

Annual Compliance Report 2017

Extension of Mundijong Road (EPBC 2011/5971)

1. Introduction

The City of Rockingham was granted approval (2011/5971) under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 30 March 2012 to extend Mundijong Road in Baldivis, Western Australia. A variation was approved on 23 October 2013 to increase the area of native vegetation that could be cleared as part of the works and consequently, 11.9 hectares of native vegetation was approved for clearing within the development zone.

The works included the construction of a new single carriageway two way road (and associated other works) that extended from Baldivis Road to the east through to Mandurah Road to the west. The works commenced within the development zone on the 5 April 2013 with the majority of clearing completed by 30 August 2013. The project was completed and the road was officially opened on the 11 August 2015.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to ensure compliance with Condition 9 of the EPBC Act decision notice 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.

3. Compliance with approval conditions

The table below summarises the City’s compliance with the approval conditions to date. A full copy of the EPBC Act Decision Notice can be found on the City of Rockingham website. Further explanation of the City’s compliance with these conditions is provided in the subsequent sections of this report.



No.	Condition	Status
1	Must not clear more than 11.9 ha of native vegetation	Complete
2(a)	Prepare, submit and implement a CEMP	Complete
2(b)	Prepare, submit and implement a EOMP	Ongoing
3	Implement a Black Cockatoo Habitat Revegetation and Rehabilitation Program	Ongoing
4	Offset areas must be placed under Conservation Covenant	Complete*
5	Description, map and shapefiles of offset areas to be sent to the Department	Complete
6	Publish management plans on the City of Rockingham website	Complete
7	Advise the Department of the commencement of works	Complete
8	Maintain accurate records of all activities	Ongoing
9	Publish annual reports	Ongoing
10	Cannot carry out activities that are not approved	N/A
11	Minister may request revised plans if deemed necessary	N/A
12	If works have not commenced after 5 years then further approval must be sought	N/A

*All actions required by the City have been completed. See page 10 of this report for details.

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

No further update since 2016 annual report.

3.2. Condition 2(a) - Prepare, submit and implement a CEMP

No further update since 2016 annual report.

3.3. Condition 2(b) - Prepare, submit and implement a EOMP

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 at the offset sites, Trenant Park and Dixon Road Conservation Precinct (DRCP).

Since the 2016 annual report, work has continued in these reserves in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Management Plan and the site specific Trenant Park and the DRCP Management Plans.

Weed control

Regular weed control has continued at both sites, with herbicide spraying conducted in spring through autumn, targeting a range of weed species including, but not limited to, *Solanum nigrum*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Euphorbia terracina*, *Trachyandra divaricata*, and *Conyza spp.* Furthermore, a site specific weed management plan has been prepared for both DRCP and Trenant Park to guide an integrated approach of weed control, hygiene, prevention and rehabilitation.

Weed control treatments were undertaken in the degraded area in the north-west of DRCP (as indicated by the orange area in Figure 1) in preparation for revegetation planting in June 2017. Glyphosate was applied across the area twice in Spring 2016 then twice again in Autumn 2017.

Revegetation

Plants have been selected from the DEC's "Plants Used by Carnaby's Black Cockatoo" (https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/animals/p4c_plantlist_20110415.pdf) to ensure 75% of species planted provide Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Baudin's Black Cockatoo feeding and breeding habitat in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Management Plan. The 2015, 2016 and 2017 revegetation zones for DRCP and Trenant Park can be seen in Figures 1 - 6. A total of 2,160 tube stock plants were planted in 2016 at DRCP (800 tubes) and Trenant Park (1,360) that were propagated at an accredited nursery from seed collected prior to clearing.

Survival rates of 59% and 69% were recorded for seedlings planted in 2015 at Trenant Park and DRCP respectively. Infill planting was carried out at Trenant Park (1,360 tubes) and DRCP (1000) in winter 2016. Survival rates were recorded in June 2017 with an 88.4% recorded at Trenant Park and 92.9% at DRCP.

