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AIRTRUNK

**ANNUAL COMPLIANCE
REPORT
(EPBC 2019/8417)
31/10/2022 TO
31/10/2023**

COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AT
210 SWANN DRIVE,
DERRIMUT, VICTORIA



JANUARY 2024

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Annual Compliance Report

(EPBC 2019/8417)

31/10/2022 to 31/10/2023

Commercial Development at 210 Swann Drive, Derrimut, Victoria

AirTrunk

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REV	DATE	DETAILS
1	29/01/2024	Draft
2	30/01/2024	Final

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EPBC 2019/8417

Reporting period: 31/10/2022 – 31/10/2023

Our ref: PS120946-ECO-ACR_YR4-Rev0_JBreview

Your ref: EPBC 2019/8417

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

29 January 2024

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)
31/10/2022 to 31/10/2023
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 31/10/2022 – 31/10/2023 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

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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 fourth compliance report and covers the period 31/10/2022 – 31/10/2023. 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] - construction contractors for AirTrunk], confirming compliance with the CEMP stating: <p style="text-align: center;"><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 [REDACTED] personnel, Airtrunk representative and sub-contractor representative during their weekly site walks. ”</i></p>
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 - 3 in Annual Compliance Reports – ACRs, published at: https://www.airtrunk.com/policies-reports/ Compliance recording requirements will be met for year 4 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	<p>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.</p>	Compliant	<p>Minister has received plans. Offset Management Plan provided as a part of the final Preliminary Documentation – 19 September 2019.</p> <p>Year 4 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	<p>No incidents or non-compliances have occurred in the year 4 reporting period.</p> <p>There is potential non-compliance with the offset providers potentially not meeting OMP targets.</p>
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	<p>For each independent audit, the approval holder must:</p> <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.

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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.

Key results of vegetation monitoring are summarised below:

- Biomass percentage cover was assessed as being 89.4 %, which is up from Year 3 levels. Inter-tussock space was assessed as being 4.4 %, which is an increase from 2.7 % in year 3. 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 3, 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 >35%, this is up from the previous year (29 %) although still down from the 40 % levels of year 1 – due to Wild Oat (annual).

It should be noted that, at the time of assessment there were large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock **Nassella trichotoma*. Which had a total coverage of approximately 35% (up from year one levels of 10 %) across the offsets area, in addition to other untreated grassy herbaceous weeds. See image 1 Table B.5.

Coverage of Toowomba Canary-grass **Phalaris aquatica* appeared above inception level of <1% being approximately 2 – 3 %.

- Plains Grassland EVC 132 was assessed as having a Habitat Hectare score of 38/100 against the *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland EVC 132_63 benchmark. This was previously assessed as 41/100, with the reduction in score being due to a reduction in the *Lack of Weeds* score from a 6 to a 4 due to an increase in coverage of the High Threat Serrated Tussock **Nassella trichotoma*.

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.

No Striped Legless Lizards were observed during the two prescribed checks in year 4. 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 successful, 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 in December 2023 – Landowner reporting Appendix C. Rabbit activity remains low.
- It was previously mentioned in years two and three 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.
- At the time of assessment coverage of Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* was at its highest point in the four years across the offset area, with much untreated and going to seed.
- New occurrences of Saffron Thistle *Scolymus hispanicus* – a high threat exotic herbaceous weed were observed – this was reported by the landowner.
- Feather Heads *Ptilotus macrocephalus* has not been observed since year 1. 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

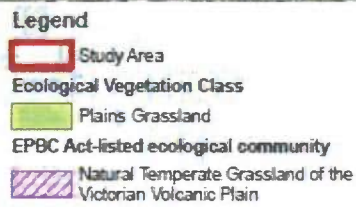


APPENDICES

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



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12/01/2015, EcoPlan_2_000007_1001+2015.pptx



