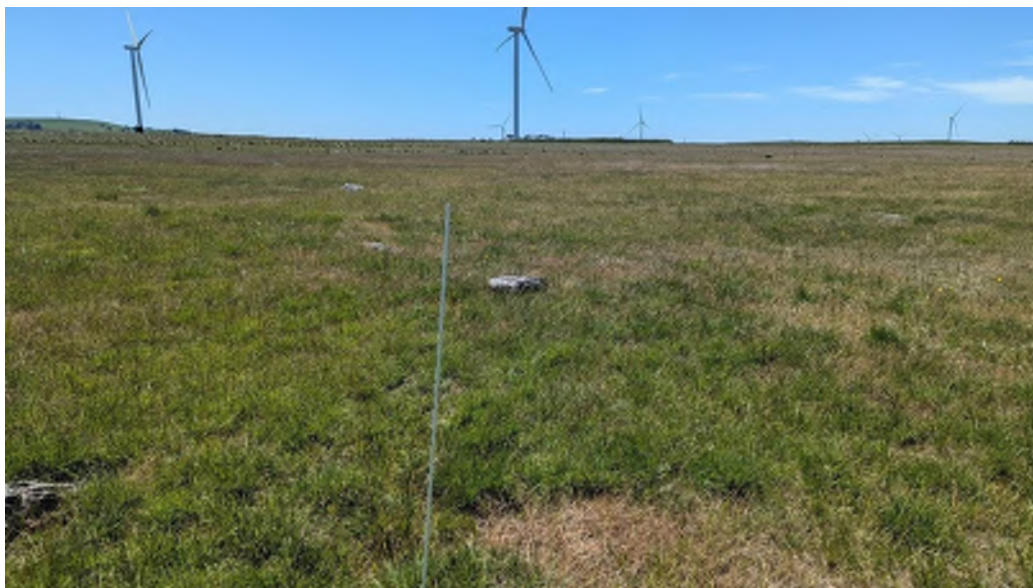
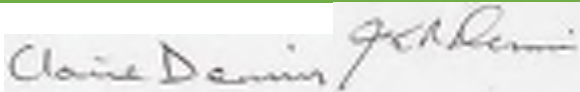


EPBC 2015/7486: Offset Management Plan Report, Year 6

(Management period: 2024 / 2025)



Centre of Offset Site looking northeast

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Landowner of offset site | Bleak House Pty Ltd |
| Location and address of offset site | 435 McDonnells Road Ombersley (Birregurra), Victoria |
| Offset site number | All zones (01A and 02A) |
| Offset plan reference number | EPBC 2015/7486 |
| Responsible Authority | DOEE |
| DELWP Management Agreement | VC-CFL-3044 LA02 |
| Landholder/s | Claire Dennis, James Dennis |
| Report # | 6 |
| Signature |  Claire Dennis James Dennis |
| Date | May 2025 |

Introduction

Bleak House Pty Ltd was engaged to undertake the protection and management of 32 ha of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) and Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* (SLL) habitat, into perpetuity including the actions detailed within “*EPBC 2015/7486: Offset Management Plan: 435 McDonnells Road Ombersley (Birregurra), Victoria*” henceforth refer to as the OMP (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2019).

Detailed in Section 8: “*Monitoring and Reporting*” from the OMP, refers to the landowner’s responsibilities for monitoring and reporting on yearly actions resulting from undertaking of the OMP. Details of the desired outcomes and responsibilities are of the monitoring and reporting are contained in Appendix A1.

The OMP annual Management Actions Report is intended to demonstrate the management measures are effective in meeting the environmental outcomes determined within the OMP, and the annual submission of this report to DELWP and DoEE, is one of the specified actions required by the OMP. The monitoring obligations over the course of the year include recording:

- The extent, severity, trend and presence of current weed species and any new and emerging weed species;
- The extent, severity, trend and presence of pest animal activity;
- Biomass levels, visually assessed across the site;
- Evidence of unpermitted human/stock access; and,
- Any new threats.

This report contains the results of monitoring and details of actions undertaken in accordance with the OMP. This data is reported within a tabulated format as specified within the OMP and includes detailed descriptions of management actions, specifically:

- A copy of the Management Action Table from the OMP with information on which actions have been completed for year/s of this reporting period (Table 1);
- A description of the specific monitoring results from surveys undertaken (i.e. SLL surveys);
- Success of weed (Table 2) and pest animal control work (Table 3);
- Successful management tools (i.e. techniques used to control weed species, protection of new plants, monitoring technique, etc.);
- Any problems or issues experienced (i.e. new infestation of weed species, etc.); and,
- Provide photographs showing evidence of works.

Photo point monitoring and quadrat assessments were undertaken in October at eight locations representative of the vegetation within the study area as determined by the Landowner at the commencement of the OMP. The results of photo point monitoring and vegetation quadrat assessments undertaken by the Landowner are presented in Tables 4 and 5. Additional supporting documentation of actions undertaken in accordance with the OMP are provided in Plates 1 through 30.

Methodologies

Photo Point Monitoring

Eight photo points were established within the Offset Site. Five photos were taken at each photo point taken with an Olympus E-M5 Mark II digital camera. One photo was taken looking vertically down from the centre of a 1 m² vegetation quadrat plot, from a height that included the whole plot in the frame, from 1.5 m above the ground. The other four photos were taken in a landscape orientation, 1.5 m off the ground, standing 1.5 m back from the quadrat with the 1 m² quadrat completely visible at the base of the image looking either south, west, north or east according to a compass.

Vegetation Quadrat Surveys

Vegetation quadrat surveys have been undertaken at each photo point. A marker post was placed in the north east corner of each 1 m² quadrat and a GPS point was taken at this corner. Within the 1 m² plot percentages of total vegetation cover, native and weed species cover, inter-tussock space bare ground and litter were estimated. The percentages of different types of native (graminoids and herbs) and weed species (perennial and annual grasses and dicotyledons) were also recorded. This type of estimation is dependent on the time of year, the conditions at that time and the person undertaking the surveys.

All species within the 1 m² plot were identified where possible and recorded. Surrounding each 1m² quadrat a 9 m quadrat was also surveyed for additional species which were also recorded.

Average Biomass height was also measured using the 'drop disc method' (Bransbury 1977; Catchpole 1992). A disc with a central slot is dropped down a vertically held ruler and the height above ground where the disc comes to rest is then measured. The disc is a standard 200 g, 30 cm in diameter, and dropped from 1 meter.

The height of the vegetation was measured using a ruler placed vertically against the ground, in five locations within the quadrat. These five measurements were then averaged to give the average vegetation height for the quadrat.

Compliance with the Obligations of the Landowner

Conditions detailed in Appendix A.5 Landowner Agreement: Compliance with the Obligations of the Landowner

Has “The landholder” complied?

Yes

Signed by:

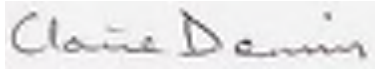

| | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Claire Dennis | James Dennis |

Table 1. Offset Management Plan: Management Actions

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Fencing Erection and Maintenance | | | | | |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Maintain fencing in good condition around entire boundary of all sites where fencing exists or is required | Ongoing | Maintain fencing to DELWP fencing standards in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 - Standards for Management – Fencing | Fences bordering offset site and broader property pertinent to Offset Site meets conditions DELWP specified standards and are stock proof (Photographs 1 - 4). Monitoring of fence integrity is ongoing see calendar of works for fence monitoring. |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Erect temporary fencing around offset site during grazing exclusion period (if stock present during this period cannot be confined to certain areas) | October - November | Exclude stock from the offset site during exclusion period to protect NTGVVP community. | Fencing has been installed across the broader paddock where the offset site is located. This enables targeted control of grazing within the offset site as well as the broader paddock which is also managed for conservation purposes. Temporary fencing has been erected around areas of proposed burns in accordance with the OMP and the burn plan (Photographs 1 - 4) |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | If a threat arises erect an additional fence immediately around the entire boundary of the offset site | Immediately on identification of threat | Erect fencing to DELWP fencing standards in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 - Standards for Management – Fencing | Monitoring of emerging threats is ongoing, as such no threats have been observed which require additional fencing. |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|--|
| Weed Control | | | | | |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Control all herbaceous weeds. Refer to Table 2 for list of herbaceous weeds, their control method and timing of actions | Refer Table 2 | Reduction in weed cover (ie. <24%). Minimise off-target damage (avoid all native plants) | <p>Herbaceous weed control actions are detailed in Table 2. Briefly, a combination of pulse grazing, outlined in "Biomass Control" section of this table, and targeted weed control, such as burning, spot spraying and hand weeding of high impact weed species, was used. Spot spraying of Toowoomba Canary-grass and Creeping Bent was undertaken in burn areas following the autumn burns. Sweet Vernal and Yorkshire Fog were sprayed however these species were more cryptic during the spraying window.</p> <p>An overview is provided here based on assessments of vegetation quadrats undertaken at the photo points. The average weed cover across the photopoints was 17% compared with 36% last year. Photo points located within areas of weed control are identified in Table 5. Most photopoints are not within areas nominated for weed control yet but will be in future years.</p> <p>As described in the AWMS report 2024, the initial years following spraying has showed to suppress Creeping Bent and Toowoomba Canary-grass. In areas treated with fluazifop-P there appears to be a higher cover of Flat-weed / Cat's ear. In areas that have been burnt in autumn and sprayed there also has been observed to be an increase in annual weeds.</p> <p>The dry year has likely been the greatest factor in reducing weed cover in the offset site.</p> |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|------|----------------------------------|---|----------|--|--|
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Eliminate all new & emerging herbaceous weeds | Ongoing. | <1% cover of all new and emerging herbaceous weeds at the end of Year 10 | There was a notable step change in the number of South African Weed-Orchid <i>Disa Bracteata</i> , plants observed. Observations occur in Spring when the plant flowers, as the plant exists as a bulb outside of this period and is difficult to monitor outside of Spring. Regions of South African weed orchid were recorded and removed including their bulb, placed in a bag and burnt offsite. Estimate of numbers were over 500 individuals (Photographs 15, 16 and 17; Figure 1). Due to the species' cryptic habit until flowering the species can go undetected for several years. This will require ongoing management for the next few years. Paspalum was recorded by DEECA officer, Richard Boon, (6 February 2025) in A_01. This will be sprayed in 2025 once the species is actively growing again. Sporadic tussock of the species have been observed in the broader paddock and we have treated these when observed. |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Eliminate all new and emerging woody weeds | Ongoing | <1% cover of all woody weeds at the end of Year 10 | Currently no woody weeds within Offset Area Ongoing monitoring of woody weed establishment |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|---|
| Pest Animal Control | | | | | |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Control rabbits and foxes. Refer to Table 3 for a list of control methods and timing of actions | Refer Table 3 | No surface disturbance within the offset site; No active rabbit warrens to be present; No active fox dens to be present; No rubbish/artificial harbour present; Minimal artificial piles of logs and rocks; | Details of pest animal control actions are provided in Table 3 . Briefly, no rabbits have been observed within the study area, and regular monitoring is ongoing (see calendar of works). Foxes have been observed in the offset site and surrounds, and fox control measures have been undertaken as specified in Table 3 (Photographs 5 – 11). |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Monitor and control rabbits and foxes | Ongoing | Reduction in the abundance of pest animals, and no detectable impacts to the NTGVVP ecological community | Monitoring of rabbits and foxes is ongoing. There have been no observations of rabbits within the study area, nor have there been signs of recent warrens or scats. Fresh Fox diggings and scats were recorded, during monitoring assessments (Photographs 5 – 11). |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Monitor and control all new and emerging pest animals | Ongoing | Control numbers of any new & emerging pest animals | New and emerging pest animals might include cats or hares. Neither of these species have been observed within the offset site during regular monitoring, nor have any other pest animal species been observed. |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Biomass Management | | | | | |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Pulse grazing: The maximum length of continuous grazing is four weeks with at least two weeks rest between cycles. Stock generally excluded during October -November within NTGVVP. Stock removed immediately following any high rainfall events. | January to September (see Management Action Description, subject to written approval from DELWP for seasonally dependent modifications) | 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. | The Offset site was grazed with a high intensity (generally 250 to 400 mob of sheep), but short period (one to 11 days). In the past 12 months pulse grazes were undertaken on three to four separate occasions with approximately one to two months rest between pulses, between January to September. Fencing of areas to be burnt was undertaken prior to grazing. The following biomass covers were recorded as an average across the Offset: Inter Tussock Space 40%, Litter 17%, Height 17 cm, biomass height 5.45 cm, total vegetation cover 67%. The grazing schedule for this offset site is detailed in Table 8. |
| 1-10 | 32 ha of NTGVV P and SLL habitat | Ecological Burning: Burn less 60 m wide, minimise risks to life and property and biodiversity, less often than once in 5 years in any one area. | April to May, Outside of the Victorian Declared Fire Danger Period | Grazing and burning: aim to maintain approximately 20% to 40% cover of bare ground or intertussock space to allow sufficient space for | A burn plan was developed in March 2021 and approved by DELWP. Six regions were fenced prior to grazing and then burnt from May to September. These regions were designed to satisfy the requirements of the OMP and were under 60 metres in width. Four |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---|---|
| | | | | recruitment of herbs and grasses. | areas were burnt between May to July and two areas in Spring in accordance with the WMS (2022). There was recruitment of plants in burnt areas including both native and exotic species. Weed control was undertaken in all areas burnt which has result in areas of low vegetation cover. Where fluazifop-P was used an increase in exotic forbs was noted, most notably Cat's ear and Onion Grass, however native forbs, such as Raspwort and St-John's Wort, have also been observed, which is consistent with previous years. |
| Detailed SLL population and vegetation monitoring | | | | | |
| Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10 | NTGVV P Offset | Monitoring Refer Section 8.2 and 8.3 | Spring | Allow for ongoing auditing of the effectiveness of management. Reports will include a review of past management works against the performance targets and objectives contained within this OMP. | Third-party SLL monitoring is provided separately. Ecolink advised that due to the heavy rainfall, conditions were too wet to undertake SLL surveys during the recent season (2022) and recommended these surveys to be completed in 2023. The surveys (to be complete in 2022) were subsequently completed in 2023 (year 5 reporting period rather than year 4) (Ecolink 2024). The Ecolink report presents the findings of the fifth Striped Legless Lizard surveys (year 6). Surveys are therefore one year out of synchronisation with the vegetation monitoring. Therefore, although Striped Legless Lizard surveys have been undertaken, the vegetation monitoring has not been undertaken this year. |
| Annual reporting | | | | | |

