

Extension of Mundijong Road, between Kwinana Freeway east and Dixon Road west, Rockingham, WA (EPBC 2011/5971)

Annual Report as per Condition 9 of approval dated 30 March 2012 and variation dated 23 October 2013

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The City of Rockingham was granted approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 30 March 2012 to extend a section of Mundijong Road, Baldivis, WA. A variation was also approved on 23 October 2013 to increase the area of native vegetation that could be cleared as part of the works. The final approval allows for the clearing of 11.9 ha of native vegetation within the development zone.

1.2. Works Include

The works include the construction of a new single carriageway two way road (and associated other works) that extends from Baldivis Road to the east through to Mandurah Rd to the west.

1.3. Works Commenced

Works commenced within the development zone on the 5 April 2013 with the majority of the clearing being completed by 30 August 2013.

2. Approval Conditions

The EPBC Act approval included 12 separate conditions which the City of Rockingham must adhere to as part of the works and ongoing revegetation and rehabilitation of designated offset areas. These included items such as the preparation and implementation of a number of Management Plans, ensuring the land being used for environmental offsets is protected by covenants, submitting a number of reports and publishing items on the City's website.

3. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to comply with condition 9 of the EPBC Act approval which states:

"Within three months of every 12 months anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any plan(s) as specified in the conditions. The report must stay on the website for at least five (5) years. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published."

As the initial action commenced on the 5 April 2013 this report is due on the 5 July each year until the approval expires.



4. Addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval

The table below sets out the conditions (in shortened version), the action that is required, the date the actions is required, the current status and any extra comments. (A full copy of the official approvals from the Department can be found on the City's website.)

No	Details	Action	Due Date/s	Current Status
1	Must not Clear more than 11.9ha of native vegetation	Clear 11.9ha		Commenced 5 April 2013 Completed August 2013
2(a)	Prepare, submit & implement CEMP	Prepare Submit to Department Implement		CEMP has been submitted and approved. (09/10/12: D12/94269) Being implemented during works.
2(b)	Prepare, submit & implement EOMP	Prepare Submit to Department Implement		EOMP has been submitted and approved. (16/12/13: D13/137357) Implementation has commenced
3	Implement a Black Cockatoo Habitat Revegetation & Rehabilitation Program for the offset areas	As part of the EOMP within the offset areas	Continue until April 2021	Being completed as part of the EOMP.
4	Offset areas must be placed under irrevocable conservation covenant	1. Organise Land Requirements 2. Organise covenant	5/04/2015	In Progress
5	Description and Map of offset areas to be sent to Department	Submit to Department	30/03/2014	Submitted with EOMP
6	Publish Management Plans on website		within 1 month of approval	Complete. All Plans on City's website.
7	Advise Department of commencement of works	Write to Department	Within 1 month of start	Completed April 2013
8	Maintain accurate records of all activities		when req'd	Ongoing
9	Publish annual reports	Collate information and write report	5 July each year till 2027	Complete - this report
10	Can not carry out activities that are not approved	Remain within approval		
11	Minister may request revised plans if deemed necessary	No Action Required		
12	If works not started after 5 years then further approval must be sought.	No Action Required		

4.1. Condition 1 - Must not clear more than 11.9ha of native vegetation

The clearing boundaries were marked out onsite by a surveyor prior to works commencing and barriers were installed along these clearing boundaries once the vegetation was cleared to prevent machinery from working outside these areas.

The whole cleared area was surveyed each day of the clearing to ensure works were undertaken as per approvals.

The image below shows the marker pegs that were used to allow the machinery operators to recognise these through the vegetation during the clearing process.