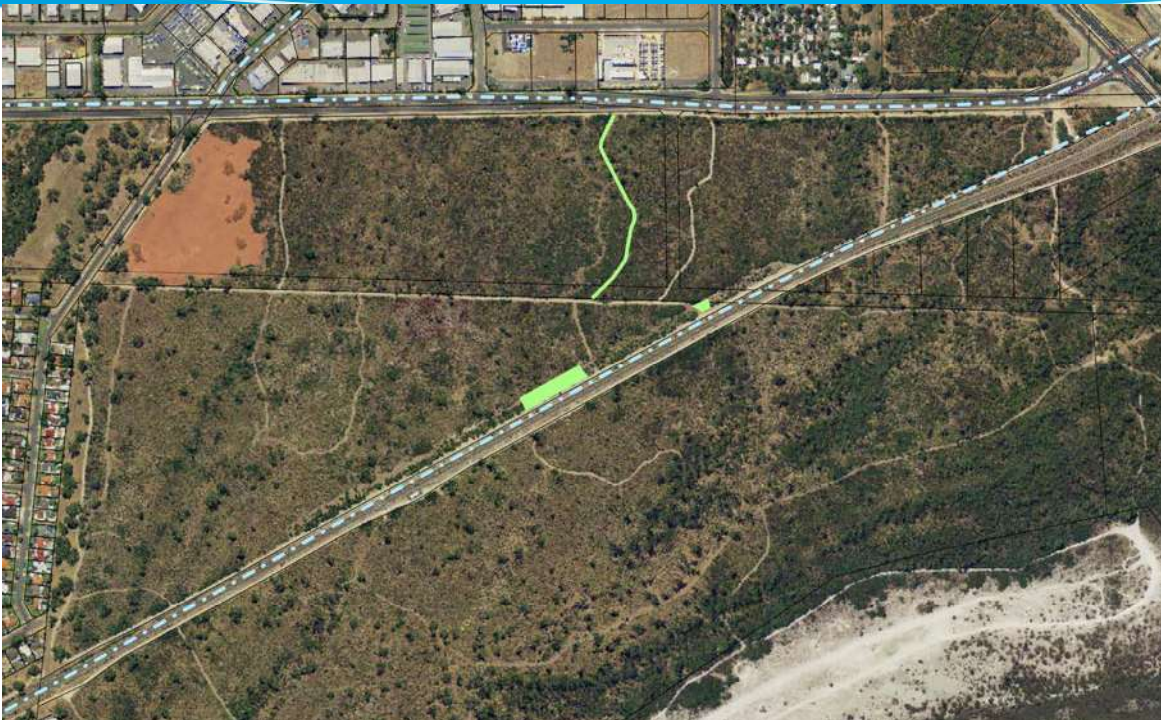


Figure 1: Dixon Road Conservation Precinct 2015 revegetation areas. The green areas represent tubestock planting and the orange area represents scattered Tuart and Marri planting.



Figure 2: Dixon Road Conservation Precinct 2016 revegetation areas (areas identified for track consolidation in the Dixon Road Conservation Precinct Management Plan, 2013).

