EPBC 2015/7486: Offset Management Plan Report, Year 5

(Management period: 2023 / 2024)

Inundated ground months after ecological burn in Offset Site

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 #	5
Signature	Claire Dennis James Dennis Claire Dennis James Dennis
Date	May 2024

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 Stripped 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 a 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 m^2 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 m^2 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:

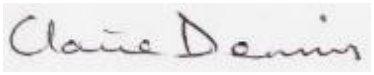
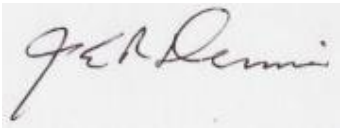
	
Claire Dennis	James Dennis

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 NTGVVP 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 (Photograph 1, 3 and 7). Monitoring of fence integrity is ongoing see calendar of works for fence monitoring.
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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 (Photograph 1)

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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.
Weed Control					
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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)	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. An overview is provided here based on the Vegetation Quadrat Assessments undertaken at the photo points. The average weed cover across the photopoints was 36% compared with 44% last year. Most of the photo points are not within areas nominated for weed control yet but will be in future

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
					years. The results of weed control undertaken this year are provided in the AWMS monitoring report which better describes the effects of the spraying. As described in the AWMS report 2024, the initial year or two (no further data is available due to the duration of the AWMS being two years to date) following spraying has showing to supress 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. An additional weed control method of Spring burns was trialled. Burns were attempted in Spring, during September, October and November, both in some areas previously fenced in accordance with the burn plan and some areas outside of those fenced for the season as approved by DEECA (email 2023). These burns focused on areas with higher levels of priority impact weeds such as Creeping Bent, Toowoomba Canary-grass, Yorkshire Fog and Sweet Vernal. The Toowoomba Canary-grass did not burn very well probably due to its diffuse cover in the offset. The burn was least successful at burning these weeds in September, compared to later in the season, and yet would still carry on areas with Kangaroo Grass that were within the weedy areas (the Kangaroo Grass

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
					was observed to continue to grow later in the season following this September burn). In later October and early November Sweet Vernal and Creeping Bent were observed to carry the fire while the Kangaroo Grass was less receptive to the flames. At this time the Sweet Vernal was coming into flower and the Creeping Bent was about to flower (about 4 weeks away from peak). The flower heads of the Sweet Vernal were observed to be scorched and potentially desiccated by the fire while the Creeping Bent was prevented from flowering for that season. Recent examination (April 2024) of the area of Creeping Bent that was burnt in November 2023, found that grazing this season was eating leaves of the Creeping Bent in the burnt area while not eating the Creeping Bent in the unburnt area adjacent. This is possibly due to the higher levels of thatch, retained fine standing dead material from old flower spikes or the difference in leaf age in the unburnt Creeping Bent. The weed species response to these burns will be monitored and further trials are proposed to be undertaken this year provided conditions are suitable (AWMS 2024). Finding suitable days was the greatest challenge due to rainfall, soil moisture and wind being more variable in Spring compared with Autumn.

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
					Regardless the above average rainfall and mild temperatures have favoured the growth of exotic species such as Brown-top Bent, Yorkshire Fog and Sweet Vernal Grass.
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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	The only new and emerging weed is the South African Weed-Orchid *Disa Bracteata*, 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. All plants observed are recorded with GPS, removed, including their bulb, placed in a bag and burnt offsite. This appears to be an effective approach to limit further establishment of the species as current records are few and sporadic. Additional exotic species have been added to the list of weeds recorded in the OMP. However these weeds are not new or emerging but rather were not originally identified in the OMP and have subsequently been added due to revision of the overall species list for the paddock. None of the species to be added are high threat. Chilean Needle-grass was observed in a neighbour's neighbouring paddock. The closest population to the offset site approximately 100 m away was chipped out by hand and we are working with the landholder to manage this species on their property.

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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
Pest Animal Control					
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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.
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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 in March 2023, and during subsequent monitoring assessments.

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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.
Biomass Management					

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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 600 – 640 with one occasion of 370 mob of sheep), but short period (one to 14 days). In the past 12 months pulse grazes were undertaken on four separate occasions with approximately one to two months rest between pulses, between January to September. The fencing of areas to be burnt delayed the start time for grazing to March as sheep are not supposed to graze areas to be burnt prior to the burn to ensure enough biomass to burn. The following biomass covers were recorded as an average across the Offset: Inter Tussock Space 28%, Litter 15%, Height 19 cm, biomass height 9 cm, total vegetation cover 74%. The grazing schedule for this offset site is detailed in Table 8.
1-10	32 ha of NTGVVP 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 recruitment of herbs and grasses.	A burn plan was developed in March 2021 and approved by DELWP. Five regions were fenced prior to grazing and then burnt in April to May. These regions were designed to satisfy the requirements of the OMP and were under 60 metres in width. There was recruitment of plants in burnt areas including both native and exotic species. Weed control was

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
					undertaken in all areas burnt which has result in areas of low vegetation cover. Where fluazifop-P was used increase in exotic forbs are noted, most notably Cat's ear and Onion Grass, however native forbs, such as Raspwort and St-John's Wort, have also been observed. In addition, compared with an unburnt area, the season following a burn resulted in reduced litter cover, earlier flowering of Kangaroo Grass, and a shorter height of Kangaroo Grass possibly due to the earlier flowering time. There appeared to be less biomass, however this could be largely due to the spraying in the burnt areas. In previous years, burns without spraying look almost indistinguishable from unburnt areas (from a biomass point of view), although litter (also related to biomass) would not have been as high the season immediately following a burn in burnt but not sprayed areas in previous years. Additional areas were fenced and left to be burnt in Spring in accordance with the WMS (2022). We attempted to burn in September, October and November with varying levels of success. However the focus of these burns was more towards weed management rather than biomass control (DEECA email 2023)
Detailed SLL population and vegetation monitoring					

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
Years 1-4, 6, 8 and 10	NTGVVP 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 vegetation monitoring is provided separately. Ecolink advised that due to the heavy rainfall, conditions were too wet to undertake effective SLL surveys during the recent season (2022) and recommended undertaking these surveys in 2023. This has since been completed in 2023 (year 5 reporting period rather than year 4) (Ecolink 2024)
Annual reporting					
1-10	NTGVVP Offset	Prepare and submit an annual report and photo monitoring to DELWP and DoEE. Refer Section 5.5.7 and 8.1 of OM. 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. Allow for ongoing auditing of the effectiveness of management.	Submit at least 1 to 2 months prior to on-title agreement anniversary date	Annual report is signed, dated and submitted by the Landowner at least 2 months prior to the anniversary date of on-title agreement registration 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. Obligations of the Landowner have been met and the obligations form is signed, dated and submitted with the annual report	An annual report has been prepared and submitted to DOEE and DELWP

Year	Area	Management Action Description	Timing	Environmental outcome to be achieved	Action taken with description
5	NTGVVP 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). This is estimated to be finalised by the end of July following discussions and review of 5 year results.