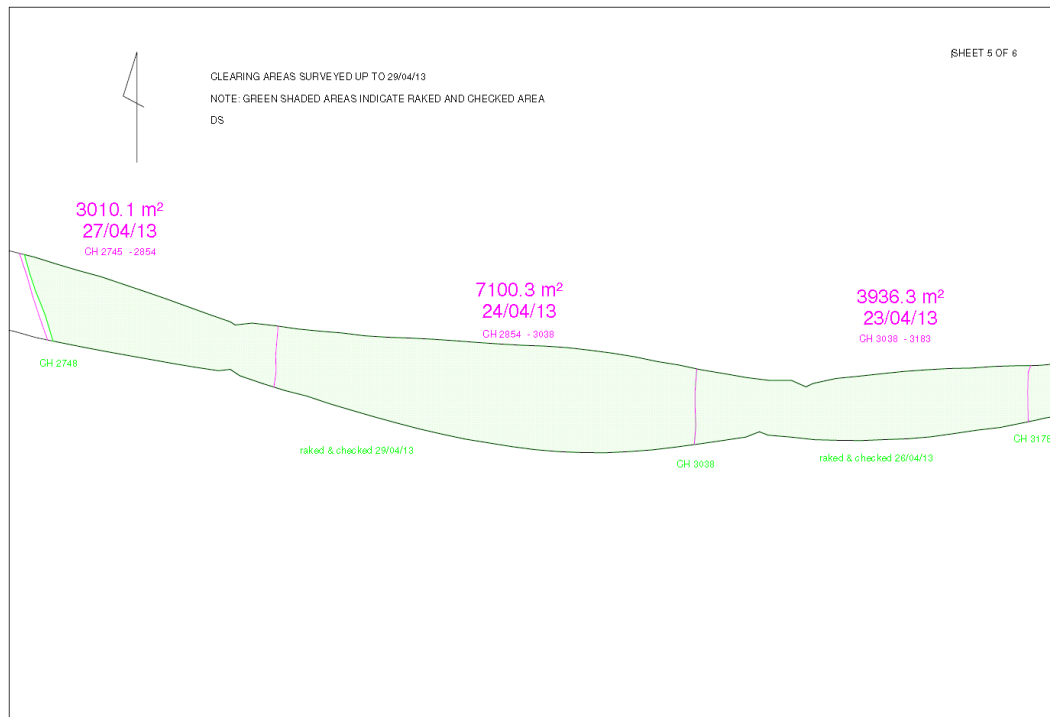


4.2. Condition 2(a) - Prepare, Submit and Implement Construction Environmental Management Plan

With reference to the Construction Environmental Management Plan prepared in August 2012, the City confirms an ongoing commitment to the implementation of the CEMP to minimise environmental impacts and maximise conservation outcomes for the duration of the project. (A copy of the CEMP can be found on the City's website.)

In this regard, prior to clearing a flora and fauna survey was conducted to determine the presence of rare or threatened species within the project area. This included the identification of Carnaby's Cockatoo nesting hollows and the presence of Rainbow Bee-eater. Fortunately, no nesting hollows of either species were found within the clearing area and, as clearing was not conducted between February and September, no threat was posed to any Rainbow Bee-eater individuals that may have gone undetected in the survey.

Furthermore, to allow any undetected fauna to escape, clearing was conducted progressively and in one direction. As part of this process, Gnaala Karla Booja monitors assessed the ground surface of each section prior to clearing, determining that no significant Aboriginal heritage sites were present. A section of the plans documenting the progression of clearing and Aboriginal inspection can be seen below. The full extent of this plan can be provided upon request.



To protect surrounding vegetation during clearing, all boundaries were surveyed and clearly marked and all machinery was kept within the clearing area. A photograph of the boundary marking can be seen below.



In this regard, appropriate hygiene practices were maintained to prevent the spread of dieback and weeds to surrounding bushland, this included ensuring all materials used in construction were certified dieback and weed free, avoiding movement of soil in wet conditions and cleaning all machinery prior to entering and exiting the site. Furthermore, fuels, chemicals and waste were all stored appropriately to minimise the risk of contamination, with no large spills having occurred to date, and any surface water runoff was controlled to prevent harm to the surrounding bushland.

As clearing progressed, stockpiles of topsoil and mulch were stored in low piles and monitored for dust production. This topsoil and mulch was later placed on the road reserve batters to facilitate revegetation. To ensure genetic provenance, species planted on the road reserve batters were grown from seed collected on site prior to clearing. Following weed control, revegetation of the reserve batters commenced on the 19 May 2014, with a total of 35,000 seedlings planted. A photograph of the planting can be seen below. Ongoing monitoring will be conducted to ensure seedling survival, with top up planting to be conducted as required.



To ensure consistent implementation of environmental actions, daily on-site environmental checklists are completed by the site supervisor and all personnel were inducted regarding appropriate management practices as per the CEMP prior to the commencement of works. As the project moves into its final stages, the City remains committed to minimising environmental impact and providing good conservation outcomes.