| Year | Area | Management Action Description | Timing | Environmental outcome to be achieved | Action taken with description |
|------|----------------|--|--|---|--|
| 1-10 | NTGVV P Offset | <p>Prepare and submit an annual report and photo monitoring to DELWP and DoEE. Refer Section 5.5.7 and 8.1 of OM.</p> <p>Briefly report entails: 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> | Submit at least 1 to 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>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> | An annual report has been prepared and submitted to DOEE (DCCEEW) and DELWP (DEECA) |
| 5 | NTGVV P Offset | Review effectiveness of OMP. Refer Section 5.5.8 and 8.1 | End of Year 5. | If existing OMP is not leading to the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the NTGVVP community, a review will be undertaken, and a new management plan prepared for the remaining 5 years of management. | The 5 year review is currently being prepared by Ecolink in conjunction with the landholder and Geordie Scott-Walker (Adaptive Weed Management Strategy consultant). |

Table 2. Offset Management Plan: Weed Management Actions

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|---|---|---|--|
| Bartsia* | <i>Billardia latifloia</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring/ Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set of this annual. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set which is more obvious in areas that have been fenced off from grazing due to burns. Spring burns are likely to control this weed. |
| Bearded Oat | <i>Avena barbata</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Grazing is used to control this species | Controlled pulse grazing helps to manage this annual species by reducing seed set. There is only isolated scattered occurrence of this species <1 % cover near barriers in the north of the site. |
| Brown-top Bent Or Creeping Bent | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> is likely to be <i>Agrostis stoloniferous</i> (Scott-Walker 2024) | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Creeping Bent is considered to be the weed of highest threat within the Offset Site. Grazing was undertaken as specified within the OMP Ecological burns were undertaken in May 2024. | The cover of Creeping Bent extends across the offset and estimates range between 10 % to 50% Grazing doesn't appear to be effective in reducing the cover of Creeping Bent as it is less palatable to sheep during the grazing period. Autumn burns undertaken earlier (early May) with moderate success in burning Creeping Bent thatch. The cause appears to be later season new growth and cool temperatures. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | <p>A Spring burn was trialled (DEECA 2023) in two locations (Figure 1) in September.</p> <p>Glyphosate or fluazifop-P was applied in burnt areas on early growth of Creeping Bent in August.</p> | <p>Spring burns in September were also of moderate success due to the green growth holding moisture and the difficulty finding suitable weather conditions.</p> <p>The Glyphosate and fluazifop-P both appeared effective in the short term at killing the Creeping Bent and follow up monitoring will be undertaken to assess the different approaches. Secondary weeds have been promoted in areas that have been sprayed (Scott-Walker 2024).</p> |
| Buck's-horn Plantain | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Hand chip and spot spray. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set, and allowing greater native regeneration. | <p>Buck's-horn Plantain is common but in low cover <1 % across the Offset Site. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance.</p> <p>Due to the low cover of this species it is not currently considered to have a "high impact" despite being classified as a "high threat". This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact.</p> |
| Capitate Rush* | <i>Juncus capitatus</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring/ Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set of this annual. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set which is more obvious in areas that have been fenced off from grazing due to burns. The drier conditions have likely |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | reduced the presence of this species this year. Spring burns are likely to control this weed. |
| Cape weed | <i>Arctotheca calendula</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Hand chip and spot spray. | Spring / Summer | Cape Weed is rare within the Offset Site and appears to be controlled with pulse grazing. | Extent of this species is highly localised to deserted rabbit warrens no longer used which are found on a few barriers within the broader paddock. These occurrences are not located within the Offset Site. Due to the low cover of this species it is not currently considered to have a "high impact" despite being classified as a "high threat". This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact. |
| Cat's Ear | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set and spot spray with glyphosate in areas sprayed for Creeping Bent. | Cat's Ear is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, ranging between <1 to 10 % averaging 1 % to 2 %. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining this species to a low cover abundance. Areas sprayed with fluazifop-P resulted in an increase in cover of the Cat's ear. |
| Centaury* | <i>Centaureum erythraea</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring/ Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set of this annual. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set which is more obvious in areas that have been fenced off from grazing due to burns. Spring burns are likely to control this weed. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| Chickweed | <i>Stellaria media</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set. Spring burns are likely to control this weed. |
| Cicendia * | <i>Cicendia sp.</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring/ Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set of this annual. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set which is more obvious in areas that have been fenced off from grazing due to burns. Spring burns are likely to control this weed. |
| Couch | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | This species has not been observed within the Offset. It is likely the OMP mis identified this species for <i>Agrostis</i> sp. | There has been no couch observed within the Offset Site. Refer above for details of Brown-top Bent. |
| Hair Grass | <i>Aira spp.</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. A spring burn was trialled to control this species. | This weed is common with low cover <1%. Grazing generally reduces seed set which is more obvious in areas that have been fenced off from grazing due to burns. Spring burns are likely to control this weed, however timing will be key and will need to occur in areas where there are other species creating enough biomass to carry the fire as Hair Grass doesn't provide enough biomass to carry |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|---------------------|--|-------------|----------|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | | the flame. The trial burn was in an area sprayed in December 2022, and burnt in Sept 2023. The spraying created bared areas which promoted Hair Grass establishment. |
| Hairy Hawkbit* | <i>Leontodon saxatilis</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set and spot spray with glyphosate in areas sprayed for Creeping Bent. | Hairy Hawkbit is common but never dominant across the Offset Site localised in areas of local depression and waterlogging. Cover ranges between <1 to 10 % averaging 1% -2 %. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining this species to a low cover abundance. Areas sprayed with fluazifop-P resulted in an increase in cover of the Hairy Hawkbit. |
| Hare's-foot Clover | <i>Trifolium arvense</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Hare's-foot Clover is a low threat weed which is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |
| Hop Clover | <i>Trifolium campestre</i> var. <i>campestre</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Hop Clover is a low threat weed which is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |
| Large Quaking-grass | <i>Briza major</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual | Spot-Spray – October Graze – January – October – January; | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Large Quaking-grass is a low threat weed which is uncommon, localised to the east of the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| | | | | weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | | | |
| Mediterranean Stork's-bill* | <i>Erodium botrys</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Mediterranean Stork's-bill is a low threat weed which is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |
| Onion Grass | <i>Romulea rosea</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Autumn / Winter | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set, and allowing greater native regeneration. | Onion Grass is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, 1 %. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. Reduced competition following burning in autumn seems to promote this species. Due to the low cover, discrete footprint and seasonal nature (dormant below ground during summer) of this species it is not currently considered to have a "high impact" despite being classified as a "high threat". This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|---|--|
| Ox-tongue | <i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Ox-tongue is a low threat weed which is rare across the Offset Site. Non was recorded during the last 12 months. |
| Perennial Rye-grass | <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this grass and spot spraying will be carried out in the spring in areas if necessary. | There is very little Perennial Rye-grass in the Offset Site, <1%. Due to the low cover of this species it is not currently considered to have a “high impact” despite being classified as a “high threat”. This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact. |
| Ribwort | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Hand chip and spot spray. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set and allowing greater native regeneration. | Ribwort is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. Due to the low cover of this species it is not currently considered to have a “high impact” despite being classified as a “high threat”. This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact. |
| Rough Dog's tail* | <i>Cynosurus echinatus</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is | Spring | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set | This species is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. A Spring burn should help to manage this species. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|--------------|---|-------------|----------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | equal to, or exceeds 25%. | | | |
| Salsify | <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> subsp. <i>porrifolius</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Salsify has been observed in only a few areas within the Offset Site and have been removed by either hand pull or chipping. These areas will be monitored and follow up will be carried out again this spring. | Salsify is rare within the Offset Site and is localised to barriers <1 %. Hand removal of plants was undertaken on the barrier located between cells 3, 4, 5 and 6. Removal of heads was attempted 15 December 2024 which was too late in the season as the season was earlier than anticipated (Photograph 18, Figure 1). Treatment will aim for mid spring 2025 rather than early summer. |
| Sheep Sorrel | <i>Acetosella vulgaris</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set, and allowing greater native regeneration. | Sheep Sorrel is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, <1%, congregating on barriers more than the flats. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. Due to the low cover of this species it is not currently considered to have a “high impact” despite being classified as a “high threat”. This weed will be monitored yearly to assess change in its impact and managed in accordance with its impact. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|---|--|
| Small Quaking-grass* | <i>Briza minor</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spring | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set | This species is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, 1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. A Spring burn should help to manage this species. |
| Smooth Cat's-ear | <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spring / Summer | Pulse grazing is used to reduce seed set and was spot sprayed with glyphosate in areas sprayed for Creeping Bent. | Smooth Cat's Ear is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, ranging between <1 to 10 % averaging 1 % to 2 %. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining this species to a low cover abundance. Areas sprayed with fluazifop-P resulted in an increase in cover which will be monitored. |
| Soft Brome | <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Soft Brome is a low threat weed which is common but in low numbers across the Offset Site. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |
| Sow Thistle * | <i>Sonchus</i> sp. | No | 1-A, 2-A | Spot Spray or chip | Winter / Spring | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | This species is a low threat weed which is rare, occurring occasionally near Silver Tussocks but never dominant the Offset Site, <1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|--|---|
| Spear Thistle | <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Hand chip and spot spray. | Spring / Summer | Spear Thistle has been observed in only a few areas within the Offset Site. These areas will be monitored and follow up will be carried out again this spring. | Spear Thistle is rare within the Offset Site and is localised to barriers <1 %. |
| Squirrel-tail Fescue | <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this annual by reducing seed set. | Squirrel-tail Fescue is a low threat weed which is common but never dominant across the Offset Site ~ 1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. |
| Sweet Vernal-grass | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Pulse grazing helps to manage this grass by reducing seed set. This species is described as a short lived perennial hence the destruction of fruiting seed heads for a few years in succession should substantially reduce the | Sweet Vernal-grass has been difficult to spray due to the narrow window to identify the species before it flowers. In response to these difficulties in spraying the species, mowing and spring burning were trialled (DEECA 2023). Monitoring of Sweet Vernal-grass spring burn areas was undertaken (26 October 2024). A quadrat of 2x2 m ² was used to count Sweet Vernal-grass heads found a decline of 220 heads (adjacent control area) to 75 heads in the burned area (Photograph 19 and 20; Figure 1). |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------|---|--------|--|---|
| | | | | | | abundance of this species. Mowing and burning were trialled as approved by DEECA (2023) to remove seed heads of this species. | Late grazing will be considered this year however depends on the conditions of other species and weather. Spray treatment will also be considered if there is assessed to be limited likelihood of off target exposure. |
| Tiny Flat-sedge* | <i>Isolepis levynsiana</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spring | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set | This species is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, 1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. The drier conditions are likely to have reduced the cover of this species. |
| Toad Rush* | <i>Juncus bufonius</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spring | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this weed by reducing seed set | This species is common but never dominant across the Offset Site, 1%. The use of pulse grazing is maintaining lower threat weeds to low cover abundance. The drier conditions are likely to have reduced the cover of this species. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|---|--|
| Toowoomba Canary- grass | <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing will help to manage this weed. Spot spraying was undertaken in winter in burnt areas. | Toowoomba Canary- grass is rare within the Offset Site, occurring as isolated instances usually near barriers in patches of 10 x 20 m in size to a cover of 30% cover. Targeted Spot Spray of Toowoomba Canary-grass was undertaken in a burn area during the same time as the Creeping Bent. |
| Yorkshire Fog | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yes | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. Pulse-grazing can occur when annual weeds cover is equal to, or exceeds 25%. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this species by reducing seed set. Spot spray was undertaken during Winter for grassy weed species. Later grazing into spring, or Spring mowing or spring burns are likely to help manage this species by suppressing seed set. | Abundance of this species has declined this year likely due to the drier conditions <1%. Spot spray was undertaken during August for grassy weed species (Figure 1). Heavier grazing during late winter and early spring may help to suppress vigour and seed set. Likewise a cool burn of the weed in Spring may help to suppress seed set. This species will be monitored, and we will attempt to map the species into the future. |

| Common name | Scientific name | High Threat | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| White Clover * Sometimes (this can be confused with Sub-clover when not in flower, which may also be present) | <i>Trifolium repens</i> | No | 1-A, 2-A | Targeted spot spraying with appropriate herbicide. | Spot-Spray – October – January; Graze – January – October | Controlled pulse grazing helps to control this species by reducing seed set. | This plant behaves like an annual species completely dying off in summer within the Offset Site and germinating as seedlings in Autumn. It has a low cover, <1% generally located on or around barriers. Spring burns may help to manage this species. |

Note: * exotic species not recorded within OMP that have been established in Offset site since the initiation of the Offset. These were probably not initially recorded by EHP due to their seasonality.