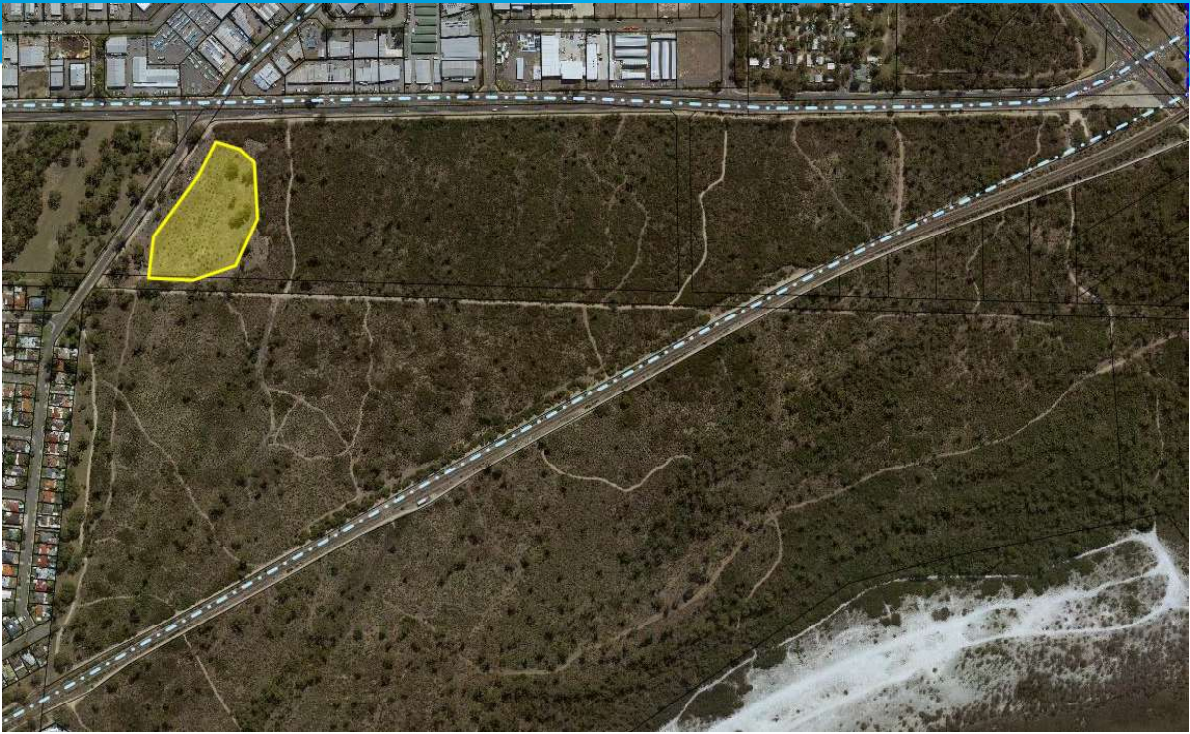


Figure 3: Dixon Road Conservation Precinct 2017 revegetation area



Figure 4: Trenant Park 2015 revegetation areas

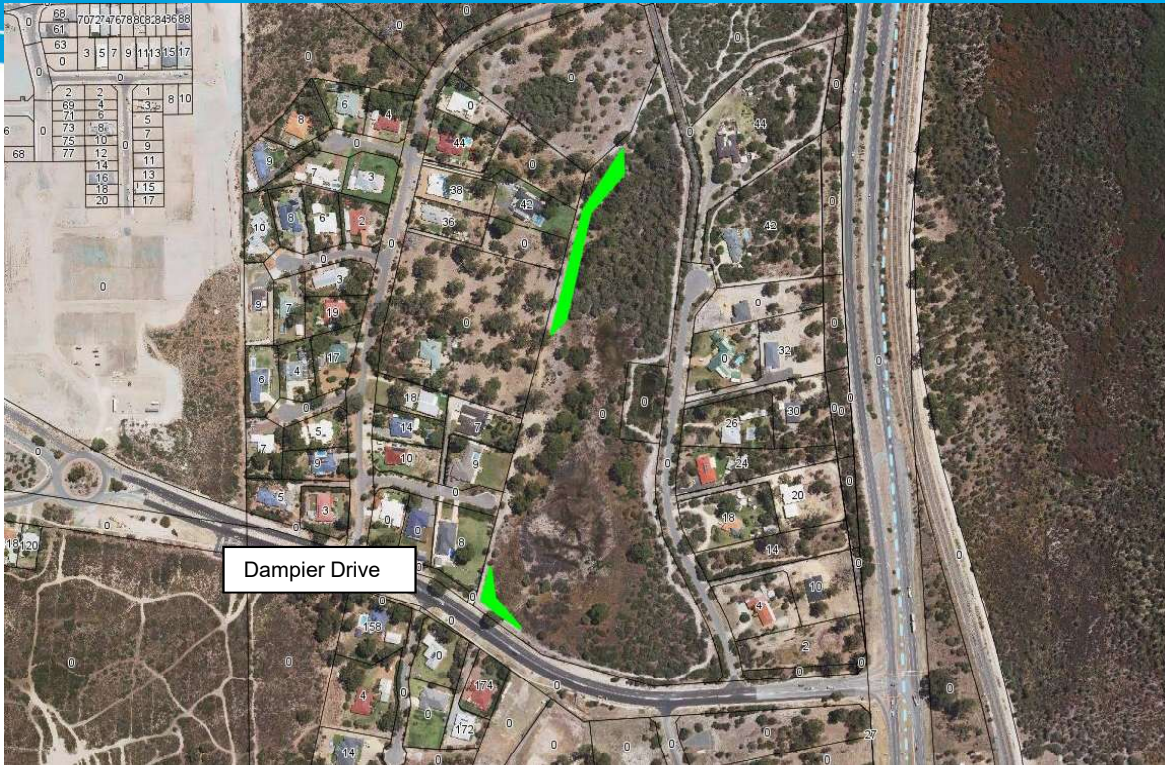


Figure 5: Trenant Park 2016 revegetation areas

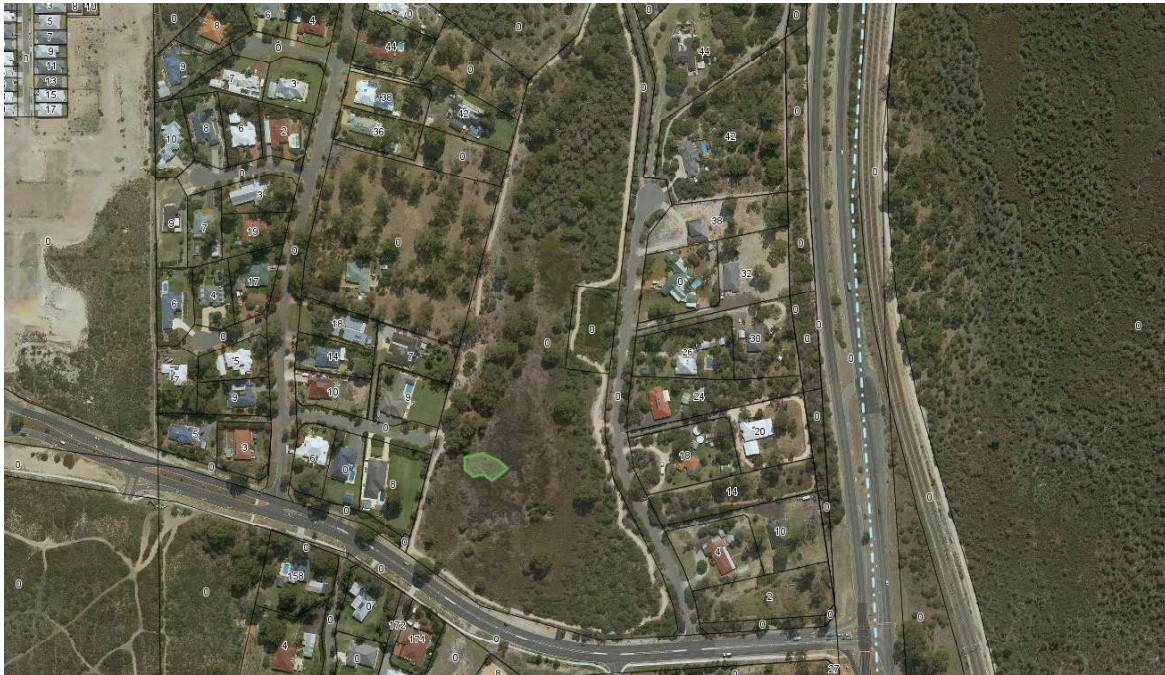


Figure 6: Trenant Park 2017 revegetation areas

Dieback

In accordance with dieback management protocol, all vehicles entering the offset areas are limited to designated tracks and no soil or mulch has been brought into either offset site. The sandy access track around the perimeter of Trenant Park was consolidated with limestone during the 2015/2016 financial year to minimise the risk of potential weed and dieback infestations within the reserve.

Although no dieback affected areas were identified in either offset area during the 2013 baseline studies, the City continues to monitor the reserves for evidence of new dieback infestations.