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 4**

Table B.1 Management actions table and reporting year 4

REPORT DETAILS		
Assessor/s	Justin Pegg	
Dates	Striped Legless Lizard (SLL) survey dates	14 September, and 28 September 2023
	NTGVVP monitoring date/s	14 November 2022
	Offset site monitoring date/s	14 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 14 NOV 2023)
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 14 NOV 2023)
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 14 NOV 2023)
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)	Non-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 14 NOV 2023)
		their control method and timing of actions Refer Section 5.5.3 of OMP				<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 - 4 following biomass management to a coverage of around 5%.</p> <p>At the time of assessment there remained large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock <i>*Nassella trichotoma</i>, at approximately 35% coverage, being above the initial 10 % baseline cover recorded in Table 4 of the OMP. See image 1 Table B.5.</p> <p>Coverage of Toowomba Canary-grass <i>*Phalaris aquatica</i> appeared above inception level of <1% being approximately 2 – 3 %.</p> <p>Coverages of remaining weeds listed in Table 4 were at approximately the inception levels listed.</p> <p>New occurrences of Saffron Thistle <i>*Scolymus hispanicus</i> – a high threat exotic herbaceous weed were observed. Currently at <1 % cover.</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</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 14 NOV 2023)
						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.
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> , a new high-threat weed for the site recorded in year 2, is being kept below 1% over however mature plants were observed going to seed in year 4. New occurrences of Saffron Thistle * <i>Scolymus hispanicus</i> – a high threat exotic herbaceous weed were observed. Currently at <1 % cover.
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 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	Compliant	There was no 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 2023 – Landowner reporting Appendix C. No rubbish or artificial harbour was present

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 14 NOV 2023)
		Refer Section 5.5.4 of OMP		Minimal artificial piles of logs and rocks		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	<p>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:</p> <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 2023 – 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.

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 14 NOV 2023)
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 cycles. Stock generally excluded during October -November Stock removed immediately following any high rainfall events.	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 space for recruitment of herbs and grasses. No loss of native plant diversity as a result of grazing regimes. Reduction in weed cover.	Non-compliant	Pulse grazing had been undertaken at the time of inspection. See Landowner reporting in Appendix C. <i>Pulse Grazing events have taken place though out the year between February to October 2023 with appropriate rest periods in between.</i> Pulse grazing appears to have not been unsuccessful in maintaining or reducing biomass levels, and bare ground toward ideal levels. As biomass coverage is now ~ 89 % and bare ground at around ~ 4 %. The OMP sets a target of 20 - 40 % cover of bare ground. Biomass control is not achieving OMP targets.
Detailed native vegetation monitoring						
Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5	Monitoring Refer Section 8.2 of OMP	Spring/Summer	Allow for ongoing auditing of the effectiveness of management.	Compliant	Biomass percentage cover was assessed as being 89.4 %, which is up from Year 3 levels. Inter-tussock space was assessed as being 4.4 %, which is an increase from 2.7 % in year 3. See Table B.3 in Appendix B-2. Targets as per the OMP for biomass