Table 2. Offset Management Plan: Weed Management Actions

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Bartisia*	*Billardia latifloia*	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	*Avena barbata*	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	*Agrostis capillaris* is likely to be *Agrostis stoloniferous* (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 April and May 2023. A Spring burn was trialled (DEECA 2023) in three locations (Figure 1) in September, October and November to assess behaviour of the fire and response of different species.	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 (such as April and early May) successfully burn Creeping Bent thatch. The cause appears to be later season new growth and cooler temperatures. Spring burns in September, October and November were found to be increasingly successful at burning Creeping Bent, until the Fire Ban period in mid November. Later in the season Kangaroo Grass was found to be less flammable, likely due to the increased new growth from the species. The Creeping Bent that was burnt in October and November was observed not to flower. Sheep were observed to eat the new growth in the following season, whereas adjacent Creeping Bent that was not burnt did not appear grazed. This difference could be due to the removal of thatch by the fire or a change in the growth stage of the leaves.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
						Glyphosate and fluazifop-P was applied in burnt areas on early growth of Creeping Bent in June and August. In a neighbouring cell outside of the offset site grazing was undertaken into December. the season may also help to control this weed by reducing.	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). Two years following spraying (in 2020) Creeping Bent appears to be beginning to re-establish, however this is pre WMS and a plot was not set up in this location for quantitative base lines. Grazing was undertaken in a neighbouring cell, outside the offset site, during December 2024 during the flowering period of the Creeping Bent. It was observed that the sheep grazed Creeping Bent preferentially during this period including flower heads and vegetative parts. .

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Buck's-horn Plantain	*Plantago coronopus*	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.	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. 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.
Capitate Rush*	*Juncus capitatus*	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.
Cape weed	*Arctotheca calendula*	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.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Cat's Ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*	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*	*Centaurium erythraea*	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.
Chickweed	*Stellaria media*	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 *	*Cicendia sp.*	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
Couch	*Cynodon dactylon*	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 *Agrostis* sp.	There has been no couch observed within the Offset Site. Refer above for details of Brown-top Bent.
Hair Grass	*Aira spp.*	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 the flame. The trial burn was in an area sprayed in December 2022, and burnt in Sept 2023. The spray created bared areas which promoted Hair Grass establishment.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Hairy Hawkbit*	*Leontodon saxatilis*	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	*Trifolium arvense*	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	*Trifolium campestre var. campestre*	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	*Briza major*	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 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
Mediterranean Stork's-bill*	*Erodium botrys*	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 Sork'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	*Romulea rosea*	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.
Ox-tongue	*Helminthotheca echioides*	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.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Perennial Rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*	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	*Plantago lanceolata*	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*	*Cynosurus echinatus*	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.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Salsify	*Tragopogon porrifolius* subsp. *porrifolius*	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. Approximately 500 individuals were beheaded (Photograph 6, Figure 1).
Sheep Sorrel	*Acetosella vulgaris*	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*	*Briza minor*	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	*Hypochaeris glabra*	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.
Soft Brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*	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 *	*Sonchus* 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	*Cirsium vulgare*	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 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.	Spear Thistle 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. Approximately 100 individuals were beheaded (Plate 5, Figure 1)
Squirrel-tail Fescue	*Vulpia bromoides*	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	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	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 abundance of this species. Mowing and burning were trialled as approved by DEECA (2023) to remove seed heads of this species.	Sweet Vernal-grass has been rare within the Offset Site in previous years (prior to 2019), however the cooler and wet conditions of the past 48 months appear to have favoured this species with a higher cover (~50%) of it recorded in several discrete areas around 20 x 50 m across the offset stie and the paddock. This trend in increased Sweet Vernal has also been noticed across the region. Greater focus has been given to this species in the last 3 years. Research suggests that a cool burn of the weed in spring may prevent seed set. Cool spring burns were discussed with DELWP (2020).despite recommendations from the OMP to spray in October to January it was noted that by December the plant has finished flowering. The window to spray is narrow as the species comes to leaf in spring and is difficult to identify by the spray team until it flowers, the timing of which is seasonally dependant. In response to these difficulties in spraying the species, mowing and spring burning have been trialled (DEECA 2023). Death of flower heads was observed in response to a spring burn. Further monitoring will be undertaken this spring to assess the response of the species to these actions (Photo). Late grazing will be considered this year however depends on the conditions of

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
							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*	*Isolepis levynsiana*	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.
Toad Rush*	*Juncus bufonius*	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.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Toowoomba Canary- grass	*Phalaris aquatica*	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.

Common name	Scientific name	High Threat	Zone(s)	Method	Timing	Description of actions	Comments and observations
Yorkshire Fog	*Holcus lanatus*	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.	During 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 the cover of Yorkshire Fog within the Offset Site was higher than previous years but was patchy and only getting to 5% cover. The prevalence of this weed fluctuates from year to year and appears heavily dependent on years with higher rainfall such as 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. Spot spray is likely to be more effective during active growing seasons such as Spring. The areas were surveyed during winter (July) where Yorkshire Fog was recorded the previous year (in the northern portion of the offset) however the species could not be identified at that time of the year. Spot spray was undertaken during Winter and early spring 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)	*Trifolium repens*	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 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. Fox bait has been laid on 20 June following purchase of fox bait in response to observed signs of fox activity as described in previous monitoring report (2023).	Fox bait was laid on 20 June 2023 and checked to assess uptake the following day and was found to be taken. The location was re baited on 21 June 2023 and re baited and checked the following day. The second bait was not taken by the following day and so it was removed and disposed of (Photo). One fox was shot on the 26th of March 2024, in cell 6 (Photo). Fox shooting was carried out 5th May 2024, in the surrounding property between 4 km to 1 km from the offset, with 16 foxes shot (receipt of shooters record) 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.

					Evidence such as scats and the active den in March 2023 were suggestive of fox activity. The den was not able to be collapsed as this would result in soil disturbance which is not permitted in the OMP. Further scats were observed in October (Photograph 21). No harbour is located within the Offset site.
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.

Response to letter from DELWP of required actions:

Following last years landowner reporting results VC_CFL-3044_02, Site 1,2 – Year 4, DEWLP made requests for further information to be reported on in addition to the existing landholder reporting requirements. These additional items are listed below:

Pest animal control:

- *Please provide more specific detail around how often that monitoring is carried out, what in particular was monitored for and continue to report on the results of that monitoring each time. You also note that evidence of foxes was observed in March this year and you have ordered poison. Please also ensure you include details of when baiting happened and the results of baiting I your next annual report.*
    - Further information has been provided in Table 3, to satisfy this request.

Herbaceous weed control:

- *Please provide more detail of the general covers of the weeds to give a clearer picture of their cover. For example; you note there are 'not many thistles', however it is more helpful to state something like '<10 scattered plants', 'Widespread and Sparse', 'dense in southwest corner of 1A'.*
    - Further information in Table 2 has been provided to satisfy this request.

- *Please note, that any perennial weed species is classified as a high threat weed, and that some species you have noted as low threat in your annual report are actually high threat weeds. They may be in low abundance which may indicate they are not having a high impact at the present time, but they are still high threat weeds and may be aggressive colonisers of bare ground. Please ensure you note this in future reports and also add these species to your management focus.*

    - This has been amended. All species make reference to cover and occurrence location. High threat has been updated from the OMP listing and High impact has been identified as a focus for management priority.

- *Please also ensure that you carry out extra weed control measures to compensate for the lack of management during the wet conditions in Spring 2022 and report on this in your next annual report.*
    - Extra weed control was undertaken as evidenced by the AWMS monitoring report, Ecolink (2024), the invoice and the photos.