4.3. Condition 2(b) - Prepare, Submit and Implement Environmental Offsets Management Plan

With reference to the Environmental Offsets Management Plan prepared in September 2013 and approved in December 2013, the City confirms an ongoing commitment to the implementation of revegetation and rehabilitation works associated with the designated offset sites. (A copy of the EOMP can be found on the City's website.)

In this regard, individual Environmental Management Plans were prepared for the Trenant Park and Dixon Road offset sites in July and December 2013, respectively. (These can be found on the City's website.) The preparation of these Environmental Management Plans provided the City with valuable site specific knowledge allowing for a comprehensive understanding of environmental conditions prior to the commencement of rehabilitation works. This included detailed mapping of vegetation type and condition, identification of Threatened and Priority flora and Declared plant species, the presence or absence of dieback, as well as the identification of protected fauna and their habitat.

As part of the rehabilitation works regular weed control is undertaken, with spraying conducted four times at each offset site since July 2013. In addition to the regular weed control schedule, targeted weed spraying was conducted at Trenant Park in mid-May 2014, prior to revegetating the area with 1000 plants in late May 2014. While revegetating, soil disturbance was kept to a minimum to prevent weed germination where scarification of soil was not required and plastic guards were used to minimise predation by rabbits. Photographs of this recent planting at Trenant Park can be seen below.



In this regard, weed control activities will continue at Trenant Park to support seedling establishment and at Dixon Road in preparation for the 2015 winter planting season.

With respect to revegetation, the individual Environmental Management Plans for Trenant Park and Dixon Road outlined a list of appropriate species for use in the designated offset sites. Species used for planting at Trenant Park in May 2014 were selected with due regard for this list, as will the species selected for

planting at Dixon Road in 2015. In this regard, the City confirms that all seedlings used in revegetation were sourced from an accredited nursery.

Furthermore, as part of rehabilitation works, habitat logs from the development site were relocated to both Trenant Park and Dixon Road. The photographs of the habitat logs at Dixon Road can be seen below, while the habitat logs at Trenant Park can be seen in the previous revegetation images.



