizard surveys are to be undertaken in years 1 – 4, 6, 8 & 10.

YEAR 2 MONITORING SUMMARY

No Striped Legless Lizards were observed during the two prescribed checks in year 3. With only two checks, this does not indicate that the species is not present or is declining, however it may indicate that the species is not present in high

density. The Preliminary Documentation reports that ‘a population of SLL was detected during targeted surveys, multiple age cohorts were observed suggesting a sustainable, breeding population is present within the offset site’ (EHP, 2019c). The PD and OMP do not detail any survey results indicating the presence of a population.

Section 6.7 of PD (EHP, 2019c) states that ‘the desired outcome is the maintenance and improvement of the SLL population.’ It is noted that this is not a specific commitment but rather described as a *desired* outcome. The OMP only commits to habitat improvement of the site (OMP section 5.4 (EHP, 2019a)), rather than maintenance or improvement of the population. With an improvement in NTGVVP, SLL habitat is considered similarly improved.

2.1.3 MONITORING OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Monitoring against Table 8 of the OMP – Management Actions Table, was undertaken and is provided as Table B.1, Appendix B-1.

MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING SUMMARY

The key results of this monitoring are summarised below:

- Pulse grazing had been undertaken at the time of inspection. See Landowner reporting in Appendix C. Pulse grazing appears to have not been as successful as it was in year two, with biomass levels increasing.
- Landowner reporting as per state requirements is comprehensive and accurate. – Landowner reporting Appendix C.
- Fences are in excellent condition and fit for purpose.
- Rabbits were not observed, warrens appeared abandoned. No Fox scats were observed. No Fox dens were observed. Warrens were reported to be hand-collapsed and baited, and Foxes and Rabbits hunted with longarm rifles in December 2022 – Landowner reporting Appendix C.
- It was previously mentioned that there needs to be greater effort to minimise off target / overspray when conducting weed control. This advice appears to not have been observed, with overspray around serrated tussock often impacting indigenous grasses to a higher degree than what would usually be expected in management of indigenous grassland. Weed control in NTGVVP is recommended to be undertaken by personnel experienced in the application of herbicide in conservation areas and minimising off-target damage and experienced in the identification of indigenous flora species.
- As mentioned above Feather Heads *Ptilopus macrocephalus* was not observed in year 2. This may be due to grazing pressure, errant herbicide application, or natural mortality.

REFERENCES

- DOE 2014. Annual Compliance Report Guidelines. *In*: ENVIRONMENT, D. O. T. (ed.). Commonwealth of Australia.
- EHP 2019a. Offset Management Plan: 5-95 Birds Road, Balliang, Victoria (EPBC 2019/8417).
- EHP 2019b. Offset Site Assessment: 5 - 95 Birds Road, Balliang, Victoria.
- EHP 2019c. Preliminary Documentation fo the Proposed Development at 210 Swann Drive, Derrimut, Vic (EPBC 2019/8417).

APPENDIX A

MAPS OF IMPACT AREA AND OFFSET
AREA REPLICATED FROM EPBC
APPROVAL 2019/8417



APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1: the location of the proposed action, as demarcated by the red line and labelled 'Study area'.



Figure 2
Ecological features
210 Swann Drive,
Derrimut

Legend

- Study Area
- Ecological Vegetation Class**
- Plains Grassland
- EPBC Act-listed ecological community**
- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain



Disclaimer: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this information.

11/01/2015, 11:00 AM, 11/01/2015, 11:00 AM

2. Appendix 2: the location of the offset which must be secured under condition 3, as demarcated by the blue dotted line and labelled 'Offset area'.



APPENDIX B

OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN; ANNUAL
MONITORING APPENDICES



APPENDIX B-1
OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
MONITORING RESULTS – YEAR 3

Table B.1 Management actions table and reporting year 3

REPORT DETAILS		
Assessor/s	Justin Pegg	
Dates	Striped Legless Lizard (SLL) survey dates	14 September and 10 November 2022
	NTGVVP monitoring date/s	10 November 2022
	Offset site monitoring date/s	10 November 2022
Landowner reporting	Landowner reporting forms completed and attached?	Attached at Appendix C

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
Fencing						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Maintain fencing in good condition around entire boundary of all sites where fencing exists or is required Refer Section 5.5.2 of OMP	Ongoing	Maintain fencing to DEECA fencing standards in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 - Standards for Management — Fencing	Compliant	Fencing repaired/renewed. Fencing is fit for the purpose of stock exclusion, as per the updated <i>Management standards for native vegetation offset sites</i> (DELWP 2019) with 7 strands of wire. Fencing is around perimeter of wider paddock rather than the immediate offset area.

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Erect temporary fencing around offset site during grazing exclusion period (if stock present during this period within the property cannot be confined to certain areas) Refer Section 5.5.3 of OMP	October - November	Exclude stock from the offset site during exclusion period to protect NTGVVP community.	Compliant	Stock not grazing wider paddock year-round. Stock is excluded from offset area with the exception of stock used for pulse grazing for biomass control.
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	If a threat arises erect an additional fence immediately around the entire boundary of the offset site Refer Section 5.5.2 of OMP	Immediately on identification of threat	Erect fencing to DELWP fencing standards in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 — Standards for Management — Fencing	Compliant.	Fencing not required around offset area as threats not identified.