Biomass Management Issues:

- *You note in your Annual Report that pulse grazing was carried out to some extent in the offset site (but was interrupted due to wet conditions). In future reporting, please provide more details of the affect on native vegetation, bare ground percentages, and weed covers after the pulse grazing has finished and track changes into the future. Please also provide similar information after burning management for affected areas.*
    - Compare monitoring of photo points in burn areas vs grazed vs un grazed if applicable, and any other opportunistic observations.
    - In accordance with the OMP, monitoring of percentages of native vegetation cover, weed vegetation cover, bare ground, and inter tussock spaces are recorded during October and reported in table 5.
    - The monitoring of these photo points and from the AWMS provide information to compare between burn and grazed and sprayed treatments for some of the parameters mentioned such as vegetation cover (native and exotic) and bare ground.

By the time the cells were monitored in October, the main differences between the burn and grazed areas were less organic litter, a slight but not measurable decrease in Kangaroo Grass tussock cover, and an increase in annual weeds, namely Winter Grass and Small Quaking-grass. In areas that spray was undertaken, cover of weed species in particular Creeping Bent and Toowoomba Canary-grass, declined and bare ground increased. Herbs including native Raspwort, native St-Johns Wort and Solenogyne recruited into these bare areas as well as exotic Cat's Ear. Further details are provided within the AWMS (Scott-Walker 2024).

Other comments and observations

The offset site was traversed by auditory recording technicians for the nearby wind farm during XXX 2023. While traversing the site the team bogged their 4WD vehicle which resulted in two wheel ruts approximately 10 m long. These ruts have been filled back in with the displaced soil and will be sown with appropriate species when conditions are suitable.

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).

As approved by DEECA (email 2023) seed collection and distribution was undertaken within the Offset Site. Areas dominated by Kangaroo Grass were focused on for seed collection, while distribution was made into areas sprayed that season (Figure 1, Photograph 24, 25, 26). Kangaroo Grass was focused on as it seems to outcompete Creeping Bent while also assisting management of the offset site with various strategies such as burning and selective herbicides. Areas are shown in Figure 1.

As mentioned in the AWMS, it is intended to create a plan for seed production offsite to use within the Offset to enable the scales and diversity of species needed to increase likelihood of successful seed establishment. This is likely to take several years to find appropriate species, collect seed, bulk up propagules in a nursery and generate enough seed to broadcast at scale in the offset site. There are concerns that the weed management approach will not be a long term solution to the targets specified within the OMP. As discussed in the findings from the Linear Grassland Reserves Program (Farmilo 2021) weed management doesn't ensure long term control of weed species and does not result in increase in native species.

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

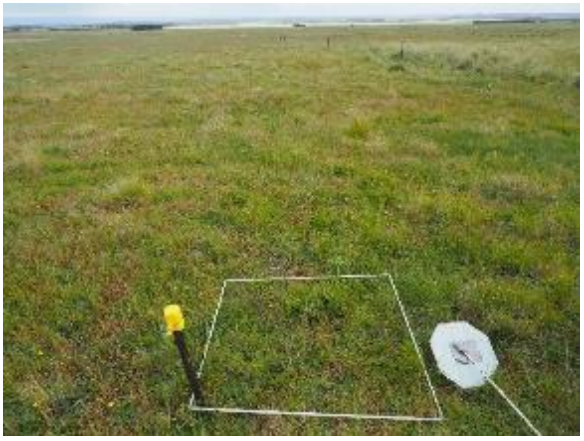
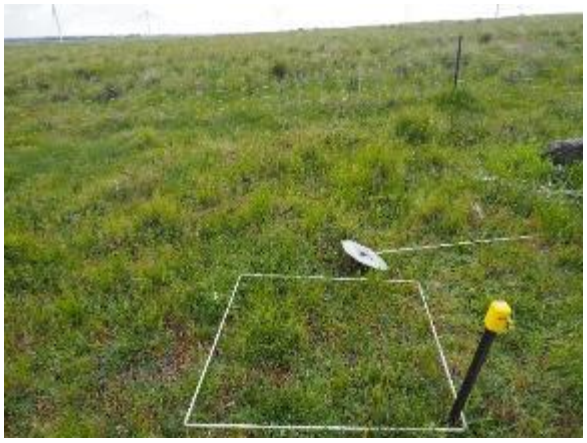
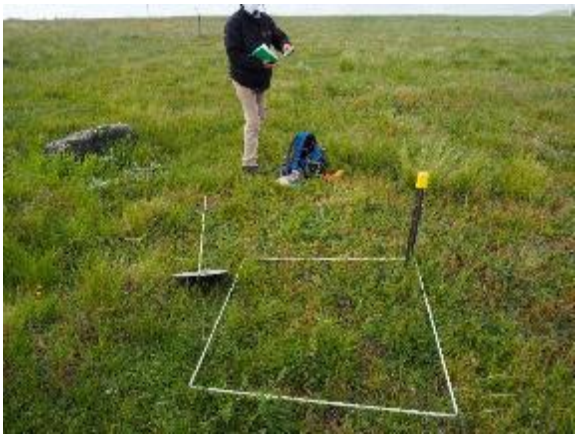
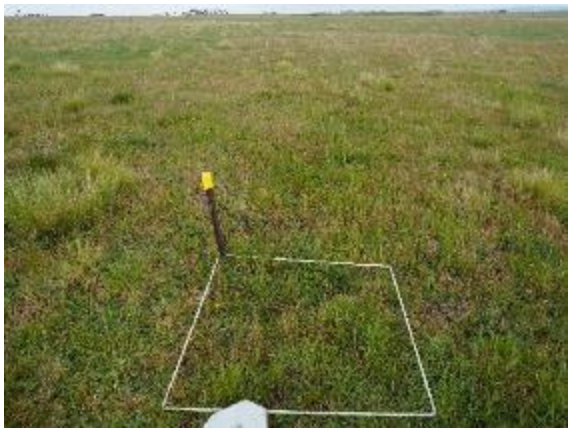
Photo Point Monitoring results	
Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486 Photo point number: 101 Photo point ID: Tussocks Lat: -38 15 439 Long: 143 45 995 Date:31/10/2023 Time: 5.25 pm	 View from above quadrat.
 Landscape view looking South	 Landscape view looking West
 Landscape view looking North	 Landscape view looking East

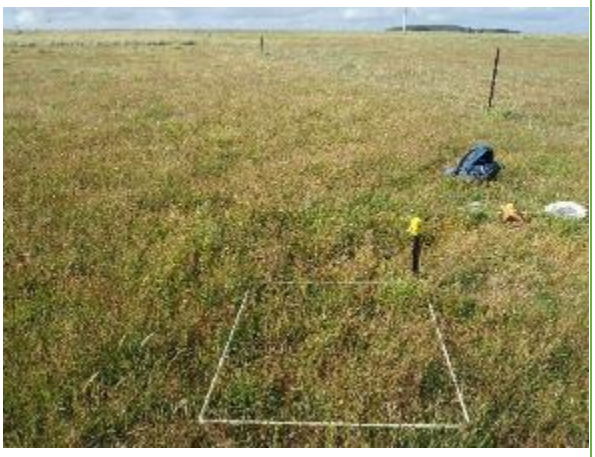
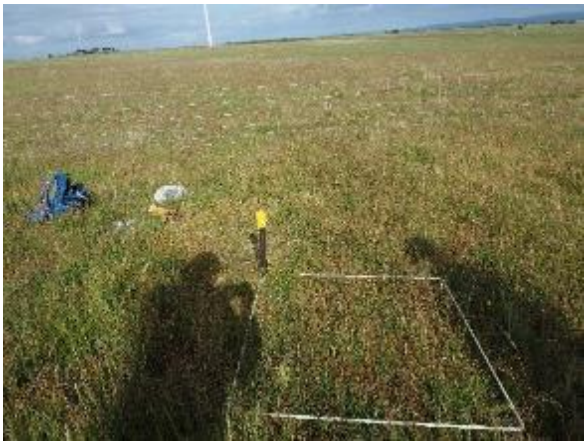
Photo Point Monitoring results	
Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486 Photo point number: 102 Photo point ID: Themeda Lat: -38 15 478 Long: 143 45 981 Date: 31/10/2023 Time: 5.10 pm	 View from above quadrat.
 Landscape view looking South	 Landscape view looking West
 Landscape view looking North	 Landscape view looking East