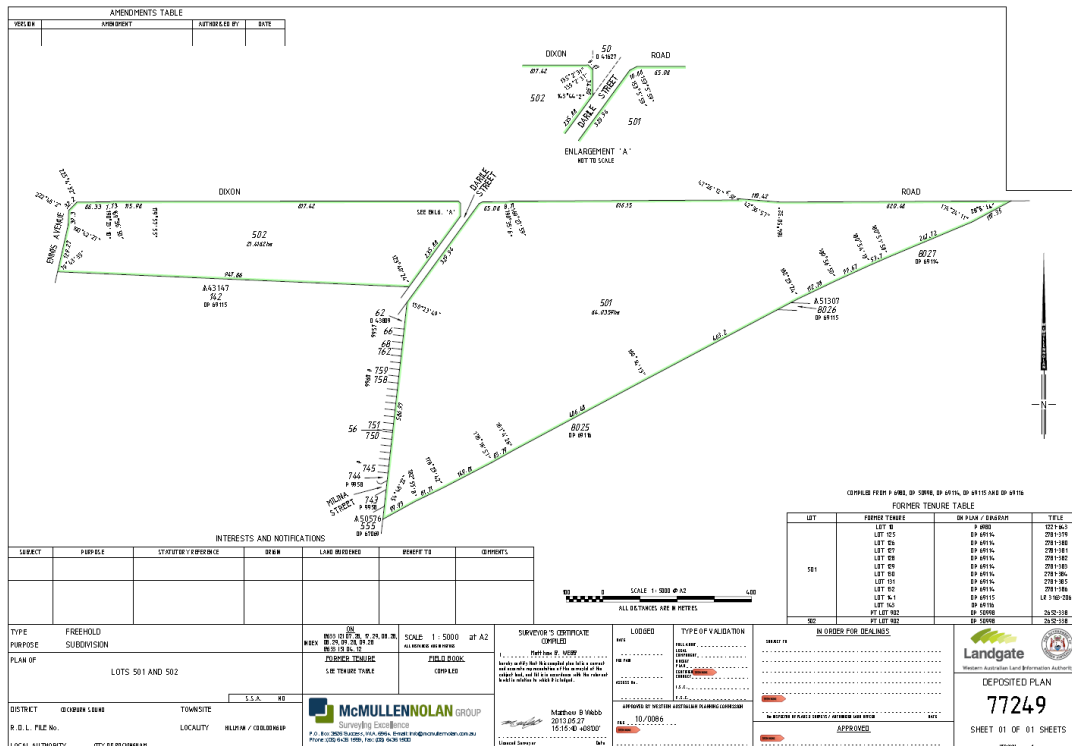
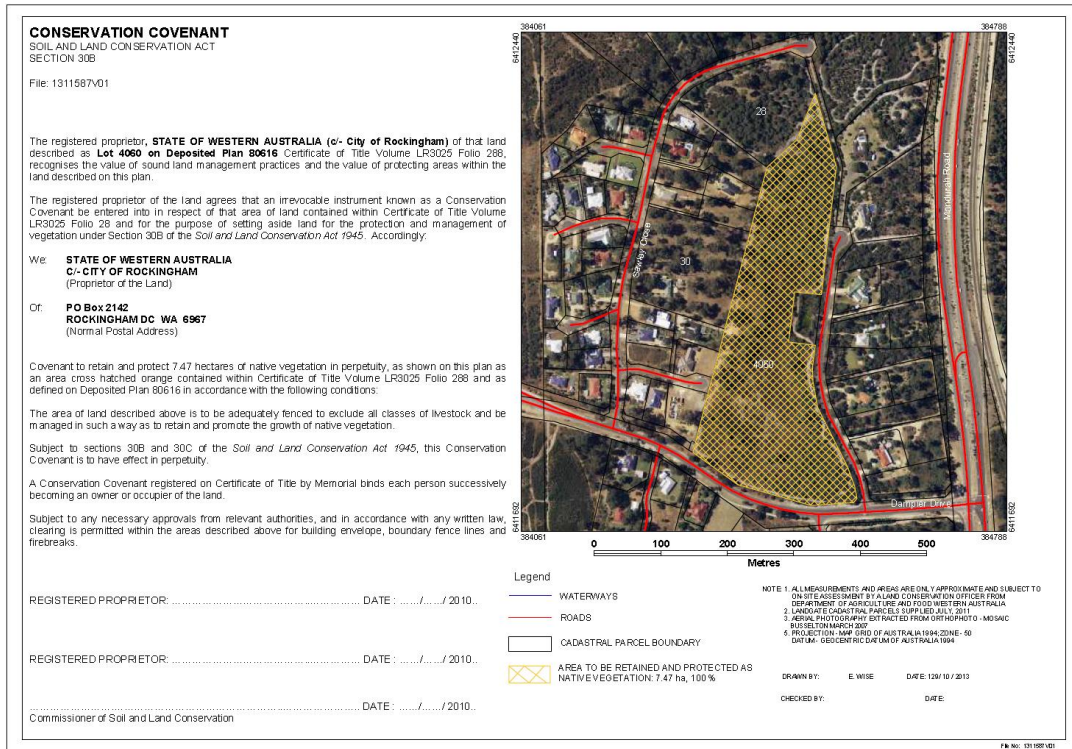
Moving into 2014/2015, the City will continue its commitment to ensuring that the environmental offset objectives for this project are being duly met. In addition to planting at Dixon Road, primary goals will include ongoing maintenance of firebreaks, the implementation of a feral animal control program, maintenance of fencing, access and pathways, as well as ongoing monitoring of seedling health at Trenant Park, with top up planting to be conducted if necessary.

4.4. Condition 3 - Implement a Black Cockatoo Habitat Revegetation & Rehabilitation Program for Offset Areas

This is part of the approved Environmental Offsets Management Plan.

4.5. Condition 4 - Offset areas must be placed under irrevocable conservation covenant

The City is working the WA State Government Departments to ensure the areas are placed under the covenants by the due date. Draft amalgamation maps to facilitate placing an irrevocable conservation covenant on the offset sites for protection in perpetuity are shown below.



4.6. Condition 5 - Description and Map of offset areas to be sent to Department

These were submitted with the approved Environmental Offsets Management Plan.

4.7. Condition 6 - Publish Management Plans on website

All Management Plans have been published and remain on the City of Rockingham website. The link to the area on the website where these plans sit is seen below:

<http://www.rockingham.wa.gov.au/Our-city/Major-projects-and-developments/Gateway-to-Rockingham>.