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 14 NOV 2023)
	ha of SLL habitat			Reports will include a review of past management works against the performance targets and objectives contained within this OMP.		<p>percentage cover and inter-tussock space are 20-40% and >20% respectively. Biomass and inter-tussock space indicate a reduction in quality from year 3, 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.</p> <p>Coverage of high threat – HT, exotic weeds was assessed as being at >35%, this is up from the previous year (29 %) although still down from the 40 % levels of year 1 – due to Wild Oat (annual).</p> <p>It should be noted that. at the time of assessment there were large patches of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock <i>Nassella trichotoma</i>. Which had a total coverage of approximately 35% (up from year one levels of 10 %) across the offsets area, in addition to other untreated grassy herbaceous weeds. See image 1 Table B.5.</p> <p>Coverage of Toowomba Canary-grass <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> appeared above inception level of <1% being approximately 2 – 3 %.</p> <p>Plains Grassland EVC 132 was assessed as having a Habitat Hectare score of 38/100 against the Low-rainfall Plains Grassland EVC 132_63 benchmark. This was previously assessed as 41/100, with the reduction in score being due to a</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 14 NOV 2023)
						reduction in the Lack of Weeds score from a 6 to a 4 due to an increase in coverage of the High Threat Serrated Tussock * <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> .
Striped Legless Lizard Monitoring	10.5 ha of SLL habitat	Monitoring Refer Section 8.3 of OMP	Spring/Summer	Striped Legless Lizard monitoring not included in Management Actions Table of OMP. Outcomes to be achieved gained from section 8.3. No decline in SLL population No degradation of SLL habitat Re-evaluation of management and implementation of adaptive management if required.	Non-compliant	<p>Survey 1 for Striped Legless Lizard was undertaken on 14 September and survey 2 on 28 September 2023.</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 - 4, 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>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 14 NOV 2023)
						<p>population. With an improvement in NTGVVP, SLL habitat is considered similarly improved.</p> <p>A non-compliance with regards <i>No degradation of SLL habitat</i> has been identified due to a reduction in quality of NTGVVP, higher weed coverage, and high biomass levels.</p>
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 DEECA 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>	Non-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 for the most part comprehensive and accurate, albeit with discrepancies as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - weed coverages as observed by WSP - No new threats identified - efficacy of biomass management. <p>This item has been identified as non-compliant as landowner reporting should more accurately reflect on ground conditions and progress of management.</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 14 NOV 2023)
				<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> <p>Obligations of the Landowner have been met and the obligations form is signed, dated and submitted with the annual report</p>		
5	10.5 ha of NTGVVP and 10.5 ha of SLL habitat	<p>Review effectiveness of OMP.</p> <p>Refer Section 5.5.8 and 8.1 of OMP</p>	End of Year 5.	<p>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.</p>	Not applicable	<p>Current prescriptions in the OMP are considered appropriate to guide improvement in the grassland. It is recommended that efforts in year 4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biomass management 2 Accuracy of annual reporting 3 Weed control: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a 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.

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 14 NOV 2023)
						Efforts focus on reduction on coverage of Serrated Tussock * <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> across the offsets area. And control to be effective prior to seed-set.

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. flavescens</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>Hypochoeris 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>	
*	Saffron Thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	y
	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 var. angustifolium</i>	
*	Hop Clover	<i>Trifolium campestre var. 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>	
31	Totals		16

Table B.3 Biomass assessment results

PLOT	BIOMASS COVERAGE %	BARE GROUND / INTER-TUSSOCK SPACE %
1	80	1
2	70	15
3	80	1
4	95	0
5	95	0
6	95	1
7	90	0
8	98	2
9	99	1
10	95	5
11	65	25
12	100	0
13	95	5
14	95	5
Average 2023	89.4	4.4

APPENDIX B-3 SLL SURVEY RESULTS

Table B.4 Striped Legless Lizard survey results September 2023

DATE	TIME	TEMPERATURE	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
2023-09-28	11:33:00	18.2	<20%	None	None	None	50	3	10	11:34:00	0	0		11:40:00
2023-09-28	11:06:00	17.8	<20%	None	None	None	52	3	8	11:07:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum, Eastern Striped Skink_Ctenotus orientalis	11:17:00
2023-09-28	10:53:00	17.8	<20%	None	None	None	53	3	7	10:53:00	0	0		11:02:00
2023-09-28	10:30:00	16.8	<20%	Slight	None	None	56	3	5	10:30:00	0	0		10:35:00
2023-09-28	10:00:00	15.7	<20%	None	None	None	58	3	3	10:01:00	0	0		10:09:00
2023-09-28	09:25:00	14	<20%	None	None	None	68	3	1	09:26:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum, Eastern Striped Skink_Ctenotus orientalis	09:39:00
2023-09-28	11:23:00	19	<20%	Slight	None	None	55	3	9	11:24:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum, Eastern Striped Skink_Ctenotus orientalis	11:34:00
2023-09-28	10:40:00	17	<20%	Slight	None	None	58	3	6	10:41:00	0	0		10:46:00
2023-09-28	10:19:00	17	<20%	Slight	None	None	68	3	4	10:20:00	0	0		10:25:00
2023-09-28	09:44:00	15	<20%	Slight	None	None	65	3	2	09:45:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum	09:55:00
2023-09-14	12:48:00	25	40-60%	Slight	None	None	42	1	1	12:48:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum, Eastern Striped Skink_Ctenotus orientalis, Eastern Brown Snake_Pseudonaja textilis	12:53:00
2023-09-14	12:40:00	25	40-60%	Light	None	None	42	1	2	12:40:00	0	0	Eastern Brown Snake_Pseudonaja textilis, Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum	12:45:00
2023-09-14	11:53:00	24	40-60%	Slight	None	None	43	1	3	11:54:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	12:00:00
2023-09-14	11:37:00	24	40-60%	Slight	None	None	46	1	4	11:37:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	11:49:00
2023-09-14	11:07:00	23	20-40%	Slight	None	None	46	1	1	11:07:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	11:29:00
2023-09-14	11:25:00	24	40-60%	Slight	None	None	46	1	5	11:25:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum	11:32:00
2023-09-14	11:14:00	23	40-60%	Slight	None	None	47	1	6	11:15:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	11:21:00
2023-09-14	11:05:00	23	40-60%	Slight	None	None	48	1	7	11:05:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	11:10:00
2023-09-14	10:46:00	22	40-60%	Slight	None	None	52	1	3	10:46:00	0	0	Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	10:54:00
2023-09-14	10:31:00	22	40-60%	Slight	None	None	52	1	2	10:31:00	0	0	Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	10:40:00