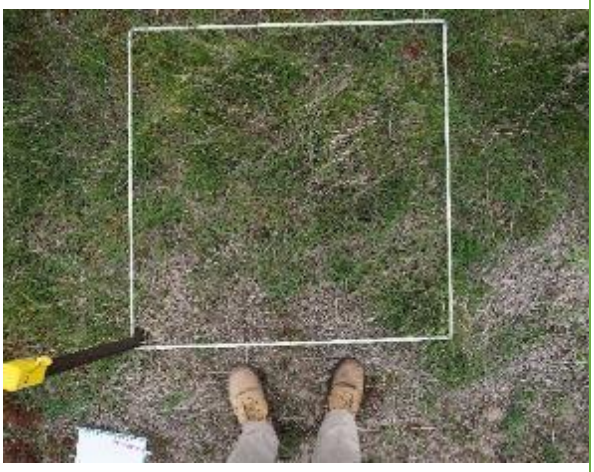
Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 103
Photo point ID: Buttons

Lat: -38 15 748
Long: 143 46 174

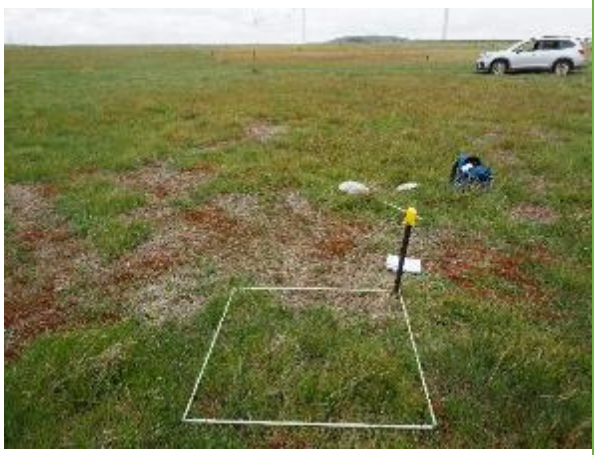
Date: 31/10/2023
Time: 2.50 pm



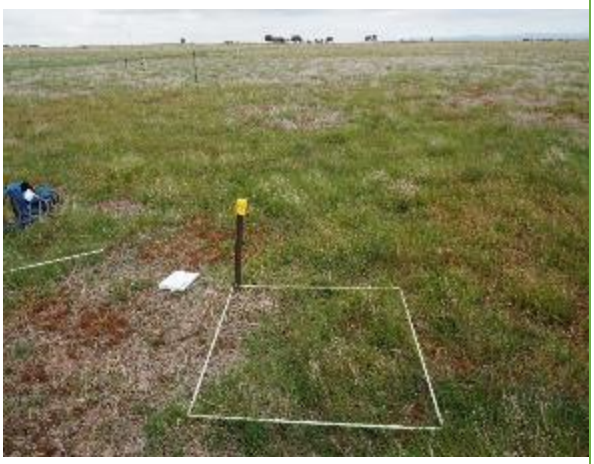
View from above quadrat.

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

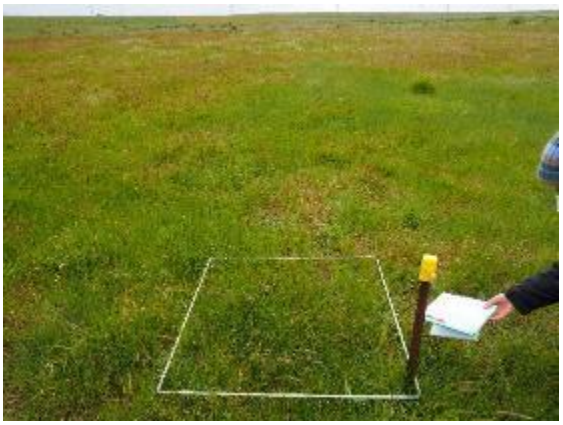
Photo point number: 104
Photo point ID: Bent and Themeda

Lat: -38 15 644
Long: 143 46 120

Date: 31/10/2023
Time: 3.20 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

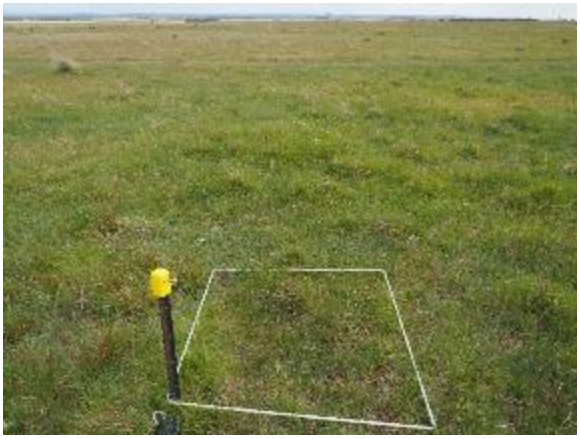
Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 105
Photo point ID: Wallaby grass

Lat: -38 15 681
Long: 143 46 044

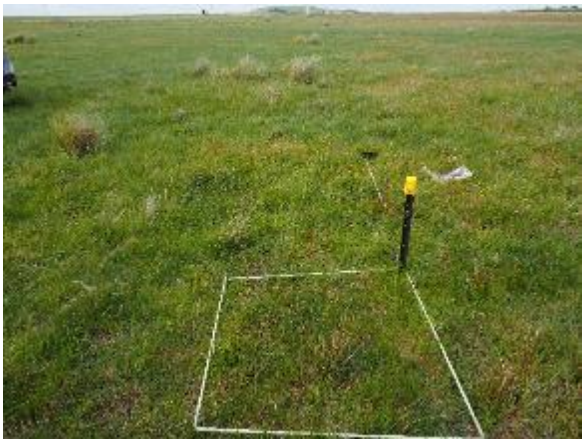
Date: 31/10/2023
Time: 4.10 pm

View from above quadrat.

