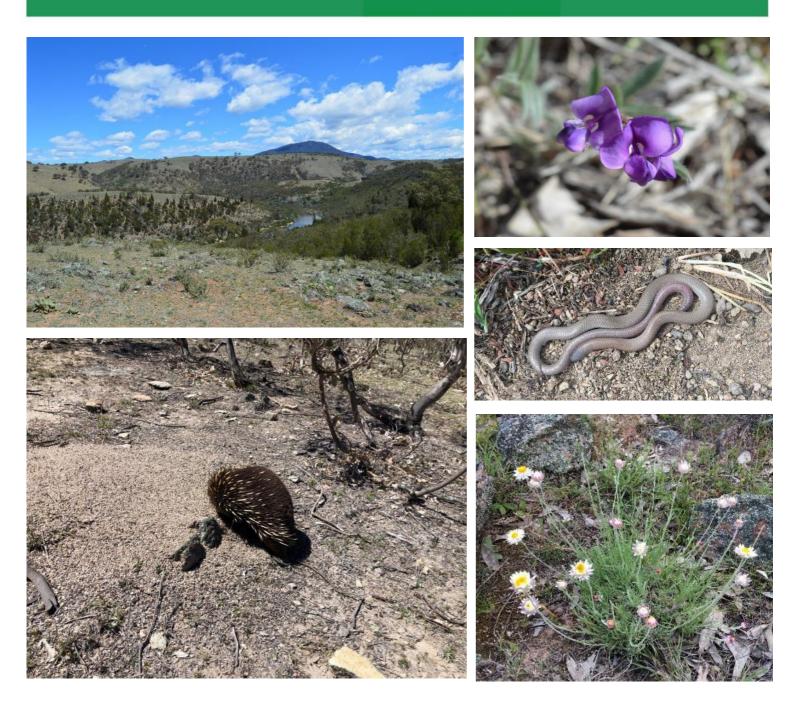


M2G Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Report

Spring 2018

Prepared for Icon Water

January 2019



DOCUMENT TRACKING

Item	Detail
Project Name	M2G Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Report – Spring 2018
Project Number	11480_M2G Offset 2018
Project Manager	Matthew Dowle
Prepared by	Clare Duck
Reviewed by	Matthew Dowle
Approved by	Matthew Dowle
Status	FINAL
Version Number	2
Last saved on	3 January 2019
Cover photo	(Clockwise from top left): Murrumbidgee River from Offset Site; Swainsona sericea; Pink- tailed Worm Lizard; Hoary Sunray; Echidna feeding

This report should be cited as 'Eco Logical Australia 2018. *M2G Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Report – Spring 2018.* Prepared for Icon Water'.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has been prepared by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd with support from Icon Water.

Disclaimer

This document may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the contract between Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd and Icon Water. The scope of services was defined in consultation with Icon Water, by time and budgetary constraints imposed by the client, and the availability of reports and other data on the subject area. Changes to available information, legislation and schedules are made on an ongoing basis and readers should obtain up to date information.

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report and its supporting material by any third party. Information provided is not intended to be a substitute for site specific assessment or legal advice in relation to any matter. Unauthorised use of this report in any form is prohibited.

Template 12/04/13

Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Background	2
1.2	Purpose of document	2
1.3	Study area	2
2	Methodology	4
2.1	Vegetation plot monitoring	
2.1.1	Floristic quadrats	
2.1.2	Point transects	
2.1.3	Flora inventory methodology	
2.2	Fauna monitoring	7
2.2.1	Bird surveys	7
2.2.2	Fauna habitat assessment	
2.2.3	Opportunistic observations	7
2.3	Swainsona recta monitoring	9
2.4	Weed monitoring1	11
2.5	Erosion monitoring1	11
2.6	Fencing monitoring	11
2.7	Rehabilitation survival assessment	11
3	Vegetation plots1	14
3.1.1	Monitoring plot 1 1	15
3.1.2		
-	Monitoring plot 2	16
3.1.2	Monitoring plot 2 1	16 17
3.1.2 3.1.3	Monitoring plot 2	16 17 18
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4	Monitoring plot 2	6 7 8 9
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5	Monitoring plot 2	16 17 18 19 20
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6	Monitoring plot 2	16 17 18 19 20 21
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22 23
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Flora 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23 23 24
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2 4.2.1	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2 Flora 2 Threatened flora species 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23 23 23 24 25
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2 4.2.1 4.2.2	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2 Flora 2 Threatened flora species 2 Rare and uncommon ACT species 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 27
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.3	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2 Flora 2 Threatened flora species 2 Fauna 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23 23 23 23 24 25 27 27
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.3 4.3.1	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2 Flora 2 Threatened flora species 2 Rare and uncommon ACT species 2 Fauna 2 Bird monitoring 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 24 25 27 27 28
3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.6 3.1.7 3.1.8 4 4.1 4.2 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.3 4.3.1 4.3.2	Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 2 1 Monitoring plot 3 1 Monitoring plot 4 1 Monitoring plot 5 1 Monitoring plot 6 2 Monitoring plot 7 2 Monitoring Plot 8 2 Biodiversity values 2 Ecosystem health 2 Flora 2 Threatened flora species 2 Rare and uncommon ACT species 2 Fauna 2 Bird monitoring 2 Fauna habitat assessment 2	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 23 24 25 27 28 29

5.1	Results summary	31
5.1.1	Plot 1	
Plot 1 -	2015	32
5.1.2	Plot 2	33
Plot 2 -	2015	
5.1.3	Plot 3	
Plot 3 -	2018	
6	Weed monitoring	35
6.1	Weed management actions undertaken to date	35
6.2	Priority areas for weed control works	35
7	Erosion monitoring	40
7.1	Erosion management actions undertaken to date	40
7.2	Erosion monitoring point results – spring 2018	40
8	Feral animals	52
8.1	Feral animal background and previous control	52
8.2	Feral animal monitoring results (opportunistic observations) – Spring 2018	52
8.2.1	Vulpes vulpes (European Fox)	52
8.2.2	Oryctolagus cuniculus (European Rabbits) and Lepus europaeus (Hares)	52
8.2.3	Dama dama (Feral Deer)	52
8.2.4	Capra hircus (Feral Goat)	52
8.2.5	Sus scrofus (Feral Pig)	52
8.3	Recommendations and actions	53
9	Fencing monitoring	55
9.1	Fence condition spring 2018	55
10	Rehabilitation survival assessment	57
11	Summary	58
11.1	General	58
11.2	Bushfire	58
11.3	Threatened, rare and uncommon plant species	58
11.4	Weeds	58
11.5	Erosion	58
11.6	Feral animals	59
11.7	Fencing	59
11.8	Grazing	59
12	Management recommendations	60
Refere	nces	61
Appen	dix A: Flora species list – monitoring plots	62
Appen	dix B: Fauna lists	