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
1	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Establish posts to mark the boundary of the offset site in accordance with advice from a qualified ecologist and land surveyor Refer Section 5.5. I. of OMP	Immediately on approval of year one management works.	Facilitate management and monitoring of the offset site. Delineate location of temporary exclusion fence.	Compliant	Boundary of offset site is delineated on ground by wooden survey pegs at vertices of offset area. These survey pegs were reported to have been placed by surveyor.
Woody Weeds						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Eliminate all new and emerging woody weeds Refer Section 5.5.3 of OMP	Ongoing	Eliminate woody weeds (<1% cover)	Compliant	Control of woody weeds is being undertaken. Coverage of woody weeds appears to be less than 1% of vegetative cover.
Herbaceous Weeds						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Control all herbaceous weeds. Refer to Table 4 for list of herbaceous weeds,	Refer to Table 6	Eliminate all high threat weeds (<1% cover) within offset site. Minimise off-target damage (avoid all native plants)	Compliant	Coverages of herbaceous weeds to be controlled were approximately equal to, or less than coverages listed in Table 4 of the OMP.

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
		<p>their control method and timing of actions</p> <p>Refer Section 5.5.3 of OMP</p>				<p>Coverage of Wild Oat <i>Avena fatua</i> was around 30% after year 1 of management. This has been now much reduced in years 2 & 3 following biomass management to a coverage of around 5%.</p> <p>While this measure has been assessed as compliant, there is the potential for non-compliance if future efforts are not improved on, working toward the target of <1% coverage of high threat weeds as per Table 8 of the OMP. At the time of assessment there remained large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock <i>Nassella trichotoma</i>, and other untreated grassy herbaceous weeds. See image 1 Table B.5.</p> <p>It should be noted that significant overspray of grassland is still occurring as a result of weed control efforts. This issue was previously raised with the landowner, and the need to minimise off-target damage when applying herbicide discussed.</p> <p>The OMP discusses herbicide application in terms of spot-spraying. This should be interpreted as knap-sacking. If quick sprays or rigs are to be used these should only be used at low-pressures and at close range with high-accuracy wands. An example of overspray is shown in Image 2 Table B.5. Weed control in NTGVVP is recommended to be undertaken by personnel experienced in the application of herbicide in areas of conservation and minimising off target damage.</p>

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Eliminate all new & emerging herbaceous weeds Refer Section 5.5.3 of OMP	Ongoing.	<1% cover of all new and emerging herbaceous weeds at the end of Year 10	Compliant	Herbaceous and grassy weeds were listed by previous assessors of the site (EHP, 2019b). Great Mullein * <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> was recorded in year 2, this species was not previously recorded by WSP, or by EHP. There is the possibility for not compliance if this species is not kept below 1%.
Pest Animals						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Control rabbits and foxes. Refer to Table 5 for a list of control methods and timing of actions Refer Section 5.5.4 of OMP	Refer to Table 7	No surface disturbance within the offset site No active rabbit warrens to be present No active fox dens to be present No rubbish/artificial harbour present Minimal artificial piles of logs and rocks	Compliant	There was not apparent surface disturbance across the offset area. Rabbits were not observed and one warren appeared abandoned. No fox scats or fox dens were observed. Warrens were reported to be hand-collapsed and baited, and foxes and rabbits hunted with longarm rifles in December 2021 – Landowner reporting Appendix C. No rubbish or artificial harbour was present No artificial piles of logs or rocks were observed
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Monitor and control rabbits and foxes Refer Section 5.5.4 of OMP	Ongoing	Reduction in the abundance of pest animals, and no detectable impacts to the native grassland	Compliant	The presence of rabbits is mentioned in section 5.5.5.1 of the OMP (EHP, 2019a) and both foxes and rabbits are mentioned as identified on site in the preliminary assessment of the offset site (EHP, 2019b). Current pest levels appear to be lower to that discussed in these documents being:

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>small [rabbit] warrens ... recorded within and surrounding the offset site.</i> - <i>Small amount of [fox] disturbance, no dens observed.</i> <p>Rabbits were not observed, one warren appeared abandoned. No fox scats or fox dens were observed.</p> <p>Warrens were reported to be hand-collapsed and baited, and foxes and rabbits hunted with longarm rifles in December 2021 – Landowner reporting Appendix C.</p>
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Monitor and control all new and emerging pest animals Refer Section 5.5.4 of OMP	Ongoing	Control numbers of any new & emerging pest animals	Compliant	No new pest animals were observed beyond those listed in the OMP.
Biomass Management						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Pulse grazing Refer Section 5.5.5 of OMP	The maximum length of continuous grazing is four weeks with at least two weeks rest between	Stock must be removed should total vegetation cover fall to or below 70 % Sufficient bare ground (approximately 20% to 40% cover) maintained in order to maintain	Non compliant	<p>Pulse grazing had been undertaken at the time of inspection. See Landowner reporting in Appendix C.</p> <p>Pulse grazing appears to have been unsuccessful in maintaining or reducing biomass levels, and bare ground toward ideal levels. As biomass coverage is now ~ 28 % coverage, up from ~ 20 %, and bare ground at around ~ 3 %, down from ~ 4 %. However</p>