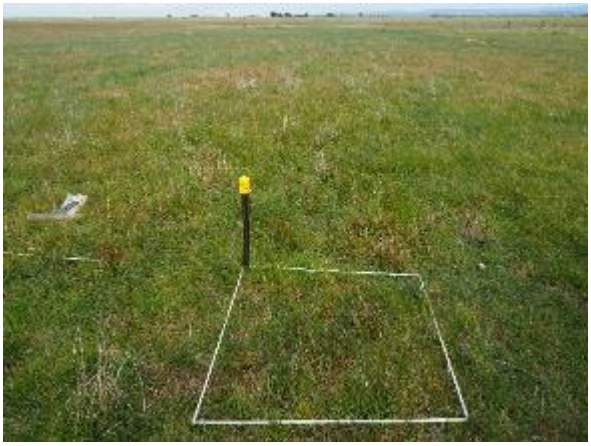


Landscape view looking South

Landscape view looking West



Landscape view looking North



Landscape view looking East

Photo Point Monitoring results

Offset Site: EPBC 2015/7486

Photo point number: 106
Photo point ID: Themeda south

Lat: -38 15 712
Long: 143 45 914

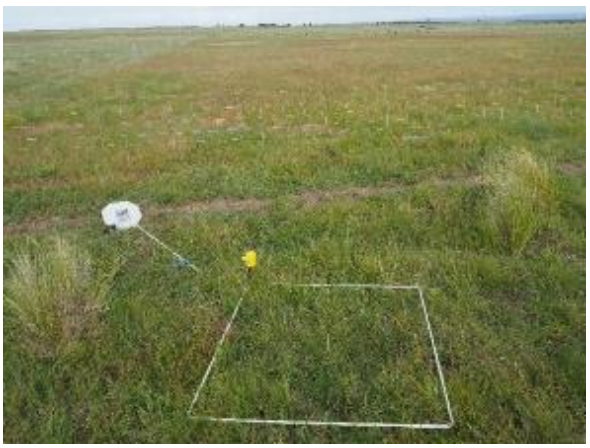
Date: 31/10/2023
Time: 4.20 pm

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: 31/10/2023
Time: 4.50 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

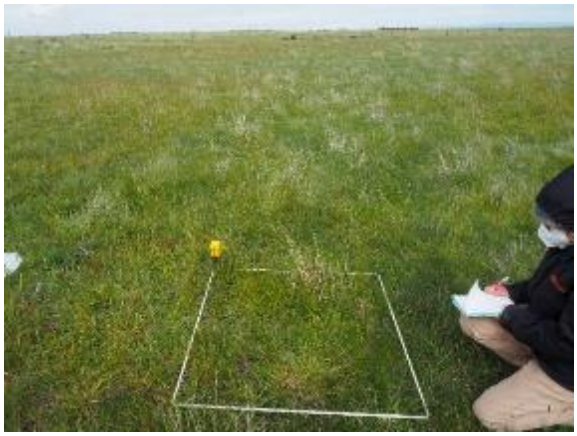
Date: 31/10/2023
Time: 3.50 pm

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 2015/7486**	**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-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**	**Oct-23**
Total Vegetation Cover	**74%**	**78%**	**83%**	**80%**	**65%**	**66%**	**60%**	**83%**	**80%**
Total Native Vegetation Cover	39%	26%	56%	65%	12%	37%	8%	75%	32%
Graminoids	37%	25%	55%	64%	10%	35%	5%	73%	25%
Herbs	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	7%
Total Weeds	36%	52%	27%	15%	53%	29%	52%	8%	48%
Total Grasses	27%	51%	7%	13%	51%	27%	51%	6%	11%
Grasses – perennial	25%	50%	2%	12%	49%	25%	50%	1%	8%
Grasses – annual	3%	1%	5%	1%	2%	2%	1%	5%	3%
Dicots	8%	1%	20%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	37%
Bare Ground	11%	5%	12%	5%	10%	14%	10%	15%	18%
Litter	15%	17%	5%	15%	25%	20%	30%	2%	2%
Moss – present or absent	0%	present	absent	Absent	absent	present	absent	present	present
Inter-tussock space	**28%**	**30%**	**18%**	**21%**	**37%**	**30%**	**43%**	**19%**	**27%**
Biomass monitoring									
Average height (cm)	19	24.4	12.8	16.6	15.4	22.6	14.2	26	16
Average biomass height (cm) comments	7	9.6	4.4	5.8	6.8	9.6 Burn area	6.2	10 Burn area	7

- Monitoring assessment was undertaken at the end of October.

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

For each photo point and quadrat survey, all species found within the $1m^2$ quadrat have been indicated by "$1m^2$". Any further species recorded in 1 m surrounding the $1m^2$ quadrat have been indicated by a $9m^2$.

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	*Acaena ovina*	Sheep's Burr				9m2	9m2			1m2
native	*Anthosachne scabra*	Common Wheat Grass								9m2
native	*Arthropodium strictum*	Chocolate Lily		1m2			1m2	1m2	1m2	
native	*Asperula conferta*	Common Woodruff								
native	*Austrostipa spp.*	Spear Grass					1m2			9m2
native	*Convolvulus angustissimus*	Blushing Bind Weed		1m2	1m2		1m2		1m2	
native	*Dichelachne crinita*	Long-hair Plume-grass							1m2	1m2
native	*Drosera peltata*	Pale Sun Dew	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	9m2	9m2		
native	*Eryngium ovinum*	Blue Devil	1m2	9m2	9m2	1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2	9m2
native	*Gonocarpus tetragynus*	Raspwort	1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2	1m2	1m2		
native	*Hypericum gramineum*	Small St-John's wort		1m2				1m2		9m2
native	*Juncus holoschoenus*	Joint Leaf Rush				1m2				
native	*Juncus subsecundus*	Finger Rush	9m2				1m2		9m2	9m2
native	*Leptorhynchos squamatus*	Scaly Button	9m2	1m2			9m2	9m2	9m2	
native	*Lomandra nana*	Pale Mat Rush					9m2			1m2
native	*Microtis unifolia*	Onion Orchid	1m2	9m2	1m2		9m2	1m2	1m2	
native	*Oxalis perennans*	Grassland Wood Sorrel	1m2	9m2			1m2		1m2	1m2

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	*Pentapogon quadrifidus*	Five-awned Spear Grass		9m2			1m2			9m2
native	*Plantago gaudichaudii*	Narrow-leaf Plantain								
native	*Poa labillardierei*	Silver Tussock			9m2	9m2	9m2			1m2
native	*Poa morrisii*	Velvet Tussock Grass		9m2	9m2					
native	*Rumex dumosus*	Wiry Dock			1m2					
native	*Rytidosperma sp.*	Wallaby Grass sp.					9m2	1m2	9m2	1m2
native	*Schoenus apogon*	Common Bog Rush	1m2	1m2		1m2	9m2	9m2	1m2	1m2
native	*Solenogyne dominii*	Solenogyne		1m2			1m2	9m2		
native	*Themeda triandra*	Kangaroo Grass	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2
native	*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*	Common Sunray					9m2			
exotic	*Agrostis capillaris*	Brown Top Bent	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2
exotic	*Aira caryophyllea*	Silver Hair Grass	1m2	1m2		1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	Sweet Vernal-grass	1m2	9m2	1m2			1m2		
exotic	*Avena fatua*	Wild Oat								
exotic	*Briza maxima*	Large Quaking Grass						1m2		
exotic	*Briza minor*	Lesser Quaking Grass	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Bromus hordeaceus*	Soft Brome								
exotic	*Centaurium erythraea*	Common Centaury	9m2	9m2	1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Cerastium vulgare*	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed	9m2	9m2						
exotic	*Cicendia spp.*	Cicendia		1m2			9m2			
exotic	*Cirsium vulgare*	Spear Thistle								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
exotic	*Cynosurus echinatus*	Rough Dog's-tail								
exotic	*Disa bracteata*	South African Orchid								
exotic	*Holcus lanatus*	Yorkshire Fog		1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	9m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Hypochaeris radiata*	Flat Weed	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Isolepis levynsiana*	Tiny Flat-sedge	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2		1m2		
exotic	*Juncus bufonius*	Toad Rush	1m2		1m2	9m2	1m2	1m2		1m2
exotic	*Juncus capitatus*	Capitate Rush	9m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	
exotic	*Lolium perenne*	Rye Grass								1m2
exotic	*Poa annua*	Winter Grass					1m2			
exotic	*Plantago coronopus*	Buck's Horn Plantain					9m2	9m2		
exotic	*Romulea rosea*	Onion Grass	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2	1m2
exotic	*Sonchos oleraceus*	Common Sow Thistle								1m2
exotic	*Tragopogon porrifolius*	Salsify								
exotic	*Trifolium angustifolium*	Narrow Leaf Clover			1m2				9m2	9m2
exotic	*Trifolium campestre*	Hop Clover						9m2	9m2	
exotic	*Trifolium subterraneum*	Sub Clover					1m2			
exotic	*Veronica peregrina*	Wandering Speedwell								
exotic	*Vulpia bromoides*	Squirrel-tail Fescue		1m2			1m2		1m2	1m2