Table 3. Offset Management Plan: Pest Animal Control Actions.

| Common name | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-----------------|----------|---|---------|---|---|
| Rabbits | 1-A, 2-A | Baiting. When baiting collect and dispose of carcasses to prevent poisoning of native predators. | Ongoing | Ongoing monitoring is carried out of the rabbit population. | No rabbits have been recorded. Some burrow activity on near-by barriers outside the offset area, have been noticed. This will be monitored and action taken if necessary. |
| Rabbits & Foxes | 1-A, 2-A | Fumigation and collapse of rabbit burrows and fox dens if identified. Remove or disperse surface harbour. | Ongoing | Ongoing monitoring is carried out for evidence of foxes. Scats and den activity has been observed. Fox bait has been laid, fumigation and fox shooting has been undertaken. | <p>Fox bait was laid on 12 August 2024 and checked to assess uptake the following day and was found to be taken, more bait was laid and check again a few days later and any remaining bait was removed. (Photograph 5 and 6).</p> <p>A new den was recorded and fumigated on 30 October 2024 (Photograph 8). Previous den entrances were covered with rocks and these appear not to be in use (Photograph 7) indicating previous fox control was successful.</p> <p>One fox was shot with Photograph on 20 October 2024, in cell 3 (Photograph 9).</p> <p>Fox shooting was carried out 30 June 2024 and 14 July 2024, in the surrounding property between 4 km to 1 km from the offset, with 36 foxes shot (see receipt of shooters record).</p> <p>The offset and surrounds are monitored on an ongoing basis for foxes by visual inspection for scats and active dens, or sightings of the animals.</p> <p>Dens were not able to be collapsed as this would result in soil disturbance which is not permitted in the OMP.</p> <p>No harbour is located within the Offset site.</p> |

| Common name | Zone(s) | Method | Timing | Description of actions | Comments and observations |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|--|------------------------------------|
| New & Emerging pest animals | 1-A, 2-A | Monitor and control | Ongoing | Ongoing monitoring is carried for new and emerging pest animals. | No other pests have been recorded. |

Other comments and observations

Increased weed control actions were undertaken in response to previous wet years which constrained weed control in those years. All areas that were burnt in autumn 2024 were sprayed by TREC (receipts, Figure 1).

The drier season has contributed to a suppression of weed species cover across the offset site.

Approval from DEECA (email 2024) was sought for seed collection and distribution within the Offset Site. The intention was to harvest Kangaroo Grass and distribution into areas sprayed that season. It turned out to be an early season for seed maturity and when Kangaroo Grass was collected it was too late (3 January 2025) and as such did not contain seed (Photograph 12 and 13).

Seed collection has begun from the offset site, broader farm and other sites in the VVP with the same EVC (email November 2024) to support the development of a Seed Production Area which will be used to enhance weed control efforts and boost diversity. This is still a few years from being expanded to functional scale to support the offset site.

Table 4. Offset Management Plan: Landowner Photo Point Monitoring results

| Photo Point Monitoring results | |
|---|---|
| <p>Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486</p> <p>Photo point number: 101</p> <p>Photo point ID: Tussocks</p> <p>Lat: -38 15 439</p> <p>Long: 143 45 995</p> <p>Date: 26/10/2023</p> <p>Time: 2.02 pm</p> |  <p>View from above quadrat.</p> |
|  <p>Landscape view looking South</p> |  <p>Landscape view looking West</p> |
|  <p>Landscape view looking North</p> |  <p>Landscape view looking East</p> |

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 102

Photo point ID: Themeda

Lat: -38 15 478

Long: 143 45 981

Date: 26/10/2023

Time: 1.49 pm



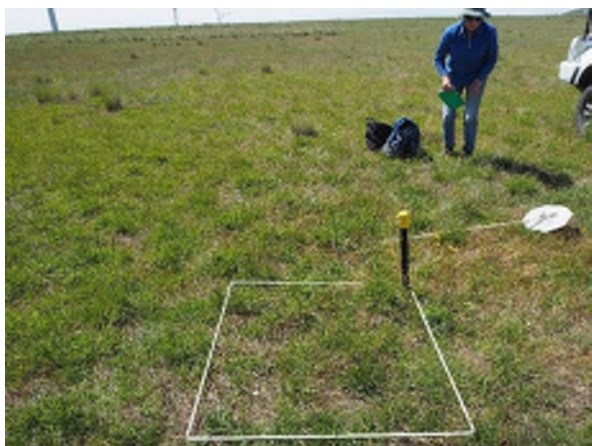
View from above quadrat.



Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 103

Photo point ID: Buttons

Lat: -38 15 748

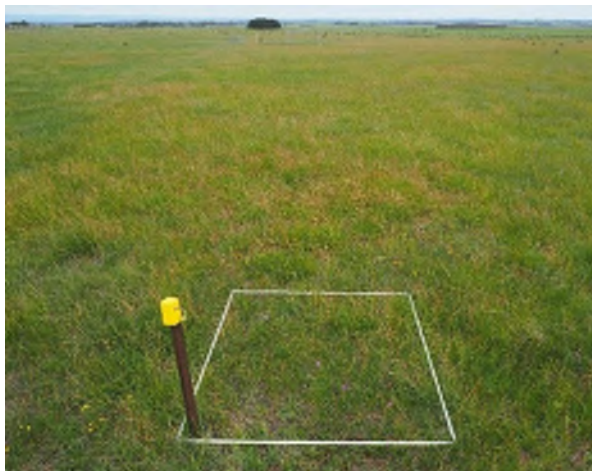
Long: 143 46 174

Date: 20/10/2023

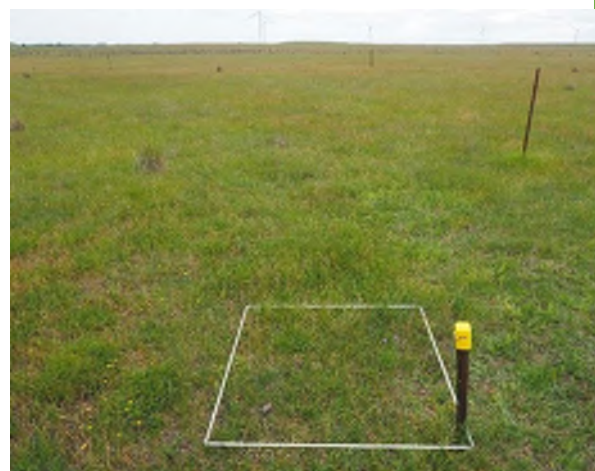
Time: 1.30 pm



View from above quadrat.



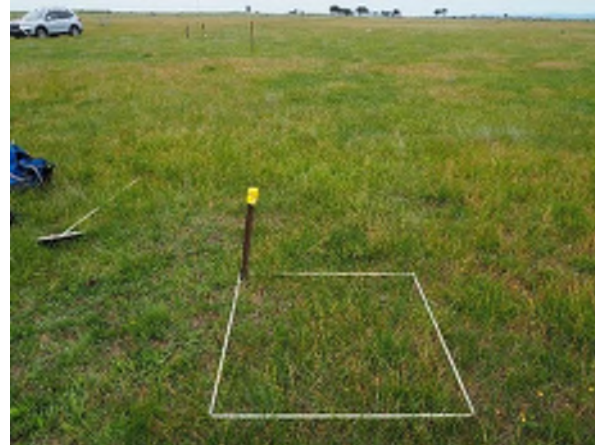
Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 104

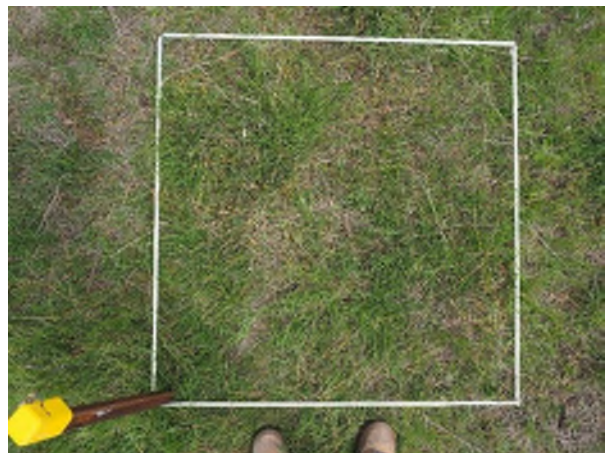
Photo point ID: Bent and Themeda

Lat: -38 15 644

Long: 143 46 120

Date: 20/10/2023

Time: 2.01 pm



View from above quadrat.



Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 105

Photo point ID: Wallaby grass

Lat: -38 15 681

Long: 143 46 044

Date: 26/10/2023

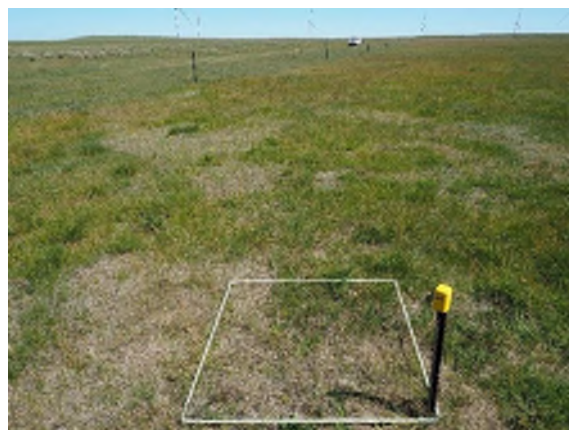
Time: 10.56 am



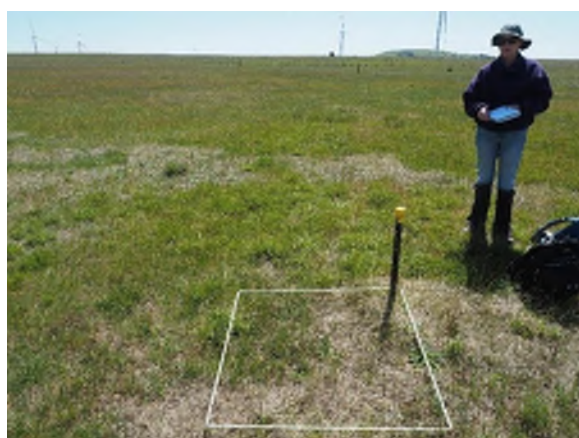
View from above quadrat.



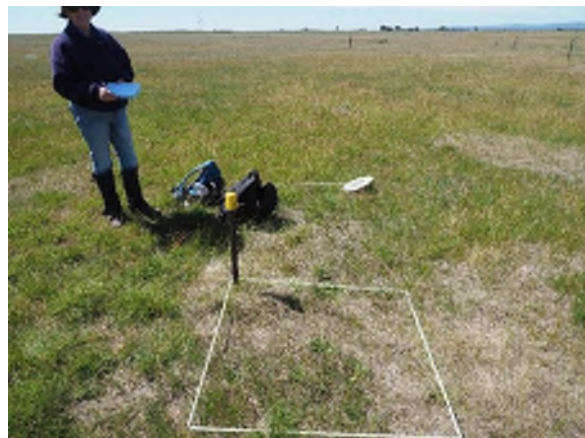
Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 106

Photo point ID: Themeda south

Lat: -38 15 712

Long: 143 45 914

Date: 26/10/2023

Time: 11.21 pm



View from above quadrat.



Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 107

Photo point ID: NW corner cell 6

Lat: -38 15 590

Long: 143 45 966

Date: 26/10/2023

Time: 3.01 pm



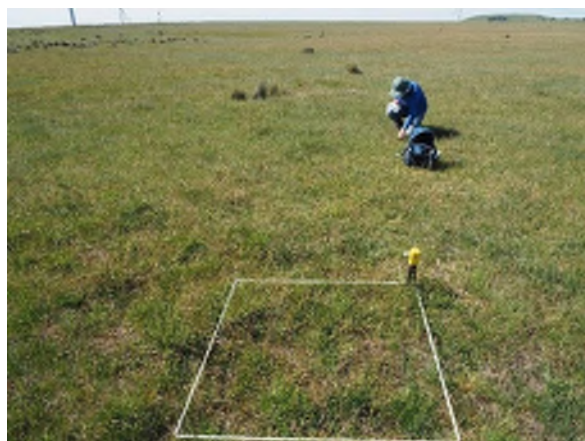
View from above quadrat.