DATE	TIME	TEMPERATURE	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
2023-09-14	10:17:00	22	40-60%	Slight	None	None	53	1	1	10:18:00	0	0	Eastern Brown Snake_Pseudonaja textilis, Little Whip Snake_Parasuta flagellum Spotted Marsh Frog_Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	10:25:00

**APPENDIX B-4
HABITAT HECTARE ASSESSMENT
SHEETS**

Treeless Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.4 - July 2009

Site Name/No.

Location **Balliang**

Date **24/11/24**

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.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified of those present, < 50% substantially modified 	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of those present, none substantially modified 	25

Lack of Weeds

Score

4

Category & Description	'high threat' weeds*		
	None	≤ 50%	> 50%
> 50% cover of weeds	4	2	0
25 - 50% cover of weeds	7	6	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	4
> 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

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	4	2
≥ 50% or ≤ 150% of benchmark cover	5	4

Treeless Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.4 - July 2009

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	Score
< 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	Score
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	4	0	3	0	↓	30	8	0	0	38
↓											
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



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

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**APPENDIX B-6
PHOTO LOG**

Table B.5 Photos of offset area

Image 1. High coverage of untreated and seeding Serrated Tussock **Nassella trichotoma*



Image 2. Shows high biomass coverage and infestation of Great Mullein
**Verbascum virgatum*



Image 3 shows high biomass levels, mainly due to Serrated Tussock **Nasella trichotoma*



Image 4 shows occurrences of new high-threat weed Safron Thistle **Scolymus hispanicus*



APPENDIX C

LANDOWNER REPORTING



Department of Environment Land, Water & Planning Annual Report Form

Enter management year here: Year ___4

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 1	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 weather conditions we weren't able to take these until 7 th November, 2023. 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 and or sprayed 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	Yes	Serrated Tussock – Targeted spot spray year-round concentrating efforts on areas with infestations a reduction in some areas we will continue to spray year-round. Currently a big effort is being put into spraying Serrated Tussock but unfortunately weather conditions in the last few weeks have either been too windy or heavy rain. Serrated Tussock is definitely the most problematic weed we have on the Offset Site.