Table 8. Table of works completed

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

Date	Works undertaken	Time spent
18/04/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
18/04/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 640 wethers, 13 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3)	1x2 hours
13/06/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
13/06/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 640 wethers, 6 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3)	1x2 hours
21/08/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
21/08/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 615 wethers, 1 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3)	1x2 hours
05/03/24	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
05/03/24	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 600 wethers, 14 days, 1/3rd site (cell 3)	1x2 hours
13/04/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
13/04/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 640 wethers, 5 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5)	1x2 hours
21/06/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
21/06/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 640 wethers, 5 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5)	1x2 hours

Date	Works undertaken	Time spent
23/08/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
23/08/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 615 wethers, 5 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5)	1x2 hours
14/09/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
14/09/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 615 wethers, 1 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5)	1x2 hours
19/03/24	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
19/03/24	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 600 wethers, 7 days, 1/3rd site (cell 5)	1x2 hours
01/05/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
01/05/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 640 wethers, 14 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6)	1x2 hours
20/06/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
20/06/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 370 wethers, 3 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6)	1x2 hours
22/08/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
22/08/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 615 wethers, 2 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6)	1x2 hours
12/09/23	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
12/09/23	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 615 wethers, 2 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6)	1x2 hours

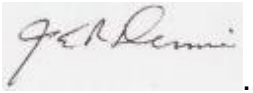
Date	Works undertaken	Time spent
02/04/24	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
02/04/24	Biomass control: Stock (sheep) movement. Intensity 600 wethers, 8 days, 1/3rd site (cell 6)	1x2 hours
March/April May	Fencing and preparing areas for ecological burns	2x44hr
22/04/23	Undertake ecological burns for biomass control	7x4 hrs
23/04/23	Undertake ecological burns for biomass control	6x5.5hr
24/04/23	Undertake ecological burns for biomass control	5x1hr
May 2023	Design weed management plan for year and arrange weed management contractors to undertake works based on WMS	1x12hr
20-22/06/23	Put out Fox Bait and checked it, re-baited	1x2hr
July 2023	Weed management contractors, TREC, spraying Brown Top Bent, in accordance with AWMS (TREC invoice)	2x40
14 July 2023	Auditing: Coordinating federal “ground truthing” data collection exercise, undertaken by Jacobs ecologists. This including meeting with the federal department, providing past reports and GIS information, arranging access, reviewing reports from Jacobs and providing feedback on the Offset process and lessons learnt.	2x 16 hr
29/10/23	Undertake ecological spring burns for biomass control	4x3hr
31 October 2023	Monitoring and Reporting: Photo Point survey and monitoring	2x8 hours
02/11/23	Mowed Sweet Vernal and sprayed Creeping Bent with selective herbicide as separate weed management trials	2x4hr

Date	Works undertaken	Time spent
03/11/23	Burn Creeping Bent to test effectiveness as weed management	1x4hr
13/11/23	Burnt Sweet Vernal seed heads in small area to monitor results in subsequent years	2x1hr
16/11/23	Burnt area adjacent to offset of Creeping Bent to ascertain effectiveness for control	2x1hr
29/12/23	Harvested Kangaroo Grass seeds with Grass Grabber and spread seed on burnt and sprayed areas.	3x4hr
15 January 2024	Monitoring: general overview of site threats, fence quality, presence of pest animals.	1x1 hours
February and November 2023	Follow up monitoring of WMS plots	1x16 hours
January 2024	Preparation of WMS Progress report	1x40 hours
March 2024	Fencing for 2024 burns	1 x 26.5hr
April 2024	Organising meeting for five-year review of OMP (to take place in June, and be prepared by August)	1x 1hr
April / May 2024	Coordinating monitoring report for WMS	1x8 hr
April/May 2024	Monitoring and Reporting: Report writing	2x30 hours

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.	Include supporting evidence by:	Submit at least 1 month prior to agreement anniversary date		Where applicable:
		Obligations of the landowner form		Yes (Page 4)	Obligations of the landowner form
		Payment method is correct		Not Applicable	Payment method is correct
		Detailed written observations & additional report		Yes (Table 1-3)	Detailed written observations & additional report
		Photo point monitoring		Yes (Tables 4-6)	Photo point monitoring
		Map of zones & photo points		Yes (Figure 1)	Map of zones & photo points and works
		Photographs of works undertaken		Yes (Table of Photographs below)	Photographs of works undertaken
		Receipts/invoices for materials & works carried out, including by contractors		Yes (Figure 2)	Receipts/invoices for works carried out, including by contractors
		Logbook of works carried out		Yes (Table 8)	Logbook of works carried out
		Receipts: seeds, seedlings purchased, list of species, No. each species (estimate No. seeds), provenance		Yes	Receipts seeds/seedlings, provenance, table of species list & numbers: Kangaroo Grass spread, harvested from site, areas seed spread shown in Figure 1. Also see receipt for seed harvester
		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		Not Applicable	Site log / table of plantings/germination & survival numbers by life form. No seed has germinated yet.

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: 3 / 06 / 2024**

Pictures documenting actions undertaken during management period ending April 2024.

Photograph 1. Fencing around cells and burn areas. Also showing area about to be burnt (23 April 2023).

Photograph 2. Autumn burn 23 April 2023.

Photograph 3. April burn photo taken 14 May 2023.

Photograph 4. Spring burn of exotics such as Creeping Bent, 24 September 2023.

Photograph 5. Spear Thistle Chipping (17 December 2023).

Photograph 6. Salsify hand weeding (17 December 2023).

Photograph 7. Spraying by TREC 13 July 2023, in area previously burnt in Autumn.

Photograph 8. Area burnt in Autumn then sprayed by TREC in July, taken 17 December 2023.

Un-treated area in foreground, area with yellow flowers (Cat's ear) and cream colour has been sprayed (right middle ground), area with orange is Kangaroo Grass (left middle ground).

Photograph 9. Sweet Vernal Mowing (2 November 2023).

Photograph 10. Area of mown Sweet Vernal photo taken 17 December 2023.

Photograph 11. Creeping Bent Spring burning (3 November 2023).

Showing bent grass burning around tussocks of Kangaroo Grass which remained unburnt.

Photograph 12. Before Spring burn over Creeping Bent (3 November 2023), looking south east from north west corner.