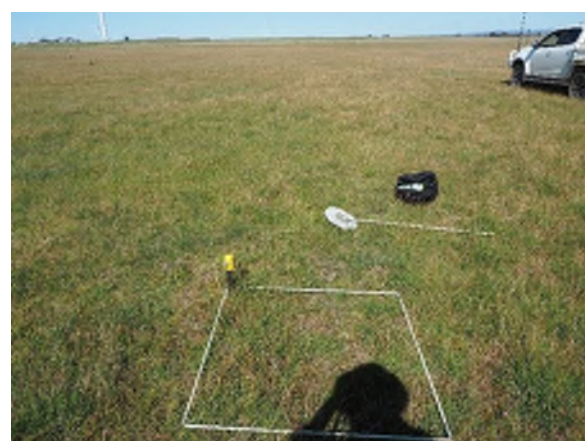
Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 108

Photo point ID: NE corner cell 5

Lat: -38 15 638

Long: 143 46 298

Date: 20/10/2023

Time: 2.25 pm



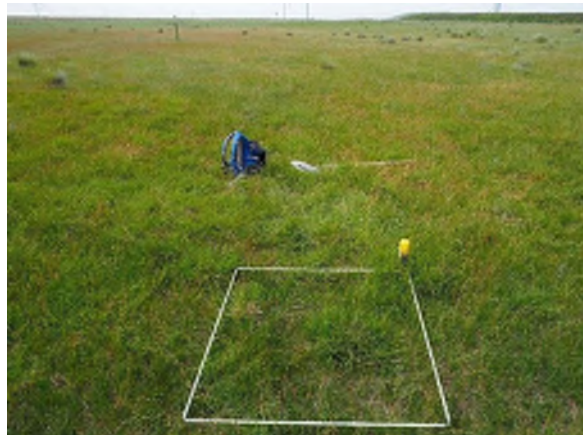
View from above quadrat.



Landscape view looking South



Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Table 5. Offset Management Plan: Vegetation Quadrat Assessment Results

| Photopoint Number | Average | 108 | 107 | 106 | 105 | 104 | 103 | 102 | 101 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Photopoint ID | EPBC 2015/748 6 | cell 5 NE corner | cell 6 NW corner | Themeda south | Wallaby grass | Bent and Themeda | Buttons and Lomandra | Themeda | Tussocks |
| GPS Southing | | 38 15 638 | 38 15 590 | 38 15 712 | 38 15 681 | 38 16 605 | 38 15 748 | 38 15 478 | 38 15 439 |
| GPS Easting | | 143 46 298 | 143 45 966 | 143 45 914 | 143 46 044 | 143 46 133 | 143 46 174 | 143 45 981 | 143 45 995 |
| Date | | Oct-20 | Oct-26 | Oct-26 | Oct-26 | Oct-20 | Oct-20 | Oct-26 | Oct-26 |
| Total Vegetation Cover | 67% | 70% | 67% | 85% | 15% | 75% | 65% | 80% | 75% |
| Total Native Vegetation Cover | 49% | 31% | 63% | 85% | 3% | 51% | 15% | 77% | 63% |
| Graminoids | 47% | 30% | 62% | 84% | 1% | 50% | 10% | 75% | 60% |
| Herbs | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 5% | 2% | 3% |
| Total Weeds | 17% | 39% | 7% | 1% | 12% | 24% | 40% | 4% | 12% |
| Total Grass weeds | 13% | 37% | 3% | 0% | 8% | 24% | 32% | 1% | 2% |
| Grasses – perennial | 13% | 37% | 2% | 0% | 8% | 22% | 31% | 0% | 2% |
| Grasses – annual | 1% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% |
| Dicots | 4% | 2% | 4% | 1% | 4% | 1% | 8% | 3% | 10% |
| Bare Ground | 16% | 3% | 20% | 10% | 45% | 5% | 10% | 13% | 20% |
| Litter | 17% | 27% | 10% | 5% | 40% | 20% | 25% | 7% | 5% |
| Moss – present or absent | 4.5/8 | yes | no | outside quadrat | yes | no | no | yes | yes |
| Inter-tussock space | 40% | 33% | 35% | 16% | 91% | 26% | 58% | 24% | 38% |
| Biomass monitoring | | | | | | | | | |
| Average height (cm) | 17.33 | 18.2 | 16.4 | 13.2 | 17.8 | 20.2 | 14.6 | 21.6 | 16.6 |
| Average biomass height (cm) + comments | 5.45 | 7.2 | 6 | 4 Burnt | 4.8 Burnt | 6 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 4.6 |

Table 6. Offset Management Plan: Vegetation Quadrat Assessment species recorded

For each photo point and quadrat survey, all species found within the 1m² quadrat have been indicated by "1m²". Any further species recorded in 1 m surrounding the 1m² quadrat have been indicated by a 9m².

| Origin | Scientific name | Common name | Photo point: 108 | Photo point: 107 | Photo point: 106 | Photo point: 105 | Photo point: 104 | Photo point: 103 | Photo point: 102 | Photo point: 101 |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| native | <i>Acaena ovina</i> | Sheep's Burr | | | | | 9m2 | | | 1m2 |
| native | <i>Anthosachne scabra</i> | Common Wheat Grass | | | | | | | | |
| native | <i>Arthropodium strictum</i> | Chocolate Lily | | 9m2 | | | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | |
| native | <i>Asperula conferta</i> | Common Woodruff | | | | | | | 9m2 | |
| native | <i>Austrostipa spp.</i> | Spear Grass | | | | | 9m2 | | | 1m2 |
| native | <i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i> | Blushing Bind Weed | | 1m2 | | | 9m2 | | 1m2 | |
| native | <i>Dichelachne crinita</i> | Long-hair Plume-grass | | | | | | | 9m2 | |
| native | <i>Drosera peltata</i> | Pale Sun Dew | 9m2 | 1m2 | | 1m2 | 9m2 | 9m2 | | |
| native | <i>Eryngium ovinum</i> | Blue Devil | 1m2 | 9m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 |
| native | <i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i> | Raspwort | 9m2 | 1m2 | | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | |
| native | <i>Hypericum gramineum</i> | Small St-John's wort | | 1m2 | | | | | 9m2 | 9m2 |
| native | <i>Juncus subsecundus</i> | Finger Rush | 9m2 | | | | | | | |
| native | <i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i> | Scaly Button | | 9m2 | | | 9m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | |
| native | <i>Lomandra nana</i> | Pale Mat Rush | 1m2 | | | | 9m2 | 1m2 | | 9m2 |
| native | <i>Microtis unifolia</i> | Onion Orchid | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | |
| native | <i>Oxalis perennans</i> | Grassland Wood Sorrel | 1m2 | | | | 1m2 | | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| native | <i>Pentapogon quadrifidus</i> | Five-awned Spear-grass | | | | | | | | |
| native | <i>Poa labillardierei</i> | Silver Tussock | | | 9m2 | | 9m2 | | | 9m2 |
| native | <i>Poa morrisii</i> | Velvet Tussock Grass | | | | | | | | 9m2 |

| Origin | Scientific name | Common name | Photo point: 108 | Photo point: 107 | Photo point: 106 | Photo point: 105 | Photo point: 104 | Photo point: 103 | Photo point: 102 | Photo point: 101 |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| native | <i>Rumex dumosus</i> | Wiry Dock | 1m2 | | | | | | | |
| native | <i>Rytidosperma</i> sp. | Wallaby Grass sp. | 1m2 | 1m2 | | 9m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| native | <i>Schoenus apogon</i> | Common Bog Rush | 1m2 | 1m2 | | 1m2 | 9m2 | | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| native | <i>Solenogyne dominii</i> | Solenogyne | | | | 9m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | | |
| native | <i>Themeda triandra</i> | Kangaroo Grass | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| exotic | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | Brown Top Bent | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 |
| exotic | <i>Aira caryophyllea</i> | Silver Hair Grass | | 1m2 | | | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | |
| exotic | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> | Sweet Vernal-grass | 1m2 | | | | | 9m2 | | |
| exotic | <i>Briza minor</i> | Lesser Quaking Grass | 9m2 | 1m2 | | | 1m2 | 1m2 | 9m2 | 9m2 |
| exotic | <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> | Soft Brome | | | | | | | | |
| exotic | <i>Centaureum erythraea</i> | Common Centaury | 9m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | |
| exotic | <i>Cicendia</i> spp. | Cicendia | | | | | 9m2 | | | |
| exotic | <i>Disa bracteata</i> | South African Orchid | | | 1m2 | | | | | |
| exotic | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire Fog | | 1m2 | | | | | | |
| exotic | <i>Hypochaeris radiata</i> | Flat Weed | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| exotic | <i>Isolepis levynsiana</i> | Tiny Flat-sedge | | | | 1m2 | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | |
| exotic | <i>Juncus bufonius</i> | Toad Rush | | | | 1m2 | | | | |
| exotic | <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> | Burr Medic | | | | | | 9m2 | | |
| exotic | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | Buck's Horn Plantain | | | | | 9m2 | | | |
| exotic | <i>Romulea rosea</i> | Onion Grass | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| exotic | <i>Sonchos oleraceus</i> | Common Sow Thistle | | | | | 1m2 | | | |
| exotic | <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> | Narrow Leaf Clover | | | | | | 9m2 | 1m2 | 1m2 |
| exotic | <i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> | Sub Clover | | | | | 1m2 | 1m2 | | |
| exotic | <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> | Squirrel-tail Fescue | | | | | | 9m2 | 1m2 | |

Table 8. Table of works completed

Note: 1x indicates 1 person; 2x indicates 2 people.

| Date | Works undertaken | Time spent |
|----------|--|------------|
| 08-05-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 08-05-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 350 wethers, 5 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3) | 1x2 hrs |
| 07-09-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 07-09-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 320 wethers, 3 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3) | 1x2 hrs |
| 02-02-25 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 02-02-25 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 250 wethers, 7 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3) | 1x2 hrs |
| 02-05-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 02-05-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 300 wethers, 6 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5) | 1x2 hrs |
| 03-09-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 03-09-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 320 wethers, 4 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5) | 1x2 hrs |
| 08-02-25 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 08-02-25 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 400 wethers, 1 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5) | 1x2 hrs |
| 12-03-25 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 12-03-25 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 250 wethers, 6 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5) | 1x2 hrs |

| Date | Works undertaken | Time spent |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 13-05-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 13-05-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 350 wethers, 4 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6) | 1x2 hrs |
| 31-08-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 31-08-24 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 320 wethers, 4 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6) | 1x2 hrs |
| 01-03-25 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| 01-03-25 | Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 250 wethers, 11 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6) | 1x2 hrs |
| Jun-24 | Biomass Control: Fencing and preparing areas for ecological burns | 2x44hrs |
| 06-05-24 | Biomass Control: Undertake ecological burns for biomass control | 3x4 hrs |
| 07-05-24 | Biomass Control: Undertake ecological burns for biomass control | 4x4 hrs |
| 08-05-24 | Biomass Control: Undertake ecological burns for biomass control | 3x4 hrs |
| 18-06-24 | Biomass Control: Undertake ecological burns for biomass control | 4x4 hrs |
| 27-09-24 | Biomass Control: Undertake ecological burns for biomass control | 4x4 hrs |
| 15-12-24 | Weed Management: Weeding of Salsify | 2x1hrs |
| Oct-24 | Weed Management: Weeding of South African Weed orchid | 3x8hrs |
| Aug-24 | Weed management: contractors, TREC, spraying herbaceous weeds (TREC invoice) | 4x40 hrs |
| Sep-24 | Auditing: Coordinating federal audit, undertaken by authorized officers. This including meeting with the federal department, providing past reports and GIS information, arranging access, reviewing reports and providing feedback. | 2x 16 hrs |

| Date | Works undertaken | Time spent |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 20-10-24 | Monitoring and Reporting: Photo Point survey and monitoring | 2x4 hrs |
| 26-10-24 | Monitoring and Reporting: Photo Point survey and monitoring | 2x8 hrs |
| 06-09-24 | Monitoring: checking biomass height before grazing, general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1hrs |
| 31-08-25 | Monitoring: checking biomass height before grazing, general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1hrs |
| 03-01-25 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1hrs |
| 19-10-24 | Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals. | 1x1 hrs |
| Jun-24 | Organising meeting for five-year review of OMP | 1x 1hrs |
| 12-08-24 | Pest Animal: Put out Fox Bait and checked it, re-baited | 1x2hrs |
| 30-06-24 | Pest Animal: Over 20 shooters undertook fox shooting on surrounding farm, 25 foxes shot | 20x8hr |
| 14-07-24 | Pest Animal: Over 20 shooters undertook fox shooting on surrounding farm, 11 foxes shot | 20x8hr |
| 30-10-24 | Pest Animal: Fumigated fox den | 2x2hrs |
| 03-01-25 | Enhancement: Harvested Kangaroo Grass seeds with Grass Grabber but Kangaroo grass seed had dropped. | 2x1hrs |
| Apr-25 | Reporting: Report writing | 2x30 hrs |

Table 9. Annual report declaration of accuracy and completion

| Site Zone | Management Action | Management action description | Timing | Completed (Yes/No) | Include or attach supporting evidence of actions completed / comments / observations |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|---|
| All | Annual report is signed, dated and submitted by the landowner at least 1 month before the anniversary date of the agreement. 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. 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. 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. Where the actions were not carried out provided evidence as to the reason why. | <p>Include supporting evidence by:</p> <p>Obligations of the landowner form</p> <p>Payment method is correct</p> <p>Detailed written observations & additional report</p> <p>Photo point monitoring</p> <p>Map of zones & photo points</p> <p>Photographs of works undertaken</p> <p>Receipts/invoices for materials & works carried out, including by contractors</p> <p>Logbook of works carried out</p> <p>Receipts: seeds, seedlings purchased, list of species, No. each species (estimate No. seeds), provenance</p> <p>Site log: list of No. species planted, recruiting or germinated, incl. No. each species by life form that are present/survived and/or were replaced</p> | Submit at least 1 month prior to agreement anniversary date | <p>Yes (Page 4)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p> <p>Yes (Table 1-3)</p> <p>Yes (Tables 4-6)</p> <p>Yes (Figure 1)</p> <p>Yes (Table of Photographs below)</p> <p>Yes (Figure 2)</p> <p>Yes (Table 8)</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Not Applicable</p> | <p>Where applicable:</p> <p>Obligations of the landowner form</p> <p>Payment method is correct</p> <p>Detailed written observations & additional report</p> <p>Photo point monitoring</p> <p>Map of zones & photo points and works</p> <p>Photographs of works undertaken</p> <p>Receipts/invoices for works carried out, including by contractors</p> <p>Logbook of works carried out</p> <p>Receipts seeds/seedlings, provenance, table of species list & numbers: Seed collection was undertaken too late due to early season of Kangaroo grass.</p> <p>Site log / table of plantings/germination & survival numbers by life form. No seed has germinated yet.</p> |

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:

...............