List of figures

Figure 1: Study area
Figure 2: Monitoring plots, management units and baseline offset site ecological values
Figure 3: Bird monitoring transects
Figure 4: Swainsona recta translocation plots10
Figure 5: Erosion monitoring points in southern offset12
Figure 6: Erosion monitoring points in northern offset13
Figure 7: Monitoring Plot 1. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 8: Monitoring Plot 2. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 9: Monitoring Plot 3. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 10: Monitoring Plot 4. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2016)
Figure 11: Monitoring Plot 5. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 12: Monitoring Plot 6. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 13: Monitoring Plot 7. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 14: Monitoring Plot 8. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)
Figure 15: Opportunistic records of threatened, rare and uncommon flora species observed previously within the offset site
Figure 16: Evidence of grazing near existing Swainsona plot
Figure 17: Relative weed distribution within the southern offset site, spring 2018
Figure 18: Relative weed distribution within the northern offset site, spring 2018
Figure 19: Opportunistic records of feral animals within the Williamsdale property, spring 201654
Figure 20: Williamsdale property fence with points recommended for repair

List of tables

Table 1: Monitoring plot co-ordinates (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55)	5
Table 2: Planting key	9
Table 3: Threatened flora species within the offset site	24
Table 4: Rare and uncommon species recorded within the offset site	25
Table 5: Species abundance index (highest to lowest)	27
Table 6: Fauna habitat features observed across the offset site	28
Table 7: Habitat assessment within 50 m x 20 m vegetation monitoring plots	29
Table 8: Plot 1 monitoring results	32
Table 9: Plot 2 monitoring results	33
Table 10: Plot 3 monitoring results	34
Table 11: Summary of prior weed occurrence and spring 2018 monitoring results	36
Table 12: Rehabilitation survival counts	57
Table 13: Summary of proposed actions relating to the ODP	60

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELA	Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
НВТ	Hollow Bearing Tree
m	metres
M2G	Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project
MU	Management Unit
ODP	Offset Delivery Plan
PER	Public Environment Report
RFAC	Regional Feral Animal Control

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) was commissioned by Icon Water (formerly ACTEW Water) to deliver terrestrial ecology services as required by the environmental approval process for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project (M2G).

The M2G projects falls under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth (Department of the Environment and Energy, previously Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities), NSW (Department of Planning), and ACT (ACT Planning and Land Authority) Governments and has been subject to assessment and environmental approval processes in all three jurisdictions. Project approval (granted in 2010) has been attained from all three governments, with a considerable number of approval conditions and commitments applied.

Under the environmental approvals process, Icon Water (conditioned as ACTEW Water) was required to provide compensatory habitat as an offset for vegetation and habitat losses arising from the construction activities for the M2G pipeline. The offset was required to be delivered to meet the conditions outlined in a range of documents, including but not limited to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Public Environment Report (PER) prepared for the development and relevant approval conditions.

1.2 **Purpose of document**

Under Condition 2.9b of the NSW Approval and Condition 3.1 of the Commonwealth approval conditions for the M2G Project (see Offset Delivery Plan (ODP) for further information), management and monitoring of the offset site is required. The ODP prepared by ELA (April 2012) describes the actions to be taken in establishing and managing the offset site according to the approval conditions and commitments, including the provision of monitoring actions (ELA, 2012).

This report details the spring monitoring surveys for 2018 that were undertaken in accordance with the methodology and aims established in the ODP. It is designed to be a standalone monitoring report consistent with the format of the previous biannual monitoring reports, but also to relate to the ODP. The purpose of this document is to report on the ecological condition of the site and the management actions conducted throughout the previous year/s in order to guide future actions within the offset site.

1.3 Study area

Icon Water own a land parcel in southern ACT (Block 1675), referred to here as the Williamsdale property (or 'the property'). The property is approximately 208 hectares in size and is located just south of Williamsdale. The property is bounded by the Monaro Highway to the east, the NSW border to the south, Angle Crossing Road to the north, and the Murrumbidgee River corridor to the west (**Figure 1**). The monitoring surveys were conducted within the offset site (study area of approximately 110 ha), which is wholly contained within the property.

The offset site has been set aside for conservation due to its high biodiversity value, including the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (Box-Gum Woodland), threatened flora and fauna species, and/or threatened species habitat.

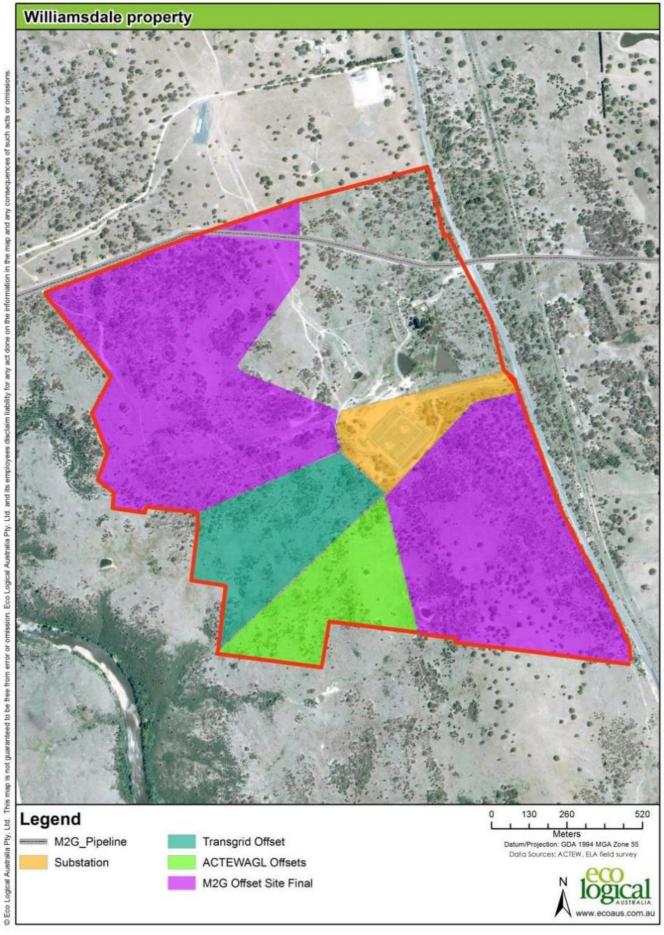


Figure 1: Study area

2 Methodology

The native vegetation and biodiversity values present within the offset site are managed under the ODP and its sub-plans. The ODP establishes the monitoring methodology for each of these values. A summary of the monitoring methodology outlined in the ODP and previous monitoring reports (ELA, 2013; ELA, 2014; ELA, 2015; ELA, 2016) is presented below, and is followed by the results of the spring 2018 monitoring surveys.

2.1 Vegetation plot monitoring

The monitoring methodology has been adapted from the NSW Biobanking methodology to suit the offset site management requirements. The modified Biobanking methodology proforma uses a combination of quadrat and transect surveys to establish vegetation condition, and this approach is mirrored under the monitoring methodology.