Photograph 13. After Spring burn over Creeping Bent (3 November 2023), looking south east from north west corner.

Photograph 14. Photo taken 17 December 2023 of Creeping Bent burnt 3 November 2023 (looking east), areas that were burnt are not flowering.

Photograph 15. Trialled burning 20 September 2023 an area with Sweet Vernal, Kangaroo Grass, and Small Quaking Grass adjacent to area of images below.

Area previously sprayed for Creeping Bent in December 2022. Only Kangaroo Grass burnt at this time point and fire stopped at area of Small Quaking grass (visible as the lighter green) probably due to low biomass in these areas which were previously sprayed.

Photograph 16. Area of Small Quaking Grass and Sweet Vernal burnt 29 October 2023, before burn.

Photograph 17. Area of Small Quaking Grass and Sweet Vernal burnt 29 October 2023, immediately after.

Photograph 18. Area of Small Quaking Grass and Sweet Vernal burnt 29 October 2023. A week later showing the death of the Small Quaking Grass and removal of Sweet Vernal flower heads.

Photograph 19. Area with Sweet Vernal burnt in 19 November 2023.

Photograph 20. Area with Sweet Vernal burnt in 19 November (left) compared with unburnt (right), dead Sweet Vernal flower heads laying on ground. Taken 17 December 2023.

Photograph 21. Fox scats recorded in Offset Site taken 29 Oct 2023.

Photograph 22. Fox Bait placed 20 June 2023.

Photograph 23. Fox shot 21 March 2024.

Photograph 24. Harvesting Kangaroo Grass seed from Offset to spread in Offset (15 January 2024).

Photograph 25. Spreading Kangaroo Grass seed in sprayed areas 15 January 2024.

Photograph 26. Spreading Kangaroo Grass thatch 20 August 2023 from material harvested 18 months prior.

Photograph 27. Burning Kangaroo Grass thatch 24 September 2023 having allowed seed 1 month to drop from thatch and work into ground.

Photograph 28. Area of Creeping Bent (near but outside Offset site) treated with selective herbicide (2 November 2023) photo taken 12 December 2023.

Photograph 29. Testing off target impacts of selective herbicide (2 November 2023) photo taken 12 December 2023.

Top left: Sweet Vernal appears susceptible, Top centre: Blue devil appears susceptible, Top right: Blushing Bindweed appears resistant, Bottom left: scaly button appears susceptible, Bottom centre: Silver Tussock-grass appears tolerant, Bottom right: Kangaroo Grass appears tolerant.

Photograph 30. Mix of Native forbs and grass including Woodruff, Cut-leaf Goodenia, Spear Grass and Kangaroo Grass.

Photograph 31. Mix of native forbs and grasses including Scaly Buttons, Chocolate Lilies, Bindweed, Kangaroo Grass.

Photograph 32. Cluster of Sundew amongst Kangaroo Grass Tussocks.

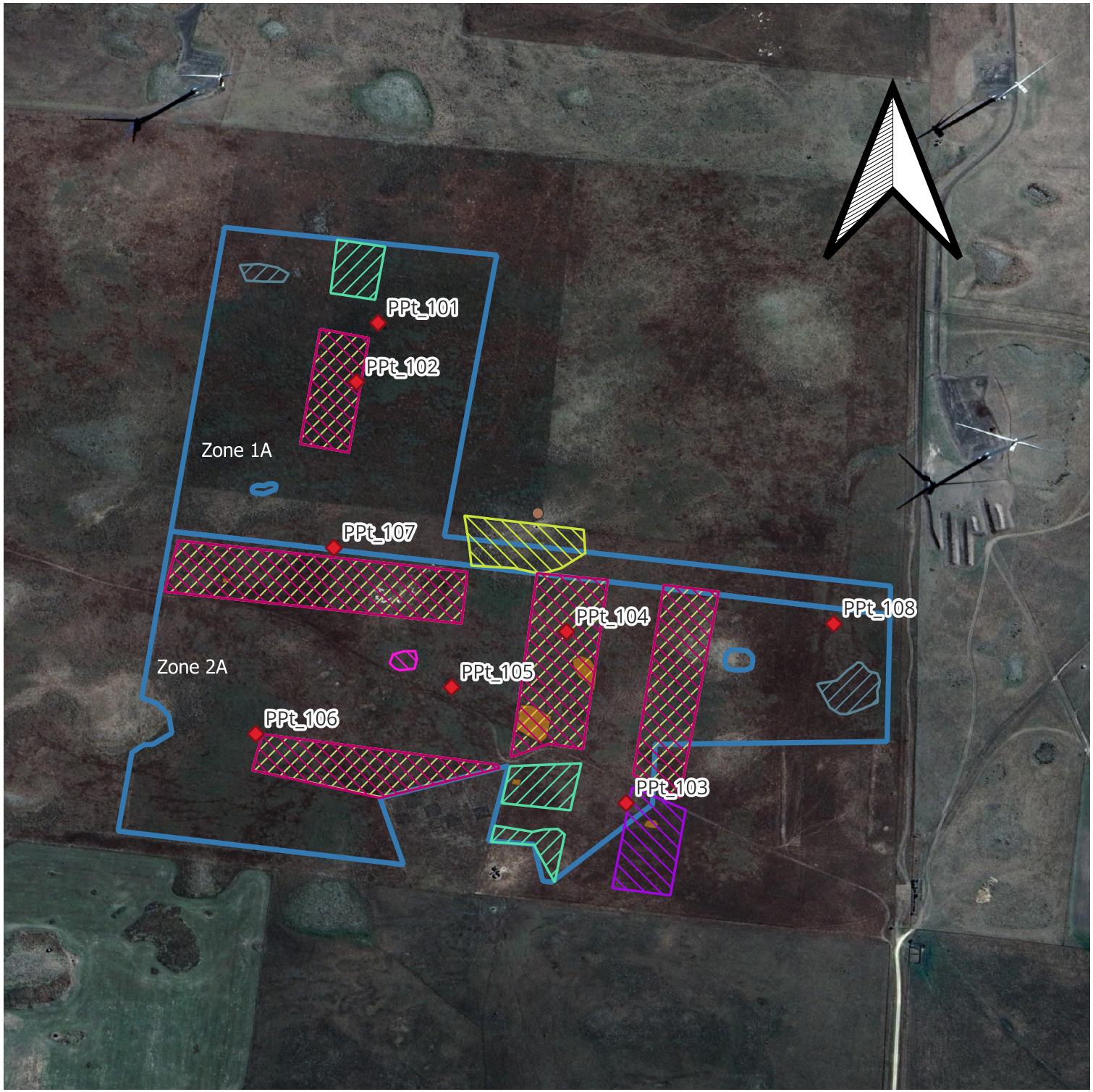


Figure 1. Location of Offset, photopoints and works undertaken

Legend

- Quadrats and photopoints 2015-7486
- 2023 Fox bait

2023 weed works

- Hand weed Salsify and Spear Thistle
- TREC_fluazifop-P
- TREC_Glyphosate
- Spring mow of Sweet Vernal
- 2024 01 seeding

2023 Burns

- Autumn 2023
- Fencing for burn
- Spring 2023
- November 2023
- Offset area 2015-7486

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

Created 13 May 2024

0 100 200 m

Attachments: Invoices

Ecolink SSL and Vegetation Surveys

TREC weed management contractors

Scott-Walker Weed Management Strategy Progress Report

Grass grabber

Attachments: Supporting documents

Receipt from fox shooting

Ecolink SSL and Vegetation Surveys

Scott-Walker Weed Management Strategy Progress Report

DEECA Email 1: Spring weed control

DEECA Email 2: Offset supplementary works permission

References

Bransbury DIaT, 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 m^2 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.