Date: 24 / 04 / 2025



Photograph 1. Fence along western boundary of offset, between cells 6 and 7 looking north. (31 August 2024)



Photograph 2. Temporary fence surrounding burn area in cell 6. (31 August 2024)



Photograph 3. Fence along north-east boundary of offset, between cells 3 and 4 looking north. (12 August 2024)



Photograph 4. Fence line around burn in cell 5, with spray following burn on left of fence looking south. (12 August 2024).



Photograph 5. Fox den check and bait laying, between cell 3, 5 and 6. (12 August 2024)



Photograph 6. Fox den check, showing fresh diggings, and bait laying, between cell 3, 5 and 6. (12 August 2024)



Photograph 7. Fox dens treated with bait in 2023, and with rocks placed in entrance, no longer active. (12 August 2024)



Photograph 8. New fox den observed and fumigated in south-west of cell 6. (30 October 2024)



Photograph 9. Dead fox recorded in cell 5. (20 October 2024)



Photograph 10. Fox Scat observed in Cell 3. (18 June 2024)



Photograph 11. Fox Scat recorded in Cell 5. (3 January 2025)



Photograph 12. Biomass levels before graze showing Kangaroo grass thatch in foreground. (12 August 2024)



Photograph 13. TREC spray contractors spraying in burnt areas (7 August 2024)



Photograph 14. TREC spray contractors spraying in burnt areas (7 August 2024)



Photograph 15. South African Weed Orchid removal in the offset site in cell 3. (20 October 2024)



Photograph 16. South African Weed Orchid removed from the offset site over the season.



Photograph 17. South African Weed Orchid removal using Hamilton tree planter to be more ergonomic. (26 October 2024)



Photograph 18. Removal of Salsify heads. (15 December 2024)



Photograph 19. Counting Sweet Vernal heads 12 months following burn treatment in adjacent control area: 220 heads (26 October 2024).



Photograph 20. Counting Sweet Vernal heads 12 months following burn treatment in burn area: 75 heads (26 October 2024).



Photograph 21. Kangaroo grass seed harvest was found to be too low yield to merit further harvesting. (3 January 2025).



Photograph 22. Kangaroo grass seed harvest was found to be too low yield to merit further harvesting. (3 January 2025).



Photograph 23. Biomass burns in cell 3. (7 May 2024)



Photograph 24. Biomass burns in cell 5. (8 May 2024)



Photograph 25. Biomass burns cell 6. (8 May 2024)



Photograph 26. Winter biomass burn cell 3 (18 June 2024)



Photograph 27. Spring biomass burns cell 3. (27 September 2024)



Photograph 28. Striped Legless Lizard recorded in cell 5 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 29. Tussock Skink recorded in cell 3 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 30. White's Skink recorded in cell 5 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 31. Kangaroo grass, Scaly Button, Lemon Beauty Head recorded in cell 3 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 32. Woodruff recorded during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 33. Chocolate lily recorded in cell 3 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)



Photograph 34. Kangaroo grass, Raspwort and Scaly Buttons recorded in cell 3 during monitoring inspection. (19 October 2024)

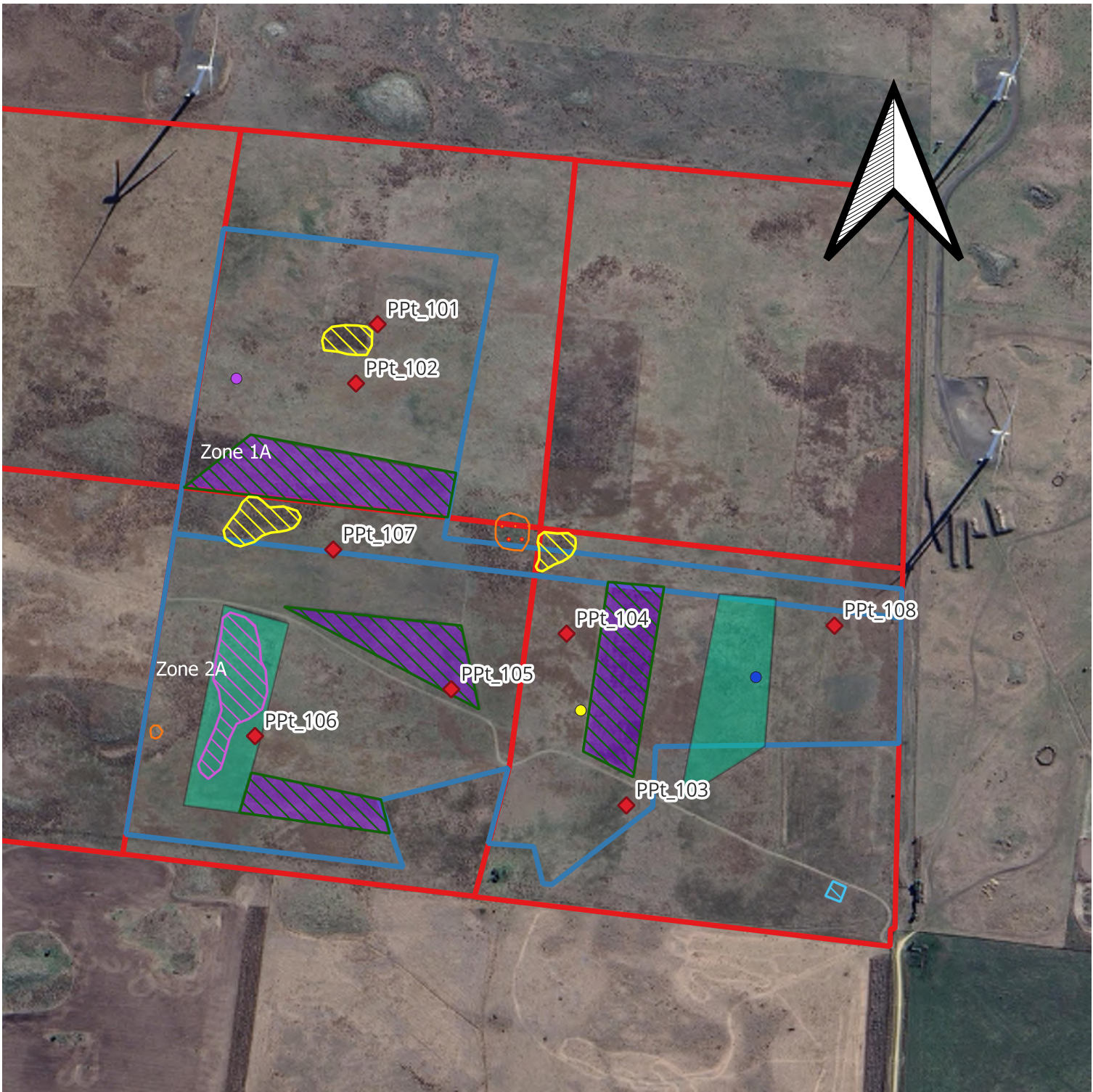


Figure 1. Location of Offset, photopoints and works undertaken

Legend

- Offset area 2015-7486
- Fence lines
- Quadrats and photopoints 2015-7486
- 2024_fox_control

2024_observations

- DEECA assessment: Paspalum
- DEECA assessment: Sth African Weed Orchid
- Sth African Weed Orchid removed

2024 Burn areas

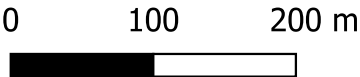
- autumn
- spring

2024_weed_control

- TREC spray
- Salsify
- Sth African Weed Orchid
- Sweet Vernal-grass burn test

435 McDonnells Road
Ombersley (Birregurra), Victoria
EPBC 2015/7486 VC-CFL-3044 LA02

Created 7 April 2025





Stuart Cooney
Principal Ecologist
Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd
PO Box 356
Northcote VIC 3070

Our Ref: 1610

21 November 2024

Claire and James Dennis
C/- Sonia Petering
8 Cedar Grove
Highton VIC 3216

Dear Claire and James,

Re: Offset Management Plan: 435 McDonnells Road, Ombersley, Victoria

Ecolink Consulting was engaged by Claire and James Dennis to undertake a series of monitoring programs to evaluate the effectiveness of the management of an offset site, located on McDonnells Road, Ombersley (hereafter the study area: Figure 1). The 32-hectare offset site was established to offset for impacts to ecological values associated with the development of an industrial estate in Ravenhall, Victoria. This development was approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) via referral 2015/7486 on the basis that the proponent mitigates habitat losses for the nationally vulnerable Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* and approximately 18 hectares of the nationally threatened Natural Temperate Grasslands of Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) ecological community.

An Offset Management Plan (OMP) for the offset site was prepared by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd (2018). It prescribes a range of measures to ensure that the offset site is appropriately managed to preserve and enhance the ecological values offset within it (i.e. Striped Legless Lizards and NTGVVP). Section 8.3 of the OMP describes the requirements for Striped Legless Lizard surveys. Surveys are to be undertaken for an initial four year period and then in years 6, 8 and 10 of the OMP and thereafter upon written agreement with the Department of the Environment and Energy (now called the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2018). Section 8.2 of the OMP relates to the monitoring of NTGVVP and requires that vegetation monitoring is undertaken for an initial four year period and then in years 6, 8 and 10 of the management plan (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2018).

This report presents the findings of the fifth Striped Legless Lizard surveys (year 6). Due to prolonged wet weather throughout Winter and Spring 2022, and sodden soils flooding the tile grids and precluding safe vehicular access during the Spring of that year, the Striped Legless Lizard surveys could not be undertaken in the fourth year of the implementation of the OMP. Surveys are therefore one year out of synchronisation with the vegetation monitoring. Therefore, although Striped Legless Lizard surveys have been undertaken, the vegetation monitoring has not been undertaken this year.

Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* Surveys

The Striped Legless Lizard is listed as 'Vulnerable' under Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is also listed as 'Endangered' on the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* Threatened List (Department of Environment Land Water and Planning 2021a). The species has a national recovery plan for its protection, prepared in 1999 (Smith and Robertson 1999).

The Striped Legless Lizard is a pale grey lizard up to 30 centimetres in length. They have a prominent, linear darker brown vertebral stripe running from head to tail, with finer, paler stripes on either side (Cogger 2000; Wilson and Swan 2010). Like all members of the Pygopodidae family, they are legless, with no visible forelimbs and reduced hind limbs that are apparent only as small flaps on either side of the vent (SEWPaC 2013).



Plate 1. Striped Legless Lizard

Striped Legless Lizards are usually found native in tussock grasslands and woodland (Wilson and Swan 2010), often dominated by species such as Spear Grass *Austrostipa bigeniculata* and Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* (Smith and Robertson 1999). However recent observations of the species have demonstrated that non-native plant species, and even secondary grasslands, can support individuals of this species (Smith and Robertson 1999). This has led to a hypotheses that it is not the provenance of the grass species that is important, rather the structural characteristics of the vegetation that determines if the habitat is suitable for Striped Legless Lizards (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2011; Smith and Robertson 1999). Within these habitats,

Striped Legless Lizards are usually found sheltering underneath logs, rocks and other debris (Cogger 2000).

The Striped Legless Lizard was formerly distributed throughout temperate lowland grasslands in southern Australia (SEWPaC 2013). In Victoria, it is believed that the range of the species has contracted to southern parts of its former range, although it is no longer found close to inner metropolitan Melbourne (SEWPaC 2013). One of the largest extant populations of the species is found in Victoria on the Keilor plains at St Albans, west of Melbourne (SEWPaC 2013). There are likely to be more than 1000 individuals of this species remaining in the wild, most of which occur in large reserves within the Victorian Volcanic Plain, although the precise size of the population is not known (SEWPaC 2013).

There are five historical records of Striped Legless Lizard from within five kilometres of the study area reported in the VBA (Figure 1) (Department of Environment Land Water and Planning 2021b). These records are all from tile grids within the Dennis property. Other historic records supplied by the land-owner include 1 individual under Grid 7 in April 2015, and another two under Grid 7 in November 2016, and the shed skin of a possibly gravid female Striped Legless Lizard under Grid 6 in December 2016. Tile checks undertaken by Ecolink between 2017 and 2019 identified up to eight other individual Striped Legless Lizards underneath tiles in Grid 1 and 3. In October and December 2020 another observation under Grid 7 was added (Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd 2020) and during tile grid surveys in November 2020, October 2021 and September/October 2023, Striped Legless Lizards were recorded under Grid 1 and 7 during the surveys 2020 and 2021 surveys, with additional records under tile grids 3 and 10 in 2023 {Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd, 2023 #1714}. The spring tile grid survey for 2022 was not conducted.