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
			cycles. Stock generally excluded during October-November Stock removed immediately following any high rainfall events.	space for recruitment of herbs and grasses. No loss of native plant diversity as a result of grazing regimes. Reduction in weed cover.		grazing appears to have successfully maintained the reduced coverage of Wild Oats <i>Avena barbata</i> at similar levels to that of year 2 (~ 5 %) down from ~ 30 % in year 1.
Detailed native vegetation monitoring						
Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Monitoring Refer Section 8.2 of OMP	Spring/Summer	Allow for ongoing auditing of the effectiveness of management. Reports will include a review of past management works against the performance targets and objectives contained within this OMP.	Compliant	Plains Grassland EVC 132 was assessed as having a Habitat Hectare score of 41/100 against the (correct) <i>Low-rainfall</i> Plains Grassland EVC 132_63 benchmark. This was previously assessed as EVC 132_61 <i>Heavier</i> soils Plains Grassland scoring 47.44/100. This score is considered unchanged from the previous year as all VQA scoring components, except the Understory, were unchanged. The reduction in understory scoring from 20 – 15 is not indicative of a reduction in quality in year 3. This scoring is simply considered more reflective of the actual quality of the vegetation in comparison to it's likely pre-1750 quality. This score will likely increase again following successful implementation of future management.

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
						<p>Biomass percentage cover was assessed as being 58.2 %, which is up from year 2 levels. Inter-tussock space was assessed as being 2.7 %, which is a decrease from 4.3 % in year 2. See Table B.3 in Appendix B-2. Targets as per the OMP for biomass percentage cover and inter-tussock space are 20-40% and >20% respectively. Biomass and inter-tussock space indicate a reduction in quality from year 2, however this should be considered in the context of 2021 and 2022 being declared La Niña years, which would have encouraged substantial vegetative growth.</p> <p>Coverage of high threat – HT, exotic weeds was assessed as being at 29%, this is up from the previous year (15 %) although still down from year one levels of around 40%. WSP observations are consistent with Landowner reporting, in that there has been no increase in coverage of the majority of HT weeds being Spear Thistle, Toowoomba Canary-grass, Saffron Thistle, Horehound, Galenia, Chilean Needle-grass and Bathurst Burr. It should be noted that. at the time of assessment there remained large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock <i>Nassella trichotoma</i>, and other untreated grassy herbaceous weeds. See image 1 Table B.5.</p>

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
Striped Legless Lizard Monitoring	10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Monitoring Refer Section 8.3 of OMP	Spring/Summer	<p>Striped Legless Lizard monitoring not included in Management Actions Table of OMP. Outcomes to be achieved gained from section 8.3.</p> <p>No decline in SLL population</p> <p>No degradation of SLL habitat</p> <p>Re-evaluation of management and implementation of adaptive management if required.</p>	Compliant	<p>Survey 1 for Striped Legless Lizard was undertaken on 14 September and survey 2 on 10 November 2022.</p> <p>No Striped Legless Lizard <i>Delma impar</i> were observed during the two prescribed surveys. The Preliminary Documentation – PD, there is reported ‘a population of SLL was detected during targeted surveys, multiple age cohorts were observed suggesting a sustainable, breeding population is present within the offset site’ (EHP, 2019c). The PD and OMP do not however detail original survey results. Although no SLL have been recorded in monitoring across years 1 and 2, with only two checks of survey grids, it is not reasonable to conclude that the species is not present or is declining. The results may indicate that the species is not present in high density.</p> <p>Species observed during survey include Little Whip Snake <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>, Large Striped Skink <i>Ctenotus robustus</i>, Common Blue-tongued Lizard <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>, Eastern Brown Snake <i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>.</p> <p>Section 6.7 of PD (EHP, 2019c) states that ‘the desired outcome is the maintenance and improvement of SLL population.’ It is noted that this is not a specific commitment, but rather a <i>desired</i> outcome.</p> <p>The OMP only commits to habitat improvement (section 5.4 (EHP, 2019a)), rather than maintenance or improvement of the</p>

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
						population. With an improvement in NTGVVP, SLL habitat is considered similarly improved.
Annual reporting						
1-10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Prepare and submit an annual report and photo monitoring to DELWP and DCCEEW. Refer Section 5.5.7 and 8.1 of OMP	Submit at least 2 months prior to on-title agreement anniversary date	<p>Annual report is signed, dated and submitted by the landowner at least 2 months prior to the anniversary date of on-title agreement registration</p> <p>Report provides enough detail in the form of written comments and supporting evidence that an assessor can easily determine the completion of / progress against the commitments for the offset site.</p> <p>Allow for ongoing auditing of the effectiveness of management.</p> <p>Reports will include a review of past management works against the performance targets and objectives contained within this OMP. Future management priorities will also be detailed in these reports.</p>	Compliant	<p>Landowner has completed annual reporting requirements. This is attached in Appendix C. Photopoints were reported as being completed although not provided to WSP by the date of the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Landowner reporting as per state requirements is comprehensive and accurate.</p> <p>WSP Photopoints are mapped in Appendix B-5, and photos are provided in Appendix E.</p>