Access

Pedestrian swing gates and locked vehicle access gates have been maintained at all reserve entry points to restrict motorbikes and unauthorised access. The condition of fencing in the reserves continues to be monitored to enable timely repairs if necessary.

Furthermore, 600 tubestock were planted during the 2015 revegetation to close a track that was created while suppressing the most recent fire within the Dixon Road Conservation Precinct. A total of 1000 tubestock plants were installed during 2016 to further consolidate tracks identified within the Dixon Road Conservation Precinct Management plan.

Feral fauna

A feral animal control program has been implemented at the reserves in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Management Plan. Motion sense cameras and scats/tracks were used to ascertain the presence of feral animals within the reserves, with foxes and cats identified at both reserves, and rabbits identified at DRCP

While baiting in urban areas is not feasible, a combination of alternative methods was used at both sites including foot hold traps (foxes), cage traps (cats) and den fumigation (foxes). Rabbit control measures at DRCP included warren destruction and very small quantities of pindone, only in areas where no native animal activity was observed.

The 2016/17 feral animal control program removed three foxes from DRCP. The program found no signs of fox activity at Trenant Park and no feral cat activity was noted at either Trenant Park or DRCP.

Fire management

All firebreaks and emergency access points continue to be maintained. Firebreaks are sprayed as necessary as part of the weed control schedule for each reserve.

Monitoring

Three quadrats have been established in each offset site as part of the City's offset monitoring program. The quadrats are 10 x 10m plots, marked with GPS coordinates and stakes, are evaluated in autumn and spring each year to determine seedling survival rates, persistent or new weed infestations and the overall condition of vegetation.

Photographs are also taken during this monitoring, which will allow the City to assess long term changes in site condition (Tables 1-6).

Table 1: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 1 Dixon Road Conservation Precinct



 <p>Spring 2015</p>	 <p>Autumn 2016</p>
 <p>Spring 2016</p>	 <p>June 2017</p>

Table 2: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 2 Dixon Road Conservation Precinct





 <p>Spring 2015</p>	 <p>Autumn 2016</p>
 <p>Spring 2016</p>	 <p>June 2017</p>

Table 3: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 3 Dixon Road Conservation Precinct





	
	

Table 4: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 1 Trenant Park Wetland





	
	

Table 5: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 2 Trenant Park Wetland



Spring 2015



Autumn 2016



Spring 2016



June 2017

Table 6: Revegetation monitoring – Quadrat 3 Trenant Park Wetland



Spring 2015



Autumn 2016



Spring 2016



June 2017

3.4. Condition 3 - Implement a Black Cockatoo Habitat Revegetation and Rehabilitation Program

This is part of the approved Environmental Offsets Management Plan identified in section 3.3

3.5. Condition 4 - Offset areas must be placed under Conservation Covenant

No further update since 2016 Annual Report. The Conservation Covenants for Trenant Park and DRCP have both been ratified by Landgate.

3.6. Condition 5 - Description, map and shapefiles of offset areas to be sent to the Department

These items were sent as part of the Environmental Offsets Management Plan. The shapefiles were resent to the Department of the Environment on 4 June 2015.

3.7. Condition 6 - Publish management plans on the City of Rockingham website

All Management Plans remain on the City of Rockingham website. Please see the link to these plans below:

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

3.8. Condition 7 - Advise the Department of the commencement of works

No further update since 2016 annual report.

3.9. Condition 8 - Maintain accurate records of all activities

The City continues to maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval. As the road is now complete, these ongoing records primarily relate to the implementation of the Environmental Offsets Management Plan and include, but are not limited to, weed control schedules, revegetation records and Black Cockatoo nesting box installation details, as well as correspondence with state government land agencies to arrange the Conservation Covenants for offset areas.

3.10. Condition 9 - Publish annual reports

This is the fourth annual reporting detailing the City's compliance with the conditions of approval and can be found on the City of Rockingham website.

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

No further update since 2016 annual report.

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

No further update since 2016 annual report.

3.13. Condition 12 - If works have not commenced after 5 years then further approval must be sought

No further update since 2016 annual report.