This is to verify that ..... SHANE WICKS .....

and ..... 8 .....others, undertook fox shooting on Bleak House property on

Date ..... 5 MAY 2024 .....

..... 16 ..... Foxes were shot.

Signed ..... Shane Wicks .....

GRASS GRABBER

Seed Harvesters

ABN 92075607139

PO Box 6177
Goulburn North
NSW 2580 Australia

199 Durkin Road
Windellama NSW 2580
Australia

02 4844 5149
0427 297 148

Westpac Goulburn NSW
Acc Name Grass Grabber
Acc Number 266614
BSB 032-721
Swift Code WPACAU2S

INVOICE GG23038

Wednesday 6 September 2023

Ross Dennis

W J Dennis Farming Trust
4970 Prince's Highway,
Birregurra, Victoria, 3242
0490 458 402

1 x Grass Grabber harvester GG7540 with both set ups Serial Number #144 Engine Serial Number GCBYT-2075381	$6231.50
Freight to Derrimut Victoria	$ 300.00
Total	$6531.50

GST $593.77

Melbourne depot address is:-
MR Express
140 Swann Drive
Derrimut VIC
Dave 0409 081 656

TAX INVOICE

WJ Dennis Farming Trust
ABN: 31616379071

Invoice Date
3 Sep 2023

Invoice Number
0438

Reference
Offset Spraying Winter 2023

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 July and August 2023 11 two person days total @$1100+GST	1.00	11,800.00	10%	11,800.00
			Subtotal	11,800.00
			TOTAL GST 10%	1,180.00
			TOTAL AUD	**12,980.00**

Due Date: 3 Oct 2023
Payment Terms: 30 days from invoice date.

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

PAYMENT ADVICE

Customer	WJ Dennis Farming Trust
Invoice Number	0438
Amount Due	**12,980.00**
Due Date	3 Oct 2023
Amount Enclosed	

Enter the amount you are paying above

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

TAX INVOICE

From

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

Invoice No.	**2821**
Issue Date	24/10/2023
Due Date	23/11/2023 (Net 30)
Subject	Offset Site Monitoring Birregurra

Invoice For

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

Item Type	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Service	[1610-T] - SLL Surveys	$3,727.55	**$3,727.55**
Service	[1610-T] - Vegetation Survey	$3,727.55	**$3,727.55**

Subtotal	**$7,455.10**
GST (10%)	**$745.51**
Amount Due	**$8,200.61**

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**.

TAX INVOICE

Ross Dennis
Attention: Ross Dennis
4970 Princes Highway
BIRREGURRA VICTORIA 3242
AUSTRALIA

Invoice Date
14 Jun 2023

Invoice Number
INV-0025

Reference
021009-02

ABN
65 329 174 294

Geordie Scott-Walker
Consultant Ecologist
PO Box 64
Williamstown VIC 3015
Mobile: +61 401 850 880
Email: geordiescottwalker@gmail.com
ABN: 65 329 174 294

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount AUD
Baseline monitoring survey at Ombersely completed on 27/7/22 with survey preparation and travel to/from Newport	16.00	100.00	10%	1,600.00
Follow-up monitoring survey at Ombersely completed on 24/2/23 with travel to/from Newport	8.00	100.00	10%	800.00
Preparation of a short letter report summarising 2022-23 survey and works at Ombersely	4.00	100.00	10%	400.00
Monitoring data entry and collation of photos (24 & 31/5/2023)	3.00	100.00	10%	300.00
Online meeting to discuss 2023 works and future monitoring, with discussion points collated and distributed by email (25 & 26/5/2023)	4.00	100.00	10%	400.00
Vehicle mileage - return travel to Ombersely from Newport on two occasions (270 km round trip)	540.00	0.78	10%	421.20
			Subtotal	3,921.20
			TOTAL GST 10%	392.12
			TOTAL AUD	**4,313.32**

Due Date: 30 Jun 2023
Payment to:
Geordie Scott-Walker
Account 165548041
BSB 633-000

Gmail

Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>

OFFICIAL: RE: Offset supplementary works permission

1 message

Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA) <nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.vic.gov.au>
21 November 2023 at 15:36
To: Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>, Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>, Geordie Scott-Walker <geordiescottwalker@gmail.com>

Hi Ross,

Thanks for your email

Collection of native seed for the purpose of re-distribution within the offset site is supported and approved by DEECA.

Seed may only be used within the offset sites on the same property, and must not be sold or distributed to other parties/sites.

Kind regards,

Dr Andrew Warnock

Project Officer – Native Vegetation Offset | Biodiversity Protection and Information Branch | Biodiversity Division | Environment, Climate Action and First Peoples | **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
M: 0386 243 119| **E**: nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.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.

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: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 2:20 PM
To: Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA) <nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.vic.gov.au>; Andrew D Warnock (DEECA) <andrew.warnock@delwp.vic.gov.au>; Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>; Geordie Scott-Walker <geordiescottwalker@gmail.com>
Subject: Offset 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 (Nov - Feb 2023) I am requesting permission to collect seed for the purpose of enhancing / sowing into the offset, in particular in areas recently sprayed for weeds. 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,

--

Ross Dennis

Mobile: +61 490 458 402

Gmail

Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>

OFFICIAL: RE: Spring weed control

1 message

Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA) <nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.vic.gov.au>
2 November 2023 at 13:41
To: Ross Dennis <rossjdennis@gmail.com>, Geordie Scott-Walker <geordiescottwalker@gmail.com>, Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>

Hi Ross,

DEECA support and approve use of spring burning and/or mowing within Landowner Agreements BBA-3044_01, VC_CFL-3044_02 and VC_CFL-3087_01 for the purposes of weed control.

I think we might have already approved this, but just clarifying in case of any uncertainty on either end

Given the high cover of these species, spring burning and/or mowing may arrest development of seed-heads and therefore recruitment of the species in future years.

Please include outcomes of any burning and/or mowing in your next annual report.

Kind regards,

Dr Andrew Warnock

Project Officer – Native Vegetation Offset | Biodiversity Protection and Information Branch | Biodiversity Division | Environment, Climate Action and First Peoples | **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
M: 0386 243 119| **E**: nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.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.

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: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 10:51 AM
To: Andrew D Warnock (DEECA) <andrew.warnock@delwp.vic.gov.au>; Geordie Scott-Walker <geordiescottwalker@gmail.com>; Claire Dennis <cdennis09@gmail.com>; Native Vegetation Offset Management (DEECA) <nativevegetation.offsetmanagement@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Spring weed control

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

Hi Andrew et al.,

I just wanted to check that it is OK to undertake some targeted sweet vernal and Bent grass burning and mowing this spring.

I noticed on the weekend there are some areas of Bent Grass, and sweet vernal that could carry flame in areas we had previously fenced and prepared for a spring burn. But I wanted to test if areas of dense bent grass that had been grazed this year might still burn. This would not be in areas with much native species cover, but just areas of Bent Grass.

For the Sweet vernal I would propose a mow in denser areas of the species and or a burn this spring.

Thanks for your advice.

Cheers,

Ross

--

Ross Dennis

Mobile: +61 490 458 402