Methods

Ten tile grids were surveyed within the study area (Figure 1). The grids are located in parts of the study area considered to have the highest likelihood of providing habitat for the species. All grids comprise 50 terracotta roof tiles in a 5 x 10 metre grid. The tiles were placed prior to 2018, with an additional three tile grids laid in May 2020 (tile grids 8-10), in consultation with the Dennis family (Figure 1). This ensured that the tiles had become established, and allowed time for lizards to preferentially utilise the artificial habitat.

During the current assessment, tiles were checked on 31 October (survey 1) and 20 November 2024 by Principal Ecologist Stuart Cooney and Field Assistant Kerry Healy (Table 1). Both Stuart and Kerry are familiar with the species and between them have conducted dozens of similar tiling assessments for the species in the last decade, including the last six years of surveys at the study area. Surveys were undertaken under Scientific Permit No 10006840 issued by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action).

The tiles were checked on fine days, early in the day, to avoid high temperatures later in the day. As lizards thermo-regulate, tiles may be desirable for basking and maintaining temperatures for foraging or other activities. However, in higher temperatures, the tiles become too hot for lizards

to remain underneath, or they become active and move elsewhere to forage, therefore reducing the chance of detecting the species.

Table 1. Weather conditions for Striped Legless Lizard surveys undertaken in 2024.

| Date | Time | Temp (°C) | Under-tile Temp (°C) | Cloud Cover (8ths) |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 31 October 2024 | 10:00 – 12:40 | 12.65-16.7 | 22.7-24.8 | 1 |
| 20 November 2024 | 10:00 –12:10 | 13.7–16.3 | 19.5–22.8 | 3 |

Results

Fourteen Striped Legless Lizards were recorded under Grids 1, 2, 3 and 7 during the October 2024 survey (Plate 2; Table 2; Figure 1). This is the highest number of Striped Legless Lizards recorded during any of the previous five surveys; more than doubling the number in any previous count. It was the first time that Striped Legless Lizards had been recorded under Grid 2.

Three Striped Legless Lizards were recorded under Grids 2 and 3 during the November 2024 survey (Table 2; Figure 1). In addition, the sloughed skins of four Striped Legless Lizards were found under tiles in Grids 1 and 7.

Other lizards observed during the current assessment included Whites Skink *Liopholis whitii*, Eastern Three Lined Skink *Acritoscincus duperreyi*, Robust Skink *Ctenotus robustus*, and Southern Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*. Striped Marsh Frogs *Limnodynastes peronii* and Spotted Marsh Frogs *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* were observed during the first assessment, across all Grids (except Grid 4), with a generally greater abundance of these species found under Grids 1, 3, 5 and 7. Three Brown Snakes *Pseudonaja textilis* were also observed under or near Grids 1 and 6 during the October survey, as well as a Curl Snake *Suta suta* under Grid 3 (Plate 3). The November survey was significantly less productive than the October survey, with fewer animals recorded, of all species, including a complete lack of snakes and frogs being recorded.

Surveys by the landholder on 19 October 2024 also recorded Striped Legless Lizards under Grid 3 (x 2), Grid 7 (x 6) and Grid 8 (X 1) (R. Dennis *In Litt*, 25 October 2024). Ecolink has not previously recorded Striped Legless Lizards at Grid 8.

Table 2. Results of Striped Legless Lizard count observed during the targeted surveys undertaken in October 2024 and September 2024.

| Survey Date | Grid Number | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 10 October 2023 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 14 |
| 20 November 2024 | 2* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 2* | - | - | - | 3 |

* Sloughed skins only

Discussion

Up to 17 Striped Legless Lizards were detected during the current assessment. These lizards were observed under Grids 1, 3, and 7, where the majority of the historic observations have been made, and also, for the first time Grids 2 and 8. Grid 2 is located close to Grids 1 and 3, which have been the Grids that most commonly support Striped Legless Lizards. Although Grid 7 is not located within the offset site, it is very close to the northern boundary of the offset site, and animals using Grid 7 are likely to range into the offset site on occasion. At least four other lizard species, two species of frog and two species of snake were recorded during the current assessment, comprising a greater variety of species than those recorded in previous years.

The results of the current assessment demonstrate that a population of Striped Legless Lizard persists within the study area. Surveys will be undertaken again in two years' time for the seventh round of monitoring, in year eight of the OMP (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2018).



Plate 2. Striped Legless Lizard observed during the current assessment.



Plate 3. Curl Snake at Grid 3.

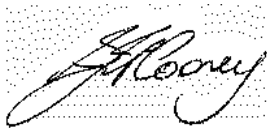
Conclusion

At least 15 Striped Legless Lizards were observed during the current assessment, or by the landholder, in the current season. This record number of observations demonstrates that the grasslands within the offset site remain suitable habitat for Striped Legless Lizards.

The next round of Striped Legless Lizard surveys will be undertaken in summer 2026 (due to abandoning one season, the equivalent of the eighth year of the OMP), while the next vegetation survey will be undertaken in 2025 (the equivalent of the sixth year of the implementation of the OMP, given the delay in the first vegetation survey).

I trust the above meets with your expectations, but please call me if you have any queries, or require any amendments.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Cooney', set against a background of small black dots.

Stuart Cooney
Principal Ecologist
Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd
Mobile: 0419 894 948

References

- Cogger H (2000). 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia ' (Reed New Holland: Sydney).
- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (2021a). 'Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 - Threatened List. October 2021.' Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Melbourne, Victoria.
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- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2004). 'Habitat Hectares Native Vegetation: Sustaining a Living Landscape. Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – Guidelines for Applying the Habitat Hectares Scoring Method. Version 1.3.' (Department of Sustainability and Environment: Melbourne).
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- SEWPaC (2013). *Delma impar* - Striped Legless Lizard in Species Profile and Threats Database. Available at http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1649. Accessed 19 August 2013. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.
- Smith WJS and Robertson P (1999). National Recovery Plan for the Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*): 1999-2003. Unpublished report to Environment Australia, Canberra. (Smith WJS and Robertson P: Canberra).
- Wilson S and Swan G (2010). 'A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia.' (New Holland: Sydney).

Figure 1: Striped Legless Lizard survey locations and historic observations

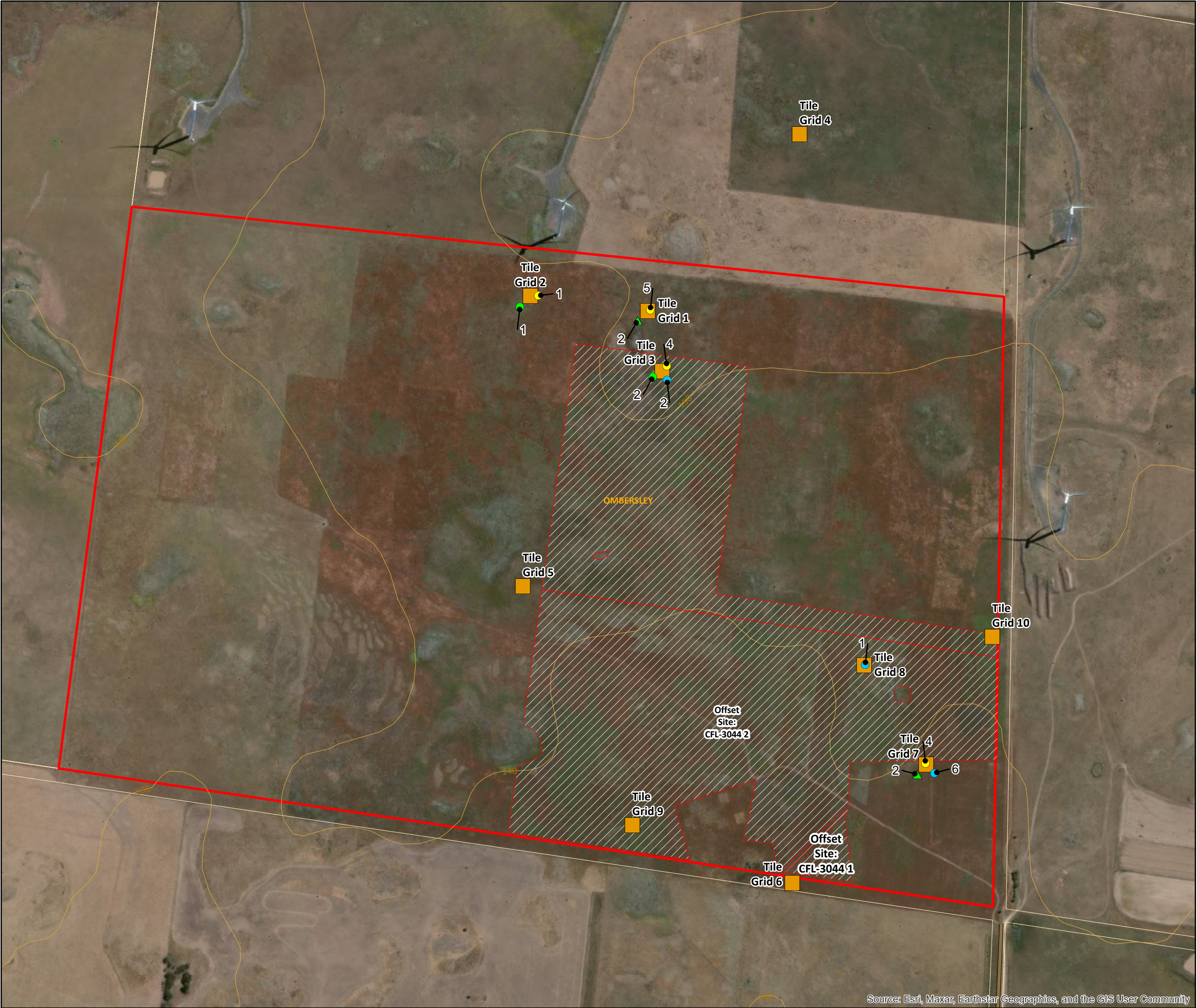
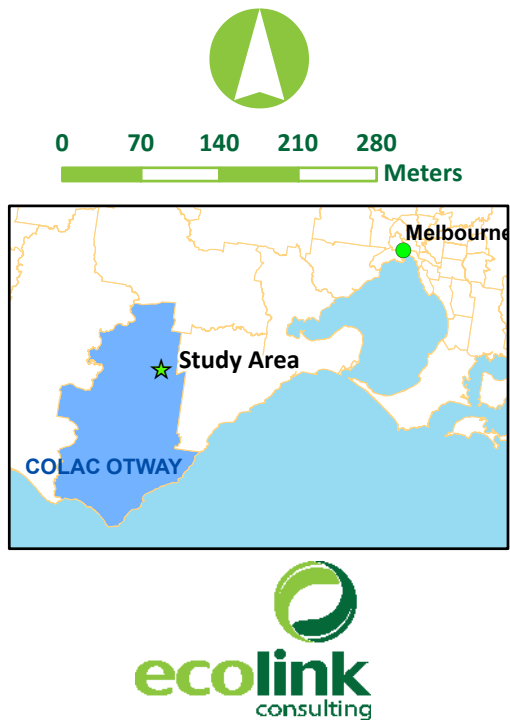
McDonnells Road, Birregurra

Legend

- Study Area
- Striped Legless Lizard Tile Grids

Striped Legless Lizard Observations (Number)

- Lizard (19 Oct 2024)
- Lizard (31 Oct 2024)
- Lizard (21 Nov 2024)
- Skin (21 Nov 2024)





TAX INVOICE

From **Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd**
PO Box 356, Northcote VIC 3070
ABN: 80 646 930 817
ACN: 159 690 472

Invoice No. **3169**
Issue Date 12/03/2025
Due Date 11/04/2025 (Net 30)
Subject Birregurra GSM Surveys 2019/20 - 2024/25

Invoice For **Claire Dennis**
Bleak House Pty Ltd
Via email: cdennis09@gmail.com

| Item Type | Description | Unit Price | Amount |
|-----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| Service | [1058e-T] Birregurra GSM Surveys 2024/25 Season (three surveys) | \$7,500.00 | \$7,500.00 |

Subtotal **\$7,500.00**
GST (10%) **\$750.00**

Amount Due \$8,250.00

Notes

Please credit the following bank account:
Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd, BSB 063 133, Account Number 1118 9135.
Email remittance to info@ecolinkconsulting.com.au.



**FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT 1988
AUTHORISATION TO TAKE / KEEP / TRADE IN PROTECTED FLORA**

Pursuant to the provisions of section 48 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* permission is hereby granted to:

Dr Ross Dennis
Unit 205, 9 Duckett Street
Brunswick VIC 3056

in order to take / keep / trade in protected flora for the purpose of commercial sale and propagation and revegetation projects.