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	<p>There is an infestation on a ridge to the East alongside Geelong - Bacchus Marsh Road that we were hoping to burn this year but unfortunately the burn did not go ahead as planned we will continue to work towards a mosaic burn as it would definitely be beneficial to that area. (please see further comments at end of this document why the burn did not go ahead). Spraying will continue throughout Summer and in to Year 5.</p> <p>Spear Thistle plants are been sprayed and seed heads hand chipped and removed Spring and continued to be sprayed through Summer 2023 to 2024 with a reduction on Site.</p>
			Early Spring & Summer	Yes	<p>Toowoomba Canary-Grass reduction of plants on Site as Sheep help to control this weed and further grazing will help reduce further when on Site.</p>
			Early Spring & early Summer	Yes	<p>Saffron Thistle Spot Sprayed and hand chipped (seed heads removed from Site) early Summer reduction of plants on Site. Continuing through Summer 2023 to 2024.</p>
			Spring & early Summer	Yes	<p>Horehound Spot sprayed early Summer with a reduction in plants on Site.</p>
			Spring & Summer	Yes	<p>Galenia has been spot sprayed Spring and continuing through Summer and a reduction on Site. Also sprayed in the year.</p>
			Spring & Summer	Yes	<p>Chilean Needle Grass spot sprayed reduction on Site.</p>
			Spring & Summer	Yes	<p>Bathurst Burr spot sprayed and hand chipped with a high reduction of plants in all zones.</p>
			Spring & Summer	Yes	<p>Soft Brome</p>
			October – January	Yes	<p>Please see log book attachments and photos showing dying weeds and receipts for chemical/herbicide. See Log Book for details</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)
All	Control all low threat Herbaceous Weeds	Ensure all low threat herbaceous Weeds do not increase beyond current levels	Spring & early Summer February - October	Yes Yes Yes Yes	<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 2024.</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 2023 with appropriate rest periods in between. We continue to see the benefit of pulse grazing reducing the herbaceous weeds and the amount of cover.</p> <p>Our Aussie White and Dorper Sheep of approximately 140 have now completed their second lambing season. Management of the flock comes with its challenges and can be very time consuming. Sheep maintenance namely drenching, vaccinations and hoof maintenance throughout the year and assisting during lambing season. Looking after poddy lambs, sourcing hay, transport of hay and at the moment feeding the flock daily as they are not on the offset. As a family we all contributed to the management of the sheep and enjoy having them help with the Offset management.</p> <p>See Log Book for details of rest periods and photo evidence of our Sheep.</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)
All	Pest Animals	Rabbits & Foxes	Year round	Yes	<p>Active and non-active rabbit warrens were baited and hand collapsed in December 2023 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 Log Book entries</p>
All	New & emerging pest Animals	Monitor & Control	Year round	Yes	<p>No new threats have been detected.</p>
					<p>The ecologists monitoring the other Offset Site1 Ecology & Heritage Partners suggested that it would be beneficial to the other Site to conduct a mosaic burn. Any mosaic burn would include sections of this Site also.</p> <p>We attempted to organise a burn this year but were unsuccessful. But we did gain more information in the process of trying to organise this burn.</p> <p>The main reasons why the burn did not go ahead were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commonwealth did not consent to a burn taking place. Ecology & Heritage Partners tried to gain consent but Ecology & Heritage or ourselves did not receive any correspondence either way from the Commonwealth. 2. The City of Greater Geelong required that a mineral fire break be around the perimeter of the area being burnt. Condition 3 of that Permit stated; <p>Before commencing a burning operation, a fire break must be prepared around the perimeter of the material to be burned, which is – not less than six (6) metres bare earth and cleared of all flammable materials;</p> <p>In a letter from DEWLP dated 26 July 2023 consenting to a mosaic burn taking place but a condition was that no mineral fire breaks were permitted on the Site.</p> <p>Therefore we could not move forward with a burn.</p> <p>Just before the Fire Restriction period was announced I did speak to someone at the Greater City of Geelong about our problem of a mineral fire break. I have her contact details and can try to get some assistance about getting an exemption because of the Native Grasses on Site.</p> <p>But that still leaves the problem of the Commonwealth approval for the burn to go ahead.</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)
					Please see supporting evidence document Invoices has a copy of the Fire Permit from the City of Greater Geelong.

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 months 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: 15/12/2023

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 **29 /01 /2024**

APPENDIX E

WSP PHOTOPOINTS – NOVEMBER 2023



E1 PHOTOPOINTS

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 2023

<p>Photopoint 1</p> <p>X: 270469.40876333794</p> <p>Y: 5809662.498599515</p>	
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 5

X: 270109.63347292854

Y: 5809661.953274772



Photopoint 6

X: 270019.6334729279

Y: 5809661.953274774



Photopoint 7

X: 269929.6334729285

Y: 5809661.953274775