YEAR	AREA	MANAGEMENT ACTION DESCRIPTION – OMP	TIMING	ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOME TO BE ACHIEVED – OMP	COMPLIANT / NON-COMPLIANT / NOT APPLICABLE (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (AS AT 10 NOV 2022)
				Obligations of the Landowner have been met and the obligations form is signed, dated and submitted with the annual report		
5	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Review effectiveness of OMP. Refer Section 5.5.8 and 8.1 of OMP	End of Year 5.	If existing OMP is not leading to the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the NTGVVP community, a review will be undertaken, and a new management plan prepared for the remaining 5 years of management.	Not applicable	Current prescriptions in the OMP are considered appropriate to guide improvement in the grassland. It is recommended that efforts in year 4: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Involve a focus on stocking the grassland at appropriate densities at the right times during crash grazing efforts to control exotic annual grasses. 2 Greater effort to minimise off target / overspray when conducting weed control. Weed control in NTGVVP is recommended to be undertaken by personnel experienced in the application of herbicide in conservation areas and minimising off-target damage and experienced in the identification of indigenous flora species.

Source: (EHP, 2019a)¹

¹ EHP 2019. Offset Management Plan:5-95 Birds Road, Balliang, Victoria (EPBC 2019/8417).

APPENDIX B-2 FLORISTICS

Table B.2 Flora species, origin, and consideration of high-threat weeds

ORIGIN	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT
	Sheep's Burr	<i>Acaena echinata</i>	
*	Silvery Hair-grass	<i>Aira caryophyllea subsp. caryophyllea</i>	
	Common Wheat-grass	<i>Anthosachne scabra s.l.</i>	
*	Cape weed	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	
	Common woodruff	<i>Asperula conferta</i>	
	Kneed Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i>	
	Rough Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa scabra ssp. scabra</i>	
*	Bearded Oat	<i>Avena barbata</i>	y
	Red-leg Grass	<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	
*	Soft Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus subsp. hordeaceus</i>	y
*	Red Brome	<i>Bromus rubens</i>	y
*	Saffron Thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	
	Drooping Cassinia	<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	#
	Windmill Grass	<i>Chloris truncata</i>	
*	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	y
	Slender Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus angustissimus ssp. omnigracilis</i>	
	Sieber Crassula	<i>Crassula sieberiana s.l.</i>	
*	Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus subsp. flavescent</i>	y
*	Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	y
	Dark Bottle-washers	<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>	
	Hairy Willow-herb	<i>Epilobium hirtigerum</i>	
*	Big Heron's-bill	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	
	Blue Heron's-bill	<i>Erodium crinitum</i>	
*	Galenia	<i>Galenia pubescens var. pubescens</i>	y
*	Silky Cudweed	<i>Gamochaeta calviceps</i>	
	Cut-leaf Goodenia	<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	
	Varied Raspwort	<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	
*	Barley-grass	<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	
*	Smooth Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	
	Finger Rush	<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	
*	Wimmera Rye-grass	<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	y

ORIGIN	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT
*	African Box-thorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	y
*	Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	y
	Common Nardoo	<i>Marsilea drummondii</i>	
*	Burr Medic	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	
*	Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	y
*	Toowoomba Canary-grass	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	
*	Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	
*	Ribwort	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
	Feather Heads	<i>Ptilotus macrocephalus</i>	
*	Onion Grass	<i>Romulea rosea</i>	
*	Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	y
	Common Wallaby Grass	<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	
	Bristly Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>	
*	Wild Sage	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	
	Apple of Sodom	<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>	
*	Common Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	
*	Rat-tail Grass	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	
	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	
*	Narrow-leaf Clover	<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> var. <i>angustifolium</i>	
*	Hop Clover	<i>Trifolium campestre</i> var. <i>campestre</i>	
	Five-minute Grass	<i>Tripogon loliiformis</i>	
*	Twiggy Mullein	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	y
*	Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	y
*	Squirrel-tail Fescue	<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	
30	Totals		15

Table B.3 Biomass assessment results

PLOT	BIOMASS COVERAGE %	BARE GROUND / INTER-TUSsock SPACE %
1	50	1
2	60	1
3	50	5
4	55	1
5	50	5
6	55	5
7	60	1
8	65	1
9	70	1
10	70	1
11	40	5
12	70	5
13	50	5
14	70	1
Average 2022	58.2	2.7