ISSUE DATE: 26 November 2024
EXPIRY DATE: 26 November 2027

Permission is given subject to the following particular conditions:

1. The authorisation holder is authorised to take / keep / trade in protected flora as follows:
 - a) Taxa: All non-threatened flora from the listed Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland Community.
 - b) Plant parts: Seed and propagation material.
 - c) Quantity: Up to 10% of reproductive material or 5% of cutting material from any one plant.
2. The provisions of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* are to be observed.
3. The direction of any Authorised Officer of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in relation to this authorisation, must be followed.
4. You must have prior permission from the landowner or land manager prior to conducting any authorised activities. This authorisation does not convey the right of entry to any property or site (including public or Crown land).
5. You must have permission from Parks Victoria prior to conducting any activities approved in this authorisation on any land managed by Parks Victoria.
6. If you intend to conduct any authorised activities in a State Forest, you must seek advice from the DEECA local District Forest and Fire Manager to determine if a permit under the *Forests Act 1958* is required. District Forest and Fire Managers can be contacted via the DEECA Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au
7. Any person undertaking authorised activities must carry a signed copy of the permit with them and show it on demand to an Authorised Officer. The authorisation holder is responsible for the conduct of all persons conducting the authorised activities.
8. Up to 10% of reproductive material or 5% of cutting material may be taken from any one plant.

.....
Georgia de Salis
Manager Permissions Delivery
Office of the Conservation Regulator
(Delegate of the Secretary)



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Permit No: 10011333

9. Protected flora should not be taken from small populations. As a guide, populations are considered small when they consist of fewer than ten individuals in the case of perennial trees, shrubs and graminoids, and fewer than fifty individuals in the case of annuals or perennial forbs or non-vascular species.
10. Collection should not take place in an area from which it is suspected that plants have previously been sampled during that season, or if the plants appear damaged or in poor health.
11. The permit holder must notify DEECA at least three business days prior to commencing any authorised activity through [Research Notifications](#).
12. The authorisation holder must ensure that any person conducting authorised activities across multiple sites has boots and tools which are free of soil, gravel and plant material and have been disinfected using a solution of either one-part Phytoclean to ten parts water; or one-part domestic bleach to four parts water.
13. The authorisation holder must comply with "*Hygiene protocols for control of diseases in Australian frogs. A report for the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities*".
14. Any publication or report referring to data obtained under this authorisation must clearly state that collection activities were conducted under this permit (citing the permit number).

I, the authorisation holder (as named above) have read and fully understand the conditions of this authorisation.

.....
Authorisation holder

Date of signature: 26.11.2024

**** This authorisation is only valid when signed and dated by the authorisation holder**

I, as a person acting under this authorisation have read and fully understand the conditions of this authorisation.

Ross Dennis

.....
Name and signature

Date of signature: 26.11.2024

**** This authorisation is only valid when signed and dated**

.....

Georgia de Salis

Manager Permissions Delivery
Office of the Conservation Regulator
(Delegate of the Secretary)

Monitoring: BBA-3044_01 and VC_CFL-3044_02

Date: 6 February 2025

Officer: Richard Boon

General observations/comments/condition:

I arranged the visit with Claire Dennis. I had a conversation with James Dennis on site and met Claire and James after the visit. They provided helpful background information. James was erecting a fence to prevent sheep from grazing the grassland after they burn in autumn or spring 2025.

BBA-3044_01 is about 0.6 ha and there is one site and one zone. VC_CFL-3044_02 is 32 ha and there is one site and two zones. The mapped EVC is High Rainfall Plains Grassland of Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. This short report covers both agreements because _01 is so small and is similar to _02.

There is good Kangaroo Grass, tussock-grass and wallaby-grass in places. I saw less spear-grass and only occasional wheat-grass, although the time of the year may have affected these observations. Broad-leaved native plants are sparse at the moment. I saw flowering Common Bindweed and Blue Devils.



View across BBA-3044_01_1A toward VC_CFL-3044_02_2A

Main issues or threats; e.g. stock activity, tree/log removal:

Weed grasses.

Fencing:

I saw no evidence that unauthorised people have been on site. Sheep are permitted for biomass management. None were present when I visited.

Woody weeds:

None seen.

Grassy/herbaceous weeds:

Brown-top Bent is by far the most abundant weed species. There is also a high cover of Phalaris in the north-west of zone _02_1A. Sweet Vernal Grass is common in places, as is Rough Dog's-tail in rockier areas. I also saw some dead rye-grass plants. There is some Paspalum in _01_1A.

Weed grasses have been sprayed in a fenced triangular patch of about 0.85 ha in the central-west of 02_2A. I think there is a second rectangular trial area to the east of this, which was sprayed before the triangular patch, but I did not check it. Spraying has been effective in killing most Brown-top Bent (and presumably other weed grasses) and seems to have had little or no impact on Kangaroo Grass and Blue Devils. Native plants do not appear to have become established in the sprayed areas, but Cat's-ear seems to have increased. Recruitment of native plants may only be possible where there is sufficient rainfall spring and summer rainfall for seedlings to survive their first dry season.

Broad-leaved weeds are uncommon and included Spear Thistle, Hare's-tail Clover, Narrow-leaved Clover and Slender Centaury. I also saw about 10 old South African Weed Orchid inflorescences in the central-west of 01_1A. The Dennis's showed me a bag of plants that they removed from this offset in spring. The approximate position of the patch that I saw is shown on the aerial photograph below.



Sprayed area in 02_2A.



Kangaroo Grass in the sprayed area with leaf litter of dead weed grasses.

Cover of weeds per Habitat Zone:

| Site/Zone | Total cover of woody weeds (%) | Total cover all herbaceous weeds (%) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| All sites/zones | 0 | <p>_01_1A – I would have made weed cover slightly higher than the 23% included in the management plan, but the difference is not significant.</p> <p>_02 – I did not make cover estimates because the landowners and their consultants make more thorough measures and I have no reason to disagree with their findings.</p> |

Other observations / notes / feedback:

While I never did any measurements, the grassland looked like it is within the height, bare ground and overall cover targets.

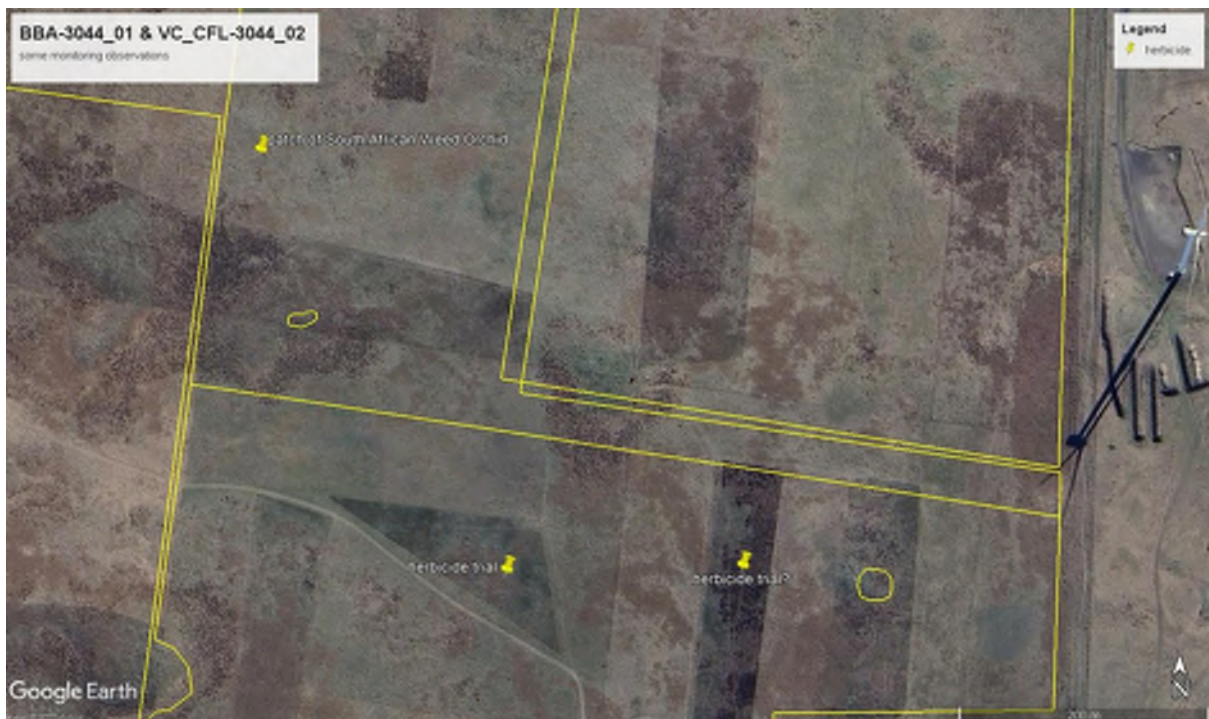
There is a small square of planted Kangaroo Grass in 01_1A. It is doing well. It used to be protected with a fence, but the fence has been removed.

Several of the tiles are damaged 01_1A and will need to be replaced if they still used for Striped Legless Lizard surveys.

The cover of Brown-top Bent in VC_CFL-3087_01 is much higher than in VC_CFL-3044_01 and 02. The reverse applies to Tall Fescue, which I did not see in VC_CFL-3044_01 and 02. I asked James why he thought there was so much more bent-grass in the south. He thought it was because grazing had changed from permanent to pulse grazing when the offset was established, with no grazing when the ground is wet, and the southern agreements were established before VC_CFL-3087_01. James also said that he can see the benefits of the current grazing plan versus continuous grazing, but a consequence might be an increase in Brown-top Bent. James's answer made sense to me although all three agreements were established within about 18 months.



The dark green tussocks are planted Kangaroo Grass in _01_1A.



Some monitoring observations including the approximate position of the South African Weed Orchids



Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>

OFFICIAL: RE: Supplementary works permission

Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA)

<nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@deeca.vic.gov.au>

2 December 2024 at

07:47

To: Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>, Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>

Hi Ross,

Thanks for your email.

DEECA approve seed to be collected from areas covered by landowner agreements BBA-3044_01, VC_CFL-3044_02 and VC_CFL-3087_01, on the provision the seed is to be re-distributed within other areas covered by the landowner agreements for rehabilitation of native grasslands.

Kind regards,

Dr Andrew Warnock**Project Officer – Native Vegetation Offset** | Strategic Environmental Planning | Biodiversity Division

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Sending to you from Wadawurrung Country

[Level 2, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne VIC 3002](#) (DX 210098)

PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002

T: 0386 243 119 | E: nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@deeca.vic.gov.au

Note: Please allow the following processing times. Quality Assurance review: 15 working days; Annual Report review: 20 working days; General enquiry: 5 working days.

We work flexibly at DEECA. I am sending this message now because it suits me. I don't expect you to read, respond or action outside your working hours.

Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



OFFICIAL

From: Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2024 1:21 PM

To: Andrew D Warnock (DEECA) <andrew.warnock@delwp.vic.gov.au>; Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>;
Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA) <nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Supplementary works permission

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Andrew and team,

For this coming summer (2024/2025) I am requesting permission to collect seed for the purpose of enhancing / sowing into the offset, in particular in areas recently sprayed for weeds, and to develop a seed production area to facilitate greater seed sowing with more species in future years. I propose to do this from the following offsets:

BBA-3044_01 which is synonymous with EPBC 2015/7486

VC_CFL-3044_02 and

VC_CFL-3087_01

Kind regards,

TAX INVOICE

WJ Dennis Farming Trust
ABN: 31616379071

Invoice Date
30 Aug 2024

Invoice Number
0614

Reference
Offset Grassy Weed
Control - August 2024

ABN
13 623 160 305

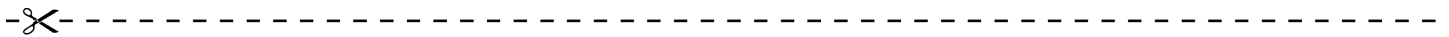
TREC Land Services
Attention: Daniel Young
27 Nevin Dr
Thomastown VIC 3074
AUSTRALIA

| Description | Quantity | Unit Price | GST | Amount AUD |
|--|----------|------------|-----|-------------|
| Attn: Ross Dennis Offset weed control August 2023 Grassy Weed Control Zone C - 1.687ha Fluazifop p | 3.00 | 1,180.00 | 10% | 3,540.00 |
| Zone F - 1.184ha Fluazifop p | 2.00 | 1,180.00 | 10% | 2,360.00 |
| Zone H - 0.608ha Fluazifop p | 1.00 | 1,180.00 | 10% | 1,180.00 |
| Zone J - 0.910 Fluazifop p | 1.50 | 1,180.00 | 10% | 1,770.00 |
| Subtotal | | | | 8,850.00 |
| TOTAL GST 10% | | | | 885.00 |
| TOTAL AUD | | | | 9,735.00 |
| Less Amount Paid | | | | 9,735.00 |
| AMOUNT DUE AUD | | | | 0.00 |

Due Date: 29 Sep 2024

Payment Terms: 14 days from invoice date unless by prior agreement.

Bank Details:
ANZ
BSB: 013 347
Account: 234175583
Name: TREC Land Services



PAYMENT ADVICE

To: TREC Land Services
Attention: Daniel Young
27 Nevin Dr
Thomastown VIC 3074
AUSTRALIA

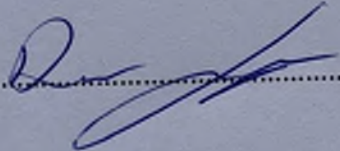
| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Customer | WJ Dennis Farming Trust |
| Invoice Number | 0614 |
| Amount Due | 0.00 |
| Due Date | 29 Sep 2024 |
| Amount Enclosed | <div>Enter the amount you are paying above</div> |

This is to verify thatDAMIAN LUPINO.....

and 20.....others, undertook fox shooting on Bleak House property on

Date 30-6-24 14-7-24

25 - 11 Foxes were shot.