Vegetation surveys have been designed to collect the following data:

- Species diversity, including native and exotic species.
- Cover abundance of native and exotic species.
- Identification of any threatened flora.
- Condition of the vegetation community.

2.1.1 Floristic quadrats

Eight 20 m x 20 m monitoring quadrats (plots) were established in 2011 and 2012 to collect baseline data on the condition and species composition of the offset site during autumn and spring each year (**Figure 2**). The quadrats are permanently erected and marked using a star picket at each corner tagged with flagging tape. The location of each quadrat has been recorded using a hand-held GPS device (north-west corner) (**Figure 2**).

Each quadrat was surveyed by walking back and forth along 10 parallel transects approximately 2 metres (m) apart. A cumulative list of flora species within each quadrat was recorded and assigned a cover abundance score using the Braun-Blanquet scale.

Two of the eight plots (control plots) were chosen in order to observe natural changes in species composition over time. Both plots were located in areas of good quality EPBC Act listed Box-Gum Woodland and were free from noxious weeds at the time of establishment. Where possible, management actions, such as erosion control or rehabilitation will not occur within these monitoring plots over the duration of the monitoring period. It is noted that some actions such as feral animal control occurs on an offset site scale. Also, if noxious weeds are observed within the control plots during the biannual monitoring surveys, the weeds will be identified, recorded and then removed. The removal of noxious weeds from the control plots is required to maintain the overall conservation principles of the offset site. However it noted that these control plots appear indistinguishable from the other monitoring plots, and that management actions are completed on the offset site scale.

The other six monitoring plots were located in units where management actions were planned or likely to occur as outlined in the management sub-plans, in order to observe the effect that the actions have on ecological values and species composition over the course of the monitoring program.

The GPS co-ordinates of the north-west corner of each monitoring plot are provided below in **Table 1**. A species list for each of the monitoring plots is included in **Appendix A**.

Monitoring	nitoring Plot		North-we	est corner	Transect	
plot locat	location	Established	Easting	Northing	Easting	Northing
1	MU1A	October 2011	693669.49	6059272.51	693674.98	6059300.56
2	MU2B	March 2012	693529.99	6059555.34	693541.22	6059504.10
3	MU3	October 2011	693872.06	6059467.44	693874.65	6059490.73
4	MU4	October 2011	692349.35	6060568.08	692365.82	6060517.43
5	MU5	October 2011	692559.98	6059906.52	692526.40	6059902.85
6*	MU6	March 2012	692576.25	6060344.05	692622.53	6060358.54
7	MU7	March 2012	692860.59	6060583.39	692874.01	6060542.87
8*	MU3	October 2011	693414.37	6059863.02	693445.95	6059828.31

Table 1: Monitoring plot co-ordinates (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55)

* Refers to the intended control plots

2.1.2 Point transects

A 50 m transect (50 m length of tape) was established at each of the monitoring plots to compliment the floristic quadrat surveys and to determine the projective foliage cover of various structural components of the community. Each transect was referenced using a GPS device and three photos were taken from the start of the transect (left side, centre, and right side). The 50 m transect was surveyed as follows:

- At every 1 m along the 50 m tape, the understorey layer was assessed (50 survey points per transect). The presence of native grass, native shrubs (<1m high), native other or exotic species was recorded at each point. For each group the number of hits was then tallied and doubled, and presented as a percentage cover for the whole site.
- At every 5 m along the 50 m tape, the percentage projective foliage cover of native and exotic species in the mid and overstorey layer was recorded (10 survey points per transect). For each group the cover values were then summed and divided by 10, and presented as a percentage cover for the whole site.

2.1.3 Flora inventory methodology

A cumulative list of species has been maintained since the initial baseline surveys were conducted. Species on the list include those recorded within the eight monitoring plots and those encountered whilst traversing the sites during the weed, fence line and erosion monitoring surveys. A species list for offset site is provided in **Appendix A**.

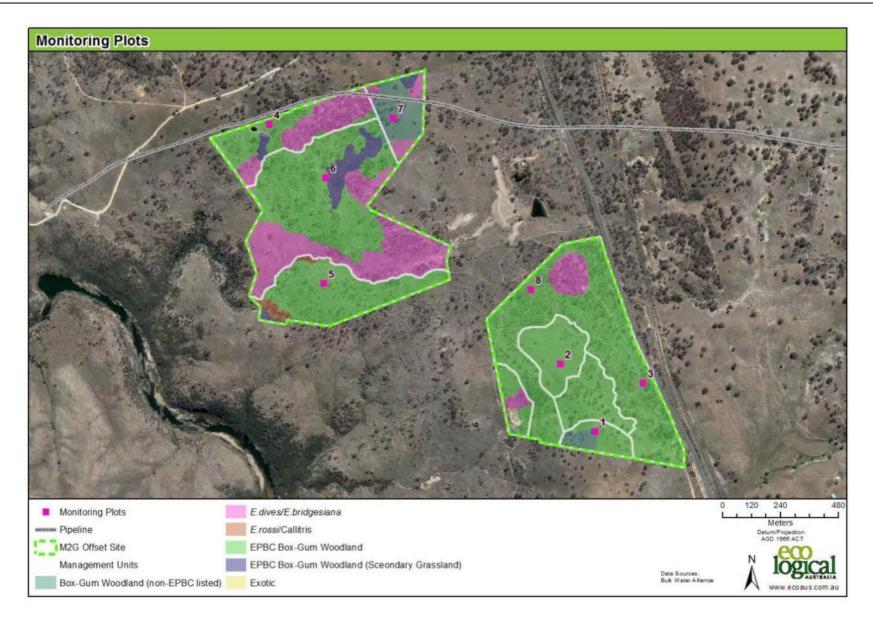


Figure 2: Monitoring plots, management units and baseline offset site ecological values

2.2 Fauna monitoring

2.2.1 Bird surveys

A quantitative bird survey methodology was established in spring 2015 and was undertaken again in spring 2016 and spring 2018 to gather quantitative information on species abundance and species richness. Bird surveys were undertaken along two transects: one in each of the offset sites. Each transect comprised five points located approximately 100 m apart. The transects were oriented to follow areas of suitable habitat (**Figure 3**).

At each point along the transect the abundance and species richness of bird species was surveyed in a circle with a 50 m radius over a 10 minute survey period (total of 50 minutes per transect, covering an area of 0.07ha). Birds were recorded in the following distance classes from the survey point:

- 0-15 m
- 15-30 m
- 30-50 m

Any other species observed during the survey period either outside of 50 m, flying over the site or between points was recorded as opportunistic.

2.2.2 Fauna habitat assessment

During the baseline survey a fauna habitat assessment was conducted within each 20 m x 50 m vegetation monitoring plot to observe the number of hollow bearing trees, length of fallen logs (greater than 10 cm width) and dominant habitat features present. In addition, a qualitative assessment of fauna habitat features was undertaken for each of the northern and southern offsets. This assessment included features such as hollow-bearing trees, logs, litter, fallen timber, stags, surface or outcropping rocks, termite mounds, mistletoe presence, large trees, natural regeneration, and exotic or native shrub thickets. These features were checked during each monitoring period to ensure they remained applicable, as habitat features are unlikely to change significantly year to year.

The results of fauna habitat assessments are outlined in Section 4.3.2.

2.2.3 Opportunistic observations

Visual and aural observations of all vertebrate fauna species (including signs of feral animal activity) were recorded opportunistically whilst conducting targeted monitoring surveys across the offset site and using random meander techniques. A full list of all fauna observed during spring 2018 monitoring is presented in **Appendix B**. Locations of rare or threatened fauna and signs of feral animal presence were recorded using a handheld GPS device.

Opportunistic herpetology searches were also undertaken in areas of good quality habitat, such as partially embedded rock.



Figure 3: Bird monitoring transects

2.3 Swainsona recta monitoring

Monitoring of translocated *Swainsona recta* plants is conducted during the peak flowering period in October to November each year. The location of the three translocation plots is shown in **Figure 4**. Full details of the propagation and translocation program are provided in ELA (2013). Information relevant to the interpretation of monitoring results is summarized below.

Plants translocated were initially raised from seed sourced from Mt. Taylor, Williamsdale and Burra, and grown in containers filled with either:

- Potting mix (standard nursery mix), or
- Soil mix containing a 1:1 ratio of potting mix and local soil from the seed collection sites.

A total of 112 individuals were planted across the three translocation plots, of which 66 were translocated in June 2012 and a further 46 translocated in September 2013. Each translocation plot was designed to accommodate up to 40 plants. Individuals were planted in blocks according to provenance and growing media to facilitate comparison. A key to the planting design and other relevant data is provided in **Table 2**.

Collection location	ection location Growing media		Planted	Water crystals
Mt Taylor	Potting mix	•	2012	No
Mt Taylor Soil and potting mix		0	2012	No
Williamsdale Potting mix		0	2013	Yes
Burra	Potting mix	•	2013	Yes

Table 2: Planting key

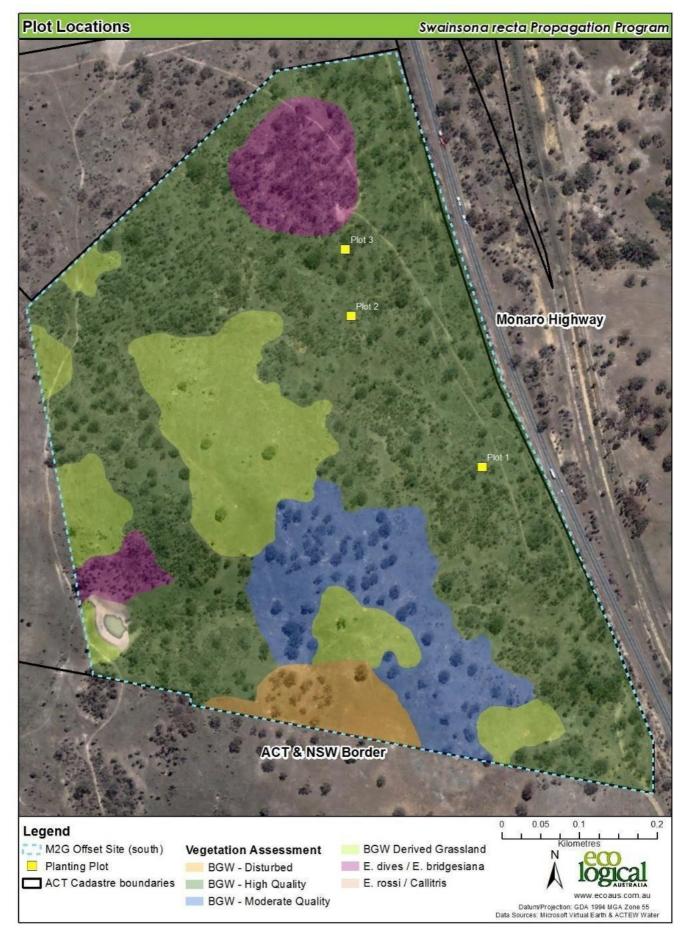
Individuals were planted at one metre spacing in a grid format (8 x 5 plants) with a one metre buffer from the outer most plants. Plots were established with the longest axis orientated in a north-south direction. Fencing was erected around the plots to incorporate a one metre buffer from the outer most plants. Fencing consisted of rabbit proof fencing (1.2 m high) with steel pickets at least every three metres.

At planting, all competition (e.g. grasses and other forbs) was removed in the immediate area of each individual (creating a cleared patched approximately 20 cm in diameter). For the 2013 plantings, a small handful or water crystals were also planted with each individual. All plants were watered on the day of planting and subsequently watered one week after planting.

Each individual plant translocated is assessed annually for its survivorship and reproductive condition. The follow is recorded:

- Presence or absence of *Swainsona recta* at each planting location.
- Presence or absence of flowers or developing seed pods.

In addition, the translocation plots are inspected for signs of recruitment. The results allow a comparison of survivorship, condition and recruitment events at the end of each monitoring period and provide a picture of the overall success of the translocation program.





2.4 Weed monitoring

The management of weeds within the M2G offset site is undertaken in accordance with the Weed Monitoring Sub-Plan. The sub-plan outlines the weed management activities to be undertaken to satisfy relevant approval conditions and commitments. As an action under the sub-plan, the monitoring of weeds within the offset is required on a biannual basis to incorporate the seasonal changes in weed abundance and weed control activities.

Weed monitoring in spring 2018 was undertaken opportunistically with an overall assessment of each management unit focussed on occurrences of declared species (*Cotoneaster* spp., *Crataegus monogyna, Eragrostis curvula, Hypericum perforatum, Nassella trichotoma, Pyracantha* spp., *Rosa rubiginosa, Rubus fruticosus* and various species of thistle), non-declared woody weeds and species not previously recorded for the site.

2.5 Erosion monitoring

Erosion monitoring sites were established during autumn 2012 monitoring surveys. A representative sample of erosion points within each of the main drainage lines were selected for future monitoring. For each erosion point selected, notes were made on their size, their location was recorded using a GPS and a photo was taken in order to observe any changes over time. A number of erosion monitoring points were discontinued from spring 2013 onwards, as these points did not shown signs of erosion since the baseline surveys, despite large rain events occurring over this two year period. Erosion monitoring point locations for the spring 2018 surveys are mapped in **Figure 5** and **Figure 6**.

When each monitoring survey is undertaken, a set of baseline photographs are taken into the field to facilitate accurate relocation of erosion monitoring photo points and assessment of change.

2.6 Fencing monitoring

Fence monitoring was undertaken by traversing the Williamsdale property border and assessing the condition of the fence. Any damaged areas observed along the fence line were noted and a GPS point taken. Fence damage was categorised into three categories to represent the level of risk of unwanted grazers (such as cattle) entering the offset site:

- Low risk- Small holes observed at the bottom of the fence that do not require immediate attention and allows native fauna (e.g. wombats) to pass through.
- Moderate risk Small to moderate sized holes or fence damage that require monitoring, but no immediate action. Often observed along the fence line bordering the Murrumbidgee River corridor and represents a potential goat or sheep access point. Note; there can be a small difference between the low and moderate categories. However, other evidence such as tracks and scats that may represent feral presence was used to inform the level of risk.
- *High risk* Represents points along the fence line requiring attention. These points represent a high risk of cattle and sheep entering the property.

2.7 Rehabilitation survival assessment

During winter 2016, 2,000 native shrubs were planted across two locations within the property (1,400 in the large gully near the TransGrid substation and 600 along a smaller gully within the northern offset site). Rapid survival counts were undertaken in each of these locations during the spring 2018 survey. This involved walking down the planting row from a random start point and assessing each individual as live (identified to genus) or dead. One hundred individuals were assessed across two survey points along the planting in the northern offset, and 50 individuals were assessed along the large gully near the substation.

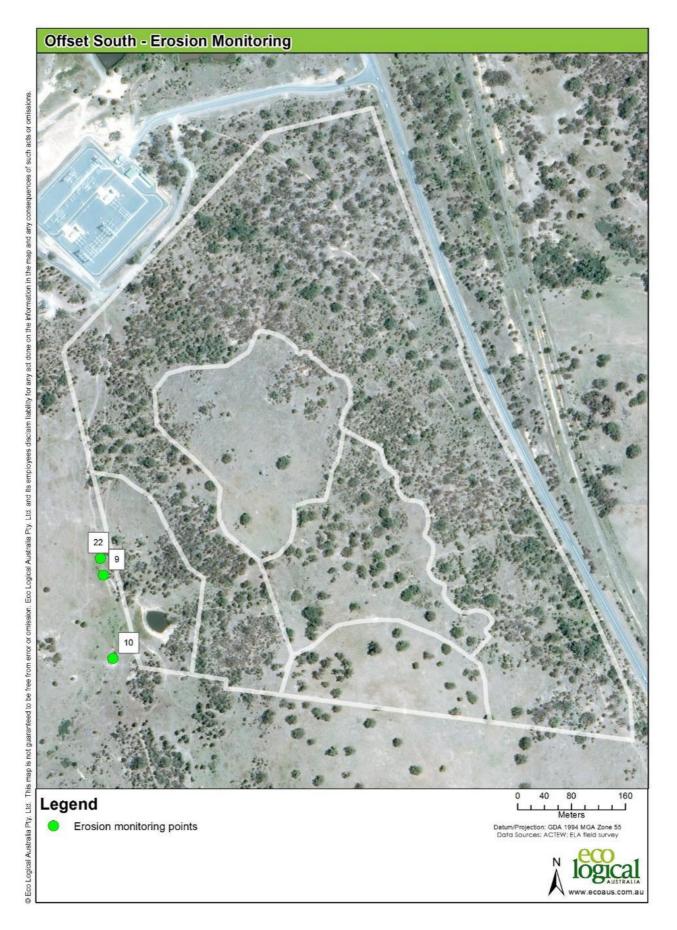
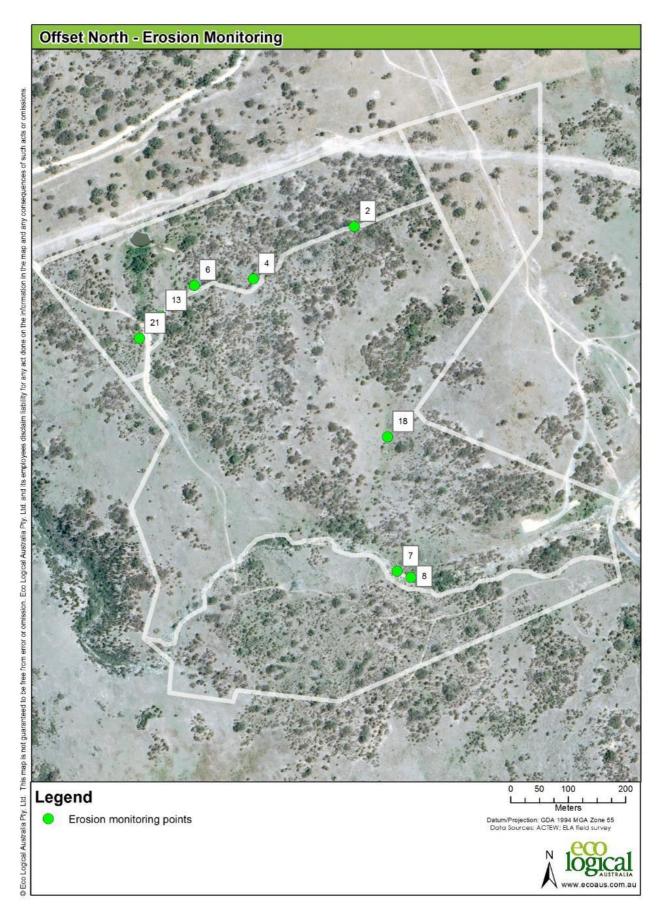


Figure 5: Erosion monitoring points in southern offset



3 Vegetation plots

Species diversity has remained relatively stable across most monitoring plots since the baseline monitoring was undertaken in 2011. Native species richness has increased in six of the plots surveyed in 2018 in comparison to the baseline data, and has either decreased slightly or not changed since spring 2016. Although relative native groundcover has increased in two plots since spring 2016, it has decreased in all plots in comparison to the baseline data.

Exotic species richness and exotic groundcover in all plots decreased or remained stable compared to spring 2016. The presence of exotic annual grass species was significantly lower in 2018 compared to spring 2016. Native understorey cover was higher than exotic ground cover in seven of the eight plots surveyed in 2018.

A wet spring and warm weather preceded the spring 2016 survey. In comparison, rainfall prior to spring 2018 monitoring was considerably below average (BOM 2018). It is likely that the influence of seasonal conditions has contributed to the decrease in both native and exotic groundcover between 2016 - 2018. Seasonal conditions have the potential to influence floristic diversity, particularly in the ground layer, and are a major consideration when analysing trends in floristic data, particularly over a relatively short period of time. Macropod grazing intensity has increased substantially in comparison to 2016; this may also have contributed to the lower groundcover observed in 2018.

All monitoring plots remain below the benchmark values for overstorey cover and total length of fallen logs established for the ACT (Sharp & Milner 2014). This reflects the fact that sites are either in regenerating or cleared formations of Box-Gum Woodland, rather than mature remnants. Canopy cover remains comparable to that recorded in 2016, with a few plots increasing slightly. Saplings of overstorey species are present at most sites and in time will likely contribute to an increase in overstorey cover as they grow and develop fuller canopies.

The results of the vegetation monitoring are provided **Section 3.1.1** to **3.1.8** below (**Figure 7** to **Figure 14**). The raw floristic data for each plot are provided in **Appendix A**.

3.1.1 Monitoring plot 1

Plot Description							
Management unit	MU1A		Plot number	1			
Vegetation type	Box-Gum	Woodland	Condition	Low-Mod			
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline	Spring 2018	Overstorey				
Native overstorey cover	0	0	Regeneration	No			
Native midstorey cover	0	0	Species	N/A			
Native understorey cover (grass)	40	40	Habitat Features				
Native understorey cover (other)	6	2	Tree hollows	0			
Exotic midstorey plant cover	0	0	Fallen logs	0			
Exotic understorey plant cover	58	16	Leaf litter	24%			
Native species diversity	14	7					

Monitoring plot 1 is located within MU1A in the southern offset area. The plot is composed of lower condition Box-Gum Woodland. No overstory regeneration was present within this plot and kangaroo grazing pressure appeared high. Native species diversity was low (7 species), a decrease from the 12 species recorded in spring 2016. Nineteen exotic species were recorded, which is the same number recorded in 2016. Despite this, the cover of native grass species increased from 28% to 40% between 2016 - 2018, and exotic understorey cover decreased from 64% to 16%. *Carthamus lanatus* (Thistle) and *Bromus hordeaceus* (Brome) were the dominant exotic species within the plot, and *Bothriochloa macra* (Red Leg Grass) and *Rytidosperma racemosum* (Wallaby Grass) were the dominant native species. Native plant species richness, overstorey cover and the total length of fallen logs remain below benchmark values (Sharp & Milner 2014).



Figure 7: Monitoring Plot 1. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.2 Monitoring plot 2

Plot Description							
Management unit	MU2B		Plot number	2			
Vegetation type	Box-Gum Woodland		Condition	Mod-Good			
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline	Spring 2018	Overst	orey			
Native overstorey cover	0	0	Regeneration	Yes			
Native midstorey cover	0	0	Species	E. blakelyi			
Native understorey cover (grass)	80	38	Habitat Features				
Native understorey cover (other)	4	6	Tree hollows	1			
Exotic midstorey plant cover	0	0.2	Fallen logs	2 m			
Exotic understorey plant cover	6	0	Leaf litter	10%			
Native species diversity	30	33					

Monitoring plot 2 is located within MU2B within the southern offset area. It is situated on a rocky hill containing areas of potential Pink-tailed Worm Lizard habitat. It contains moderate-good condition mature Box-Gum Woodland with scattered eucalypt saplings present. A total of 33 native species were recorded within the plot, which is slightly greater than that recorded during baseline surveys but less than the spring 2016 survey (41 native species were recorded). The plot is dominated by native grass species including *Rytidosperma* sp. (Wallaby Grass), *Bothriochloa macra* (Red Leg Grass) and *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass). Thirteen exotic species were recorded within the plot, which is a reduction from the 17 species recorded in spring 2016. Native plant species richness scores remain above benchmark values (Sharp & Milner 2014). However, overstorey cover and the total length of fallen logs are both below benchmark due to previous clearing. Kangaroo grazing pressure is high, as seen in the comparative photos below.



Figure 8: Monitoring Plot 2. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.3 Monitoring plot 3

Plot Description							
Management unit	MU3		Plot number	3			
Vegetation type	Box-Gum W	oodland	Condition	Mod-Good			
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline	Spring 2018	Overstorey				
Native overstorey cover	3.7	4.2	Regeneration	Yes			
Native midstorey cover	5.2	3	Species	E. blakelyi			
Native understorey cover (grass)	80	34	Habitat Features				
Native understorey cover (other)	16	0	Tree hollows	0			
Exotic midstorey plant cover	0.2	0	Fallen logs	15			
Exotic understorey plant cover	10	16	Leaf litter 42%				
Native species diversity	27	36					

Monitoring plot 3 is located within MU3 in the southern offset. The star pickets for this plot have been removed. The plot is located in moderate to good quality Box-Gum Woodland. A large number of eucalypt saplings are present both within and adjacent to the plot. A total of 36 native species were recorded within the plot, similar to the species richness recorded in spring 2016 (35 species). Exotic species richness decreased since from 22 to 13 between 2016 - 2018. Since 2016, exotic understory cover has decreased from 32% to 16% (fewer exotic annuals in 2018), and native grass cover has increased slightly from 30 to 34%. Native plant species richness for the plot remains above benchmark values (Sharp & Milner 2014). Similar to other monitoring plots, evidence of high kangaroo grazing and the preceding dry period is prevalent.



Figure 9: Monitoring Plot 3. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.4 Monitoring plot 4

Plot Description						
Management unit	MU4		Plot number	4		
Vegetation type	Box-Gum	Woodland	Condition	Mod-Good		
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline	Spring 2018	Overst	torey		
Native overstorey cover	4.7	8	Regeneration	Yes		
Native midstorey cover	11.5	6.7	Species	E. blakelyi		
Native understorey cover (grass)	74	60	Habitat Features			
Native understorey cover (other)	18	6	Tree hollows	0		
Exotic midstorey plant cover	2	0	Fallen logs	15 m		
Exotic understorey plant cover	28	12	Leaf litter	26%		
Native species diversity	24	29				



Monitoring plot 4 is located in the northern offset in MU4. It is located in moderate to good quality Box-Gum Woodland with an overstorey dominated by *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakely's Red Gum). A total of 29 native species were recorded within the plot, which is the less than the number of species recorded in spring 2016 (34). Sixteen exotic species were recorded within the plot, which is the same number of species that were recorded in 2016. The understorey is dominated by the native grass species *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass) and *Schoenus apogon* and exotic species including *Bromus hordeaceus* (Brome) and *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort). Control of the noxious weed *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet Briar) has been largely effective; it was not recorded in the 2018 survey. Fauna habitat in this plot is limited. It is noted that the photo below is from the spring 2016 surveys.



Figure 10: Monitoring Plot 4. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2016)

3.1.5 Monitoring plot 5

Plot Description					
Management unit	MU5		Plot number	5	
Vegetation type	Box-Gum W	oodland	Condition	Mod-Good	
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline Spring 2018		Overstorey		
Native overstorey cover	0	6.6	Regeneration	Yes	
Native midstorey cover	11	1	Species	E. blakelyi	
Native understorey cover (grass)	76	36	Habitat Features		
Native understorey cover (other)	14	8	Tree hollows 0		
Native understorey cover (shrub)	0	0	Fallen logs 16 m		
Exotic understorey plant cover	4 8		Leaf litter	62%	
Native species diversity	29	34			

Monitoring plot 5 is a plot located in MU5. lot 5 is located in moderate-good quality Box-Gum Woodland with an overstorey dominated by *Eucalyptus blakelyi*. This overstorey species is also undergoing considerable natural regeneration and has recently been thinned, potentially as a response to the extensive eucalypt defoliation and dieback, potentially associated with psyllid infestation observed in spring 2016. The plot supports a high diversity of native understorey species, with a total of 34 species recorded; this is slightly less than the 40 species recorded in 2016. *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Rytidosperma* sp. (Wallaby Grass) are the most common understorey species within the plot. Eleven exotic species were recorded, which is comparable to the 14 species recorded in 2016. The cover of exotic species has reduced slightly since 2016, down from 22% to 8%. Kangaroo grazing pressure is high compared to the baseline surveys.



Figure 11: Monitoring Plot 5. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.6 Monitoring plot 6

Plot Description					
Management unit Vegetation type	MU6 Box-Gum Woodland		Plot number Condition	6 Mod-Good	
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline Spring 2018		Overstorey		
Native overstorey cover	5.3	5	Regeneration Yes		
Native midstorey cover	0	0	Species E. blakely		
Native understorey cover (grass)	80	54	Habitat Features		
Native understorey cover (other)	10	12	Tree hollows 0		
Exotic midstorey plant cover	0	0	Fallen logs 0 m		
Exotic understorey plant cover	8	4	Leaf litter 16%		
Native species diversity	28	38			

Monitoring plot 6 is a control plot located in MU6, in moderate-good quality Box-Gum Woodland with an overstorey dominated by *Eucalyptus blakelyi*. The plot is situated in a transition zone between the woodland and derived grassland forms of the ecological community. No management actions are meant to be undertaken within the boundaries of the plot. Abundant *E. blakelyi* regeneration is present within the plot. The plot supports a diverse understorey of both native and exotic grasses and forbs. The most dominant species observed were the native grasses *Bothriochloa macra* (Red Leg Grass) and *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (Wallaby Grass) and the exotic grass *Bromus hordeaceus* (Brome). 38 native and 20 exotic species were recorded, which is similar to the number of species recorded in 2016 (38 native and 24 exotic). Kangaroo grazing appeared to be high in the 2018 surveys, as compared to the baseline surveys.



Figure 12: Monitoring Plot 6. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.7 Monitoring plot 7

Plot Description					
Management unit	MU7		Plot number	7	
Vegetation type	Box-Gum V	Voodland	Condition	Low	
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline Spring 2018		Overstorey		
Native overstorey cover	0	0	Regeneration	No	
Native midstorey cover	0	0	Species	N/A	
Native understorey cover (grass)	74	30	Habitat Features		
Native understorey cover (other)	0	2	Tree hollows	0	
Exotic midstorey plant cover	0	0	Fallen logs	0 m	
Exotic understorey plant cover	34	22	Leaf litter	20%	
Native species diversity	13	13			

Monitoring plot 7 is located within MU7 in the northern offset area. The management unit is composed of degraded Box-Gum Woodland with the overstorey dominated by scattered remnant *Eucalyptus blakelyi*. No recruitment of *E. blakelyi* was observed within the plot. Native species diversity in the plot was relatively low for this ecological community (13 species) and was lower than recorded during spring 2016 surveys (19 species). The understorey is composed of a mixture of native and exotic species and is dominated by species such as *Carex inversa, Erodium cicutarium* and *Hordeum glaucum*. Fauna habitat features such as tree hollows and fallen logs are absent. The reduction in native species diversity and cover is likely a result of the increased pressure from kangaroo grazing and the dry conditions preceding the surveys.



Figure 13: Monitoring Plot 7. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, March 2012. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

3.1.8 Monitoring Plot 8

Plot Description					
Management unit	MU3		Plot number	8	
Vegetation type	Box-Gum	Woodland	Condition Mod-Good		
Plot Statistics (%)	Baseline Spring 2018		Overstorey		
Native overstorey cover	0	3.5	Regeneration Yes		
Native midstorey cover	8.5	0	Species E. blakelyi		
Native understorey cover (grass)	80	48	Habitat Features		
Native understorey cover (other)	14	12	Tree hollows 0		
Native understorey cover (shrubs)	0	0	Fallen logs 12 m		
Exotic understorey plant cover	4	2	Leaf litter	32%	
Native species diversity	26	37			



Monitoring plot 8 is a control plot located in MU3. No management actions are proposed to occur within the bounds of the plot. The plot is located in moderate-good quality Box-Gum Woodland with an overstorey dominated by regenerating *Eucalyptus blakelyi*. Considerable *E. blakelyi* regeneration is present within the plot. Native species richness remains high (37 species) and is comparable with species numbers recorded during spring 2016 (38 species). The understorey is largely dominated by native grass species, most notably *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass). Ten exotic species were recorded in spring 2018, which is a slight decrease from the 12 exotic species recorded during the 2016 survey. Fauna habitat features remain consistent with those recorded during baseline surveys. Kangaroo grazing pressure is high, as can seen in the comparative photos below. Grazing pressure and dry conditions are contributing to the lower vegetative cover.



Figure 14: Monitoring Plot 8. (Left: Baseline monitoring photo, October 2011. Right: monitoring photo November 2018)

4 Biodiversity values

4.1 Ecosystem health

As noted during autumn 2015 surveys, a large proportion of the *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakely's Red Gum) within the offset site have been subject to leaf attack psyllids, as evidenced by the presence of lerps on leaves, and extensive defoliation and dieback in some areas. Severe infestations by lerps can be detrimental to trees resulting in leaf-drop, defoliation and subsequently die-back if the lerps are present over several seasons (Stone and Urquhart, 1995). Anecdotal evidence suggests that psyllid infestations occur broadly across the ACT region with infestations also noted in the broader region and not currently confined to the M2G offset site.

Outbreaks of lerps are known to be associated with the presence of Noisy Miners (*Manorina melanocephala*) in some areas. However, bird surveys conducted within the offset site in spring 2015 indicate that the population of Noisy Miners within the offset site preferentially occurs in some areas over others, such as the drainage line along the northern side of the north offset. However, the incidence of lerp is widespread across the site and surrounding areas and appears to be higher in areas of the Southern Offset site, where bird surveys recorded a lower abundance of Noisy Miners and a higher abundance of smaller woodland bird species. As such, it does not appear likely that these outbreaks are strongly related to Noisy Miner populations. This is supported by the fact that similar widespread dieback and associated psyllid infestations have been observed throughout the ACT and NSW tablelands over the course of 2016.

The occurrence of psyllid attacks and lerps was not noted as strongly in 2018. Although it is noted that a thinning of the regenerating canopy has occurred recently within the vicinity of monitoring plot 5, where lerps was previously prevalent. It was also noted that Noisy Miner populations within the offset site was relatively low compared to previous years and that native bird diversity in 2018 was high.

4.2 Flora

Two hundred and twenty-six native plant species and 126 exotic species have been recorded for the M2G offset site since the baseline surveys were undertaken (**Appendix A**). The list has continued to grow with each survey. The detection of new records for the site is influenced by factors such as time since cessation of grazing, seasonal conditions, and the varying meander routes chosen by the ecologists undertaking the surveys. A total of 174 flora species (117 native and 57 exotic) were opportunistically recorded during spring 2018 surveys.

The flora recorded since baseline surveys includes a range of widely distributed characteristic woodland species, several rare and uncommon species in the ACT, and four threatened species listed under the EPBC Act (**Table 3**, **Table 4**, and **Figure 15**). The locations of opportunistic observations of threatened, rare or uncommon flora observed during the 2018 surveys are presented in **Figure 15**.

4.2.1 Threatened flora species

An annotated list of nationally threatened species occurring, or known to have occurred on the offset, is provided in **Table 3** below.

Species	EPBC Act Status	NC Act Status	Notes
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> var. <i>tricolor</i> (Hoary Sunray)	Endangered	Not listed	Endangered herbaceous perennial. Noted as rare in the offset site in spring 2014. The species is abundant within the offset site. It is also present in the adjacent land managed by Transgrid, where it is has been noted as growing profusely in the past on batters surrounding the substation. It is unclear whether Hoary Sunray has seeded naturally onto the batters or whether it has been planted. It is considered likely that the individuals within the offset site have originated from the adjacent population. This species was observed within plot 8 and opportunistically during the spring 2018 survey.
<i>Pomaderris pallida</i> (Pale Pomaderris)	Vulnerable	Not listed	Vulnerable shrub to about 1.5 m high. Located in the central western part of the northern offset. A solitary flowering adult plant approximately 90 cm high was found in spring 2014 and was again located in spring 2016, along with approximately 5 juveniles and 2 sub-adults (flowering but only about 30-40 cm high). More than 20 juveniles were observed during the 2018 survey. The species is known to occur within the Murrumbidgee River corridor, and it appears that the population within the offset site has established as an outlier.
<i>Swainsona recta</i> (Small Purple- pea)	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered herbaceous perennial. This species was found on the M2G offset site during initial surveys of the site in 2010 but has not been encountered since. Three translocation enclosure plots have been established on site (refer to Section 5.1) with varying success.
Thesium australe (Austral Toadflax, Toadflax)	Vulnerable	Not listed	Austral Toadflax is a hairless, yellowish-green perennial herb with slender, wiry stems to 40 cm high. The species is semi-parasitic on roots of a range of grass species, notably <i>Themeda triandra</i> (Kangaroo Grass). Approximately 4 individuals were recorded in spring 2015 within the northern offset, however these were not re-located during spring 2016 or 2018. The species is only known from a few records within the Canberra region.

Table 3: Threatened flora species within the offset site

4.2.2 Rare and uncommon ACT species

A number of species considered to be rare or uncommon within the ACT have also been recorded within the offset site to date (**Figure 15**). These species are outlined in **Table 4** below.

Species	Notes
Austrostipa setacea (Corkscrew Grass)	Tufted perennial grass. Noted in the south-eastern corner of the southern offset in spring 2014, but not observed during the 2018 survey.
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i> (Creeping Bossiaea)	Prostrate perennial subshrub. This species was not recorded during the 2016 survey but was recorded in monitoring plot 5 in the northern offset in 2018.
Desmodium brachypodum (Large Tick-trefoil)	Large pea-flowered herb. Although it was previously recorded in the south-eastern part of the southern offset, it was not observed in 2018.
<i>Dillwynia</i> sp. Yetholme	Decumbent to erect shrub. This species has been recorded previously and was seen opportunistically during the 2018 survey.
<i>Discaria pubescens</i> (Australian Anchor Plant)	Rigid shrub with prominent paired stem spines. A localised patch of approximately 26 plants occurs in the northern offset. Observed in the 2018 surveys
Glossostigma elatinoides	Prostrate perennial wetland forb. A localised patch was noted in spring 2014 on the banks of the dam in the northern offset. It was not recorded in 2018.
<i>Limosella australis</i> (Australian Mudwort)	Diminutive perennial wetland forb. Localised plants were noted in spring 2014 on the banks of the dam in the northern offset. It was not recorded in 2018.
<i>Microseris lanceolata</i> (Yam Daisy)	Perennial forb with fleshy tuberous roots. Previously recorded in monitoring plot 3 in the southern offset and present in high abundance (patches of greater than 100 individuals) at various locations throughout the southern offset in 2016. This species was not recorded in 2018.
Plantago gaudichaudii (Narrow Plantain)	Perennial forb with thick fleshy taproot. Recorded in monitoring plot 3 (southern offset) in Spring 2018 and has previously been recorded in monitoring plot 4 (northern offset). In 2018 it was recorded in plot 3 and plot 6.
<i>Stylidium despectum</i> (Dwarf Triggerplant)	Erect diminutive annual forb occurring in moist situations. Localised plants were noted in spring 2014 along a moist drainage line in the northern part of the southern offset. It was not recorded in 2018.
<i>Swainsona monticola</i> (Notched Swainson-pea)	Low spreading herbaceous perennial. Noted in the south-eastern corner of the southern offset in spring 2014 and recorded again in 2016. This species was not recorded in 2018.
<i>Swainsona sericea</i> (Silky Swainson-pea)	Low spreading herbaceous perennial. Recorded in monitoring plots 3 (southern offset) and 5 (northern offset) in spring 2016. This species was recorded in plot 3 in 2018 and was also recorded opportunistically.
Zornia dyctiocarpa	Low herbaceous perennial. Previously noted in the north eastern corner of the southern offset but not recorded in 2018.

Table 4: Rare and uncommon species recorded within the offset site



Figure 15: Opportunistic records of threatened, rare and uncommon flora species observed previously within the offset site.

4.3 Fauna

A broad range of fauna species have been recorded within the offset site since establishment, including 86 bird species, 14 mammal species, 10 reptiles, and 6 amphibians. A cumulative list of species recorded is provided in **Appendix B**. A total of 63 fauna species were recorded, either opportunistically or through bird surveys, across the offset site in spring 2018. This consisted of 57 bird species, four mammal species (of which one was exotic – the Fox) and two reptile or amphibian species. This represents the greatest total and bird fauna species recorded in any one season since monitoring commenced.

4.3.1 Bird monitoring

Previous monitoring on the offset site has recorded a number of woodland bird species recognised as being in decline throughout their range, including Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*), Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascinans*), Southern White-face (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), Speckled Warbler (*Chthonicola sagittatus*), Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*), White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*) and Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*). Of these, only the Eastern Yellow Robin was recorded in 2