APPENDIX B-3

SLL SURVEY RESULTS

Table B.4 Striped Legless Lizard survey results September-November 2022

DATE	TEMPERATURE °C	CLOUD COVER	WIND	RAIN IN THE PAST 24 HOURS	CURRENT RAIN	RELATIVE HUMIDITY %	SURVEY NUMBER	GRID NUMBER	GRID START TIME	SLL RECORDED	SLL SKINS RECORDED	SPECIES RECORDED	GRID END TIME
2022-11-10	20.3	>80%	Light	Light	None	61	2	6	12:17:00	0	0		12:33:00
2022-11-10	20.7	>80%	Strong	Light	None	59	2	5	11:55:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>	12:13:00
2022-11-10	20	>80%	Light	Light	Light	59	2	4	11:13:00	0	0	Large striped Skink <i>Ctenotus robustus</i> Unidentified snake - possibly copperhead, terracotta Orange	11:44:00
2022-11-10	19.1	>80%	Light	Light	Light	65	2	3	10:51:00	0	0		11:09:00
2022-11-10	18.6	>80%	Strong	Light	Light	65	2	2	10:30:00	0	0		10:43:00
2022-11-10	18.6	>80%	Strong	Light	Light	65	2	1	10:05:00	0	0	Eastern Brown Snake_ <i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	10:27:00
2022-11-10	23.4	>80%	Light	Light	None	58	2	7	12:13:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	12:27:00
2022-11-10	23.5	>80%	Light	Light	None	57	2	8	11:59:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	12:09:00
2022-11-10	22.9	>80%	Light	Light	None	57	2	9	11:43:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>	11:54:00
2022-11-10	22.6	>80%	Light	Light	None	57	2	10	11:19:00	0	0		
2022-09-14	18	<20%	Slight	None	None	40	1	1	14:22:00	0	0	Eastern Brown Snake_ <i>Pseudonaja textilis</i> , Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>	14:32:00
2022-09-14	18	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	2	14:06:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>	14:19:00
2022-09-14	18	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	3	13:47:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i> Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	13:57:00
2022-09-14	18	<20%	Slight	None	None	40	1	4	13:29:00	0	0	Eastern Brown Snake_ <i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	13:41:00
2022-09-14	17	<20%	Light	None	None	41	1	5	13:08:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i>	
2022-09-14	17	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	6	12:26:00	0	0		
2022-09-14	17	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	7	12:09:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	12:23:00
2022-09-14	16	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	8	11:53:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	12:02:00
2022-09-14	16	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	9	11:31:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i> , Unidentified Skink	11:46:00
2022-09-14	15	<20%	Light	None	None	40	1	10	11:08:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_ <i>Parasuta flagellum</i> Spotted Marsh Frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	11:25:00

APPENDIX B-4 HABITAT HECTARE ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Treeless Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.4 - July 2009

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Site Name/No.

Location **Balliang**

Date **10/11/23**

Assessor(s) **j pegg**

Map Name/No.

AMG / MGA

Tenure EVC **132_63**

Bioregion **VVP**

'Site Condition Score'

Understorey Life forms

LF Code from EVC benchmark	# spp observed / Benchmark spp.	% cover observed / Benchmark % cover	Present (✓)	Modified (✓)
SS	0 / 1	0 / 5		
PS	0 / 1	0 / 5		
LH	1 / 2	0.1 / 5	✓	
MH	10 / 8	5.1 / 20	✓	✓
SH	4 / 3	1.2 / 10	✓	✓
LTG	1 / 1	1 / 5	✓	
MTG	9 / 10	45 / 30	✓	
MNG	1 / 2	1 / 5	✓	
BL	/ NA	20 / 20	✓	
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		

Present

For life forms with benchmark cover of < 10%, considered 'present' if

- any specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, considered 'present' if

- the life form occupies at least 10% of benchmark cover.

Modified

(apply only where life form is 'present')

For life forms with benchmark cover of <10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

- < 50% of the benchmark species diversity; or
- no reproductively-mature specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

- < 50% of benchmark cover; or
- < 50% of benchmark species diversity; or
- ≥ 50% of benchmark cover due largely to immature canopy specimens but the cover of reproductively-mature specimens is < 10% of the benchmark cover.

Lack of Weeds

Score

6

Category & Description	'high threat' weeds*		
	None	≤ 50%	> 50%
> 50% cover of weeds	4	2	0
25 - 50% cover of weeds	7	✓	4
5 - 25% cover of weeds	11	9	7
< 5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

* proportion of weed cover due to 'high threat' weeds - see EVC benchmark for guide.

'High threat' weed species are defined as those introduced species (including non-indigenous 'natives') with the ability to out-compete and substantially reduce one or more indigenous life forms in the longer term assuming on-going current site characteristics and disturbance regime.

The EVC benchmark lists typical weed species for the EVC in the bioregion and provides an estimate of their 'invasiveness' and 'impact'. In general, those weed species considered to have a *high impact* are considered *high threat* regardless of their invasiveness.

**if total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score '13'.

Recruitment

Score

0

Percentage cover of recruitment area#	High native herb diversity*	Low native herb diversity*
0 to 5% cover	0	✓
> 5% to 20% cover	6	3
> 20% to 40% cover	10	6
> 40% to 60% cover	6	3
> 60% to 90% cover	3	1
> 90% cover	0	0

cumulative % cover of bare ground, bryophytes/lichens and soil crust

* high native herb diversity defined as ≥ 50% of benchmark diversity within 'herb' life forms

Understorey

Score

15

Category & Description	Score
All strata and Life forms effectively absent	0
Up to 50% of life forms present	5
≥ 50% to 90% of Life forms present	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified of those present, < 50% substantially modified 	15
≥ 90% of Life forms present	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified of those present, < 50% substantially modified 	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of those present, none substantially modified 	25

Organic Litter

Score

3

Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0
< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	✓	2
≥ 50% or ≤ 150% of benchmark cover	5	4

Treeless Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.4 - July 2009

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Logs (where applicable⁺)

Score

-

Category & Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent [#]
< 10% of benchmark length	0	0
< 50% of benchmark length	3	2
≥ 50% of benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter ≥ 0.5 of benchmark large tree dbh.

+ Applicable to some shrublands and scrubs (refer to EVC benchmark as a guide). Where applicable assess in accordance with the habitat hectares method for logs in treed EVCs. Note that most shrublands and scrubs do not contain a large tree component and hence a large log assessment is not required (refer to EVC benchmark as a guide). Such EVCs should be scored as if 'large logs present'.

* present if large log length is ≥ 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

absent if large log length is < 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

'Landscape Context Score'

Patch Size

Score

8

Category & Description	
< 2 ha	1
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
≥ 20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'	0
≥ 20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'	10

* 'significantly disturbed' defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses eg. roading, coupes, grazing etc. – effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes.

Neighbourhood

Score

0

Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	
100 m	20	0.03	0.60
1 km	20	0.04	0.80
5 km	20	0.03	0.60
subtract 2 if the neighbourhood is 'significantly disturbed'			-2
Add Values and 'round-off'			0

* to nearest 20%.

Multiply % native vegetation x Weighting for each radius from the zone (eg. 40% x 0.03 = 1.2); then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value.

Distance to Core Area

Score

0

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*
> 5 km	0	0
1 to 5 km	2	1
< 1 km	4	3
contiguous	5	4

* defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses.

Final Habitat Score										
Component	'Site Condition Score'						'Landscape Context Score'			Total
	Understorey	Lack of Weeds	Recruitment	Organic Litter	Logs (if applicable)	Standardiser	Subtotal	Patch Size	Neighbourhood	Distance to Core Area
Score	15	6	0	3	0		33	8	0	0
										41

1.36

APPENDIX B-5 MAPPING

Figure 1
5-95 Birds Rd, Balliang –
ecological monitoring year 1 - 2020

Legend

- Biomass Monitoring Points
- ✕ Photopoints
- Road
- Cadastre
- Reptile Survey Tile Grids
- CFL-3069_02 Site 1



0 50 100
Meters

Coordinate system: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Scale ratio correct when printed at A3

1:4,000

Date: 14-Dec-20

Author: Angela Sun

Data sources: VicMap 2020, WSP 2020

© WSP Australia Pty Ltd ("WSP") Copyright in the drawings, information and data recorded ("the information") is the property of WSP. This document and the information are solely for the use of the authorised recipient and this document may not be used, copied or reproduced in whole or part for any purpose other than that which it was supplied by WSP. WSP makes no representation, undertakes no duty and accepts no responsibility to any third party who may use or rely upon this document or the information. NCSI Certified Quality System to ISO 9001. © APPROVED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF WSP Australia Pty Ltd.

APPENDIX B-6 PHOTO LOG

Table B.5 Photos of offset area

<p>Image 1. High coverage of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock *<i>Nassella trichotoma</i></p>	
---	---

Image 2. Overspray of Wallaby and Spear Grasses in NTGVVP.



Image 3 shows high biomass levels, mainly due to Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*



Image 5 shows a Little
Whip Snake *Parasuta*
flagellum



APPENDIX C

LANDOWNER REPORTING



Department of Environment Land, Water & Planning Annual Report Form

Enter management year here: Year ____3

Management Agreement: VC CFL - 3069

Enter Landowner name(s) here:

Kylie Buttigieg

Site Code: ____02

Site-Zone	Standard to be achieved	Management action description <i>(write each management action description from your final management actions table below)</i>	Timing	Action Completed (Yes/No)	Description of Actions and observed outcomes (Include or attach evidence of actions completed / comments / observed outcomes)
Site 02	Fencing	To Protect the Site from threats	On going	YES	Maintenance all boundary Fences are regularly inspected throughout the year. See Log Book for details.
All	7 Photo Points	7 Photo Monitor Points	October *	Yes	7 Photo Point locations were selected across the Site and Photos taken *we usually take these photos towards the end of October but due to heavy rain and overcast conditions we weren't able to take these until 5 th November, 2022. See Map and Photos marked 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a
All	Elimination of all Woody Weeds	Woody weeds to be eliminated Sweet Briar Rose & African Boxthorn	Year Round	Yes	Any new Briar Rose plants have been hand chipped and removed from Site throughout the year. Any new African Boxthorn plants have been hand cut and their stumps painted. (See attachment 3 Log Book)/ (See receipts for Chemicals)
All	New and emerging woody weeds	Monitor for new and emerging woody weeds and eliminate.	Ongoing	Yes	No other woody weeds were detected. As pointed out in previously there are some native Cassinia Shrubs scattered around the Site that are native to the area we will continue to monitor them to make sure they do not get out of control. Smaller plants that do appear are hand pulled from time to time so that the numbers don't become a problem.
All	Control High threat herbaceous and grassy weeds	Control all high threat herbaceous and grassy weeds to ensure cover does not increase beyond current cover.	Year round Early Spring & Summer	Yes Yes	Serrated Tussock – Targeted spot spray year-round concentrating efforts on areas with infestations a reduction in the amount across the progress across the Site we will continue to be sprayed year-round. Recent weather conditions (see below) have seen Serrated Tussock numbers increasing from last year but a big effort is being put into spraying currently underway though out Summer.

Site-Zone	Standard to be achieved	Management action description <i>(write each management action description from your final management actions table below)</i>	Timing	Action Completed (Yes/No)	Description of Actions and observed outcomes (Include or attach evidence of actions completed / comments / observed outcomes)
			Early Spring & Summer	Yes	Spear Thistle plants are been sprayed and seed heads hand chipped Spring and continued to be sprayed through Summer 2022/2023 with a reduction on Site.
			Early Spring & early Summer	Yes	Toowoomba Canary-Grass Plants have been sprayed during early Summer with a reduction of plants on Site also Sheep help to control this weed and further grazing will help reduce further when on Site.
			Spring & early Summer	Yes	Saffron Thistle Spot Sprayed and hand chipped (seed heads removed from Site) early Summer reduction of plants on spray and removal of flowers will continue through Summer 22/23.
			Spring & Summer	Yes	Horehound Spot sprayed early Summer with a reduction in plants on Site.
			Spring & Summer	Yes	Galenia has been spot sprayed Spring and continuing through Summer and a reduction on Site. Also sprayed in the year.
			Spring & Summer	Yes	Chilean Needle Grass spot sprayed.
				Yes	Bathurst Burr spot sprayed and hand chipped with a high reduction of plants in all zones.
					Please see log book attachments and photos showing dying weeds and receipts for chemical/herbicide.
					This year has been challenging with back-to-back La Nina weather patterns (2021-2022) Another extremely wet Spring and early Summer. We have never seen the Site this wet before since living here. Our dams are full and water flowing along natural water courses. Maintenance tracks have been covered with water so access has been hard even for the four-wheel motorbike. Also, constant rain has meant Spring spraying has been delayed.
					There has been an explosion of Spring growth with grassland and weeds alike and as discussed in the above paragraph the wet conditions have delayed the important Spring spraying season. Conditions are now drying out allowing better access and big effort is being put into spraying in particular the Serrated Tussock. This will continue over Christmas and the New Year period and into Year 4.
					Please note that even with the current growth, the Site looks greatly improved from the beginning of the Management Agreement. The absence of African Box Thorn and Briar Rose and the constant year-round spraying of all weeds. This can be observed in some neighbouring properties where weeds have been left with no management.

Site-Zone	Standard to be achieved	Management action description <i>(write each management action description from your final management actions table below)</i>	Timing	Action Completed (Yes/No)	Description of Actions and observed outcomes (Include or attach evidence of actions completed / comments / observed outcomes)
					<p>Pandemic problems: It has been difficult sourcing herbicide for weed spray supply chain issues due to manufacture and transportation problems relating to the pandemic.</p> <p>See Log Book for details</p>
All	Control all low threat Herbaceous Weeds	Ensure all low threat herbaceous Weeds do not increase beyond current levels	<p>Spring & early Summer</p> <p>February - October</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Ribwort Pulse grazing has been beneficial in reducing numbers</p> <p>Wild Oat Pulse grazing has been beneficial in reducing numbers.</p> <p>White Clover Pulse grazing has been beneficial in reducing numbers.</p> <p>Wild Turnip Pulse Grazing has been beneficial in reducing numbers.</p> <p>All of the above herbaceous have decreased and Biomass Grazing will continue to reduce numbers further when sheep are back on Site in February.</p>
All	New and emerging high threat & herbaceous weeds	Ensure weed cover does not increase beyond current levels and monitor for new and emerging high threat.	Year round	Yes	<p>Any new weeds were identified on Site If they are spot sprayed or removed.</p> <p>New weeds identified continue to be spot sprayed year- round namely Sticky Cape Gooseberry, Artichoke Thistle, Fleabane and Great Mullen. Good reduction on Site.</p>
All	Biomass Management	Biomass management	February – October	Yes	<p>Grazing Sheep as per management Plan to control herbaceous weeds such as Wild Oat, Turnip and White Clover and Toowoomba Canary Grass.</p> <p>Pulse Grazing events have taken place though out the year between February to October 2022 with appropriate rest periods in between. We now have our own flock of Aussie White and Dorper Sheep of approximately 100 and they will be lambing next year increasing our flock size. See Log Book for details and photo evidence of our Sheep.</p> <p>Once again, we saw the benefit of pulse grazing, they definitely cleaned up not only the herbaceous weeds and reduced the cover when the sheep came off after the final graze the cover was greatly improved. Straight after the flock were excluded, we had significant rain events and the pasture grew and another graze would have benefitted but it was after the exclusion period.</p> <p>Last year we put forward a proposal to put a low impact fence between Sites 1 and 2 but we were unable to secure a contractor that could do this in the first half of the year then the second half the year because of the wet conditions the Sites were definitely too wet to</p>

Site-Zone	Standard to be achieved	Management action description <i>(write each management action description from your final management actions table below)</i>	Timing	Action Completed (Yes/No)	Description of Actions and observed outcomes (Include or attach evidence of actions completed / comments / observed outcomes)
					<p>access. Also finding a contractor was difficult. We would still open to pursuing this course of action in the future.</p> <p>Because of the recent weather conditions and increased growth we would like to put forward that 2023 Year 4 might be a good time to conduct a cool native burn/mosaic burn in Autumn. If the ecologists who monitor the Site think it would be beneficial and DEWLP agrees. But more guidance is needed if this is to happen.</p>
All	Pest Animals	Rabbits & Foxes	Year round	Yes	<p>Active and non-active rabbit warrens were baited and hand collapsed in December 2022 and if detected while spraying for weeds from time to time during the year.</p> <p>Also rabbits and foxes were hunted (with long arm on foot) across the entire property throughout the year.</p> <p>see attachment 3 Log Book</p>
All	New & emerging pest Animals	Monitor & Control	Year round	Yes	No new threats have been detected.
					<p>I would just like to add Year 3 has been particularly hard for us as a family.</p> <p>The end of June my husband who has multiple health conditions was quite sick from Covid.</p> <p>Mid-September 2022 my daughter and myself were involved in a serious car accident. I stayed in the Royal Melbourne Hospital for 5 days. I have been unable to drive. At the end of November I had surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital relating to that accident. I am now recovering from that surgery.</p> <p>Our children are helping manage our flock of sheep. My son has helped my husband check and repair fences, hunt for rabbits and foxes as well as helping with hand chipping thistles.</p>

Site-Zone	Standard to be achieved	Management action description <i>(write each management action description from your final management actions table below)</i>	Timing	Action Completed (Yes/No)	Description of Actions and observed outcomes (Include or attach evidence of actions completed / comments / observed outcomes)

Annual reporting					
All	<p>Annual report is signed, dated and submitted by the landowner at least 2 months before the anniversary date of the agreement</p> <p>The annual report is a useful opportunity to make comprehensive comments and observations, giving a picture of the current condition of the site(s), issues identified, works undertaken and actions still required. You are encouraged to create a separate report to include in your annual reporting each year that captures this detailed information. The benefits of monitoring your vegetation condition and identifying issues and management undertaken, is that it aids you to gauge the success of management on the condition of native vegetation over time.</p> <p>The Department is also able to use this information to assist with the assessment of your compliance with the agreement and provides us with useful information and data for future management advice.</p> <p>Obligations of the landowner (compliance with section 6 of the Landowner Agreement) have been met, and I have read, signed, dated and submitted the obligations form with the annual report.</p>	<p>Prepare and submit an annual report providing evidence of works carried out.</p> <p>Where the actions were not carried out provided evidence as to the reason why.</p> <p>Include supporting evidence by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ detailed written observations & additional report ✚ photo point monitoring ✚ map of zones & photo points ✚ photographs of works undertaken ✚ receipts/invoices for materials & works carried out, including by contractors ✚ log books of works carried out ✚ obligations of the landowner form ✚ payment method is correct ✚ Receipts of seeds / seedlings ordered or purchased including a table/list of the species, numbers of each species (can estimate if using seeds), provenance ✚ Site log - table/list of numbers of species planted/recruiting or germinated, including: numbers of each species by life form that are present/survived and/or were replaced for that year 	<p>Submit at least 2 month prior to agreement anniversary date</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> obligations of the landowner form <input type="checkbox"/> where applicable: payment method is correct <input type="checkbox"/> detailed written observations & additional report <input type="checkbox"/> photo point monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> map of zones & photo points <input type="checkbox"/> photographs of works undertaken <input type="checkbox"/> receipts/invoices for works carried out, including by contractors <input type="checkbox"/> log books of works carried out <input type="checkbox"/> Receipts seeds/seedlings, provenance, table of species list & numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Site log / table of plantings/germination & survival numbers by life form

I hereby declare that the supplied information is accurate and complies with reporting requirements under General Conditions under the Second Schedule of the DELWP Management Agreement.

Signed: **Kylie Louise Buttigieg**

Date: 14/12/2022

APPENDIX D

DECLARATION OF ACCURACY



491 Providing false or misleading information to authorised officer etc.

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if the person:

- (a) provides information or a document to another person (the recipient); and
- (b) knows the recipient is:
 - (i) an authorised officer; or
 - (ii) the Minister; or
 - (iii) an employee or officer in the Department; or
 - (iv) a commissioner;performing a duty or carrying out a function under this Act or the regulations; and
- (c) knows the information or document is false or misleading in a material particular.

(2) The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a term not more than 1 year, a fine not more than 60 penalty units, or both.

Note: Subsection 4B(3) of the Crimes Act 1914 lets a court fine a body corporate up to 5 times the maximum amount the court could fine a person under this subsection.

The declaration below should be attached to the compliance report and signed by the approval holder. If the approval holder has sub-contracted the project (or part thereof), or the preparation of the compliance report, the responsibility for accuracy still lies with the approval holder:

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed



Full name (please print) Justin Pegg

Position (please print) Associate Ecologist

Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable) WSP Australia Pty Ltd ABN: 80 078 004 798

Date 20 / 02 / 2023

APPENDIX E

WSP PHOTOPOINTS – NOVEMBER 2022



E1 PHOTOPPOINTS

In addition to data collected by the Landowner, WSP established 7 photopoints equidistant across the offset area as per section 5.5.7 of the OMP (EHP, 2019a). Photopoint locations are mapped in Appendix B-5. All photos are facing due north – 360 degrees.

Table E.1 WSP photopoints – November 2022

Photopoint 1
X: 270469.40876333794
Y: 5809662.498599515

*Photopoint 1 was not collected in 2022 – this image is from biomass plot 1 location ~60 m north.



Photopoint 2

X: 270379.63347292884

Y: 5809661.953274773



Photopoint 3

X: 270289.6334729289

Y: 5809661.953274772



Photopoint 4

X: 270199.63347292686

Y: 5809661.953274775

*Photopoint 4 was not collected in 2022 – this image is from biomass plot 5 location ~60 m south.



Photopoint 5

X: 270109.63347292854

Y: 5809661.953274772



Photopoint 6

X: 270019.6334729279

Y: 5809661.953274774



Photopoint 7

X: 269929.6334729285

Y: 5809661.953274775