Signed.....

80

* DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

DATE 27/05/24

to W. J. Farming Trust

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|
| APN of Recipient | 31616379071 | ORDER NO |
|------------------|-------------|----------|

FROM:

ADN y/o Supplier: 48936826293

[illegible]

TOTAL INCLUSIVE OF G.S.T.

Total includes G.S.T. of

References

- Bransbury Dlat, N. M. (1977). The disc pasture meter: Possible applications in grazing management. *Proceedings of the Grasslands Society of South Africa* 5, 115-118.
- Catchpole WRaW, C. J. (1992). Estimating plant biomass: A review of techniques. *Australian Journal of Ecology* 17, 121-131.
- DEECA 2023a. Spring weed control. Email correspondence with land manager from Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action
- DEECA Email 2023b. Offset supplementary works permission. Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action
- DELWP 2021. Linear Grassland Reserves Program Weed Control Monitoring Program. Fact Sheet produced by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Ecolink 2023. Birregurra Offset Monitoring Report Year 5. Consultancy report prepared for Bleak House Land Trust by Ecolink, Northcote.
- Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd (2019). 'Offset Management Plan: 435 McDonnells Road Ombersely (Birregurra), Victoria (EPBC 2015/7486) '.
- Scott-Walker G (2022) Weed Management Strategy for BB-3044 LA01 and VC-CFL-3044_02, Ombersley. Consultancy report prepared for Bleak House Land Trust by Geordie Scott-Walker, Newport
- Scott Walker 2024. Weed Management Strategy Progress Report for BB-3044 LA01 and VC-CFL-3044_02, Ombersley. Consultancy report prepared for Bleak House Land Trust by Geordie Scott-Walker, Castlemaine

Appendix A.1

Section 8: Annual monitoring of habitat and effectiveness of management actions

The Landowner undertakes to establish seven permanent photo-points across the offset site. These points will be marked via GPS and shown on a Figure. Photographs taken from these points will be representative of the vegetation and objectives of the OMP (e.g. areas of high threat weed invasion). Photographs will be taken in October annually and clearly labelled. Each photo will be taken from as near to the same point each year and will use the same direction, trajectory and camera settings as is practicable.

Annual monitoring must be undertaken by the landowner (or an appointed entity on behalf of the landowner), and must include an assessment of:

- Photographs taken at seven established photo-points;
- The extent, severity, trend and presence of current weed species and any new and emerging weed species.
- The extent, severity, trend and presence of pest animal activity;
- Biomass levels, visually assessed across the site;
- Evidence of unpermitted human/stock access; and,
- Any new threats.

The annual monitoring must be undertaken for each year of the ten years of this Offset Management Plan, and every year following for the life of the projects approval under the EPBC Act (ie. until July 2030)

Appendix A.2

Section 8.4: Reporting

To demonstrate that the management measures are effective in meeting the environmental outcomes, this OMP requires the landowner to submit a report annually to DELWP and DoEE for each year of the ten years of this Offset Management Plan, and every year following for the life of the projects approval under the EPBC Act (ie. until July 2030).

Photographs and reports are to be submitted at least 2 months prior to the anniversary date of the execution of the agreement to allow time for compliance to be assessed before the anniversary date.

The report must address progress against the commitments set out in this agreement and the conditions of the EPBC Act referral (EPBC 2015/7486). Reports should provide 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 each zone.

- Information to be provided in the progress report includes:
- Detailing actions completed during the reporting period;
- Results of SLL population monitoring;
- Results of vegetation condition assessment (Habitat Hectare Assessment);
- A description of the specific monitoring results from ecological surveys undertaken;
- Results of weed and pest animal control work;
- Successful management tools (i.e. techniques used to control weed species, monitoring technique, etc.);
- Any problems or issues experienced (i.e. new infestation of weed species, etc.);
- Any corrective actions and contingency measures where monitoring indicates that there has been a deterioration in the native vegetation or SLL population;
- Photographs showing evidence of works; and,
- Assessment on how the site is on track to meet, or meets the conditions of the conditions under the EPBC referral (EPBC 2015/7486), including an assessment against the EPBC offset gain calculator inputs

If any agreed management actions or commitments are incomplete or have not been undertaken in the times specified, the landowner is to document the justification and the substituted actions that will be undertaken in order to compensate and ensure the required outcomes are achieved.

All records/evidence of management actions must be maintained, and be submitted to DoEE upon request.

Appendix A.3

Section 8.2: Detailed vegetation monitoring (Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10)

Detailed vegetation monitoring will be conducted by a qualified ecologist for an initial four year period, and then in years 6, 8 and 10 of this management plan, and will document the following components:

- Overall assessment of the quality and quantity of vegetation and composition of species (i.e. Habitat Hectare assessment*);
- Biomass levels, assessed through 14 x 1 m² sampling plots equidistant along the offset site; and,
- The extent, severity, trend and presence of current weed species and any new and emerging weed species.

* Department of Sustainability and Environment 2004. Vegetation quality assessment manual: Guidelines for applying the habitat hectares scoring method. Version 1.3. Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne Victoria

Appendix A.4

Section 8.3: Striped Legless Lizard population monitoring (Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10)

In addition to annual monitoring outlined in Section 8.1.1, appropriate monitoring of SLL will be undertaken for an initial four year period, and then in years 6, 8 and 10 of this management plan, or thereafter upon written agreement with the Commonwealth Minister for Environment. If the results indicate a decline in the population size or habitat degradation becomes evident, actions within this management plan will be re-evaluated. If any changes to management are required in the landowners' view, a revised management strategy must be approved by DoEE prior to implementation. Monitoring of SLL habitat must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist(s).

Specific survey procedures will follow those approved monitoring guidelines for SLL prepared by DoEE*. The following measures will be undertaken as part of population and habitat monitoring for SLL at the offset site:

Surveys are to be conducted by suitably trained observers;

As the offset site is contiguous with other conservation areas managed for the same conservation values, monitoring for SLL may be undertaken across the broader area (thereby reducing the survey effort required within each individual conservation/offset site). However, a minimum of ten monitoring grids, containing 50 tiles each, must be located within the offset site outlined within this plan, or within adjacent conservation areas. At least three of these grids must be located within the offset site outlined within this plan (ie the remaining seven grids may be located within adjacent conservation areas). These tile grids must be maintained and checked a minimum of two times between October – November;

- Shelter sites will be checked when ambient temperatures do not exceed 28°C. Grids may be checked during summer/autumn for the presence of shed skin; and,
- Checking more frequently than once or twice a week may lead to SLL abandoning the artificial shelters, as such, tile checks at this frequency should be avoided.

* Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2011. Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened reptiles, EPBC Act survey guidelines 6.6.

Appendix A.5

Landowner Agreement: Compliance with the Obligations of the Landowner

Management of the site

In relation to the Site, the Landowner covenants and agrees:

5.4 to complete the Management Actions for the purpose of achieving the Management Commitments, to the standards required by the Site Management Plan and to the satisfaction of the Secretary, regardless of whether all Native Vegetation Credits have been sold to other people. Where the Landowner has completed the Management Actions specified in the Site Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary, but a Management Commitment is not achieved for reasons out of the control of the Landowner, the Secretary will not withhold any payment to the Landowner;

5.5 to allow the Secretary and the Secretary's officers, employees, agents, contractors, invitees and licensees access to, and entry onto the Site in accordance with this Agreement or the Conservation Forests and Land Act 1987; and

5.6 to undertake the works required to implement the Site Management Plan in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and statutes, including subordinate instruments and authorisation.

Protection of Native Vegetation

5.7 The Landowner must:

5.7.1 not cause or consent to the removal, destruction, lopping or any other interference with any Native Vegetation on the Site;

5.7.2 take all reasonable steps to ensure that no Native Vegetation on the Site is removed, destroyed, lopped or otherwise interfered with; and

5.7.3 subject to clause 6.4, not apply for, or consent to an application for, a permit under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) to remove, destroy or lop Native Vegetation on the Site.

Protection of other habitat

5.8 Subject to clauses 2.13 and 6.4, the Landowner must:

5.8.1 not cause or consent to the removal or interference with any rocks or fallen vegetation on the Site; and

5.8.2 take all reasonable steps to ensure that no rock or fallen vegetation on the Site is removed or interfered with.

Exclusion of livestock

5.9 Subject to clauses 2.13 and 6.4, and except as provided for in any Management Notice under clause 7, the Landowner must:

5.9.1 not cause or consent to the introduction of any livestock on the Site; and

5.9.2 take all reasonable steps to ensure that no livestock enter or remain on the Site.

Introduction of animals other than livestock

5.10 Subject to clauses 2.13, 5.11 and 6.4, the Landowner must:

5.10.1 not bring, or consent to the bringing of, any Domestic Animal onto the Site;
and

5.10.2 take all reasonable steps to exclude any Domestic Animal that enters onto the Site.

5.11 The Landowner may bring domestic dogs on to the Site provided that any dogs so brought are under the immediate control of the Landowner or another person authorised by the Landowner at all times.

Installation or upgrade of fencing

5.12 This clause applies if the Site is adjacent to any land from which any stock or person (whether or not the person is in a vehicle):

5.12.1 has ready access to the Site;

5.12.2 is reasonably likely to have ready access to the Site; or

5.12.3 becomes reasonably likely to have ready access to the Site.

5.13 If clause 5.12 applies, the Landowner must, subject to clause 6.4, ensure that there is adequate fencing and gates between the land and the Site so as to protect the Site from being readily accessible by stock or persons.

5.14 Subject to clause 6.4, any works required under clause 5.13 must be carried out:

5.14.1 in the case of a site to which clauses 5.12.1 or 5.12.2 apply at the Commencement of this Agreement, within three months of the Commencement Date of this Agreement or at any earlier time specified in the Site Management Plan; or

5.14.2 in any other case, within three months of any change in circumstance that creates a reasonable likelihood of any stock or person having ready access to the Site for the purposes of clause 5.12.3, or at any earlier time specified by the Secretary by written notice to the Landowner.

Maintenance of fencing

5.15 Subject to clause 6.4, the Landowner must maintain any fencing required by clause 5.10.2 or clause 5.13 in good repair and condition at all times.

Statutory pest management obligations

5.16 From the Commencement Date of this Agreement and on an ongoing basis, the Landowner must, in relation to the Site, ensure compliance with:

5.16.1 the requirement to prevent the growth and spread of Regionally Controlled Weeds under section 20(1)(e) of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic);

5.16.2 the requirement to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible, eliminate established pest animals under section 20(1)(f) of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic); and

5.16.3 the requirement to eradicate Regionally Prohibited Weeds under section 20(1)(d) of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic).

Weeds identified in Site Management Plan

5.17 The Landowner must, to the extent specified in the Site Management Plan, eradicate or prevent the growth and spread of any Weed or other plant as specified in the Site Management Plan.

Application of fertiliser

5.18 The Landowner must:

- 5.18.1 not apply any fertiliser to any part of the Site;
- 5.18.2 not consent to the application of any fertiliser to any part of the Site; and
- 5.18.3 take all reasonable steps to ensure that fertiliser is not applied to any part of the Site.

Buildings and structures

5.19 Subject to clauses 2.13, 6.4 and 5.20, the Landowner must:

- 5.19.1 not erect or place any building or structure on the Site; and
- 5.19.2 take all reasonable steps to ensure that no building or structure is placed on the Site by any other person.

5.20 The Landowner may erect temporary structures on the Site as part of any grazing of livestock authorised under the Site Management Plan, consent under clause 6.4 or Management Notice under clause 7.

Alterations to the natural state of water bodies

5.21 Subject to clauses 2.13 and 6.4, the Landowner must not cause or consent to, and must take all reasonable steps to avoid any occurrence of, any act which alters the natural state of, or the flow, supply, quantity or quality of, any body of water on to or from the Site.

Rubbish and other materials

5.22 The Landowner must not cause or consent to, and must take all reasonable steps to avoid, the dumping of any rubbish or the storage of any materials on the Site.

Further restrictions on using the land

5.23 Subject to clause 6.4, the Landowner must not cause or consent to any of the following, and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the following do not occur on the Site:

- 5.23.1 the removal, introduction or disturbance of any soil, rocks or other minerals or the construction of dams or modification of existing dams;
- 5.23.2 subdivision;
- 5.23.3 the operation of any trade, industry or business;
- 5.23.4 the recreational use of trail bikes or four wheel drive vehicles;
- 5.23.5 the carrying out of any works on the Site other than those required by this Agreement or by law; and
- 5.23.6 the carrying out of any other activities not consistent with the purposes of this Agreement.

Extractive industry and utility installations

5.24 The Landowner must not permit, unless required by law:

- 5.24.1 the issue of any licence or approval for exploration, mining, extraction or production of gas, petroleum, minerals or other substances on the Site; or
- 5.24.2 the installation of any transmission lines or other services or works on the Site.

5.25 The Landowner must bring this Agreement to the attention of any person who notifies the Landowner that they have applied for or will be applying for a licence, approval or proposal to take an action of the kind described in clauses 5.24.1 and 5.24.2, and to any other person or body whose approval is required to take that action.

5.26 The landowner must notify the Secretary of any notification of an application for a licence, approval or proposal to take an action of the kind described in clauses 5.24.1 and 5.24.2.