4.8. Condition 7 - Advise Department of commencement of works

Works commenced on the 5 April 2013. The Department was informed via email on the 17 April 2013. A copy of which is shown below:

From: ☐ Oates, Carol <Carol.Oates@environment.gov.au> Sent: Wed 17/04/2013 1:31 PM
To: ☒ Ian Daniels
Cc:
Subject: RE: Extension of Mundijong Road - (EPBC 2011/5971) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Ian
This is all that is required. We will get back to you if we have any queries.
Regards
Carol

From: Ian Daniels [mailto:Ian.Daniels@rockingham.wa.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2013 1:31 PM
To: Oates, Carol; Wagstaff, Sam
Subject: Extension of Mundijong Road - (EPBC 2011/5971)

Dear Carol and Sam

I advise that works commenced on this project on Friday the 5th April 2013.

As per condition 7 of the EPBC approval for these works the City must advise the Department within 30 days of this commencement date.

Can you please inform whether this email is sufficient advise or whether a formal letter is required?

If a letter is required can you please inform of the correct address.

Kind Regards




Ian Daniels - Project Manager Mundijong Road

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web www.rockingham.wa.gov.au



4.9. Condition 8 - Maintain accurate records of all activities

The City has maintained records throughout the project including but not limited to daily checklists, fauna sighting logs, incident reports, photographs, invoices, purchase orders and maps substantiating all activities in compliance with the particular manner requirements of the EPBC approval. An example of a fauna sighting log can be seen below.

 TRACC CIVIL Fauna Log - Mundijong Road Extension				
Date	Animals Identified	Location (Chainage)	Moved On By (Self/Animal Relocator other)	Note
10/4/13	Blue Tongue Lizard	3656	ITSELF	LOADER OPERATOR SAW LIZARD WALK OUT OF CLEARING AREA INTO EXISTING HABITAT
22/4/13	GOANNA	1428	ITSELF	LOADER OP SAW GOANNA WALK ACROSS AND OUT OF CLEARING AREA
23/4/13	GOANNA	1300	ITSELF	" " "
14/6/13	TIGER SNAKE	4370	ITSELF	SITE ENGINEER OBSERVED SNAKE GOING ACROSS RD RESERVE
18/6/13	DUGITE SNAKE	4010	ITSELF	EXCAVATOR OPERATOR SAW SNAKE CROSS THRU ROAD RESERVE
20/6/13	2x KANGAROO'S	1750	THEMSELVES	GRADER OP SAW KANGAROO'S CROSS ROAD RESERVE WEST TO EAST
20/6/13	1x FOX	1750	ITSELF	
21/8/13	1x Blue Tongue	3600	ITSELF	
27/8/13	4x BABY DUGITE SNAKES	4950	THEMSELVES	SNAKES SLEEPING IN LOGS CROSS. DISTURBED WHEN WE STOPPED THE LOGS - THEY SLEW
21/10/13	DUGITE SNAKE	2550	ITSELF	WARM WEATHER STARTING TO BEG SNAKES OUT
21/10/13	GOANNA	2720	ITSELF	
25/10/13	DUGITE	2260	SELF	
25/10/13	DUGITE	4580	SELF	
28/10/13	GOANNA	2720	SELF	
28/10/13	DUGITE	2550	SELF	
29/10/13	DUGITE	3860	SELF	
30/10/13	DUGITE	1900	SELF	
30/10/13	BOOBIE	3070	SELF	
31/10/13	DUGITE	4200	SELF	
31/10/13	DUGITE	2500	SELF	
31/10/13	TIGER	1950	SELF	
31/10/13	DUGITE	BND RD SOUTH 130	SELF	
31/10/13	DUGITE	BND RD NORTH 180	SELF	
1/11/13	DUGITE	BND RD NORTH 100	SELF	
4/11/13	GOANNA	2000	SELF	
4/11/13	DUGITE	3550	SELF	
5/11/13	DUGITE	2550	SELF	
5/11/13	DUGITE	3560	SELF	
6/11/13	DUGITE	2830	SELF	

4.10. Condition 9 - Publish Annual Reports

This report represents compliance with this condition.

4.11. Condition 10 - Cannot carry out activities that are not approved

The City has not carried out activities that have not been approved

4.12. Condition 11 - Minister may request revised plans if deemed necessary

No action required by the City at this stage.

4.13. Condition 12 - If works not started after 5 years then further approval must be sought

Works commenced within the specified timeframe therefore there is no action required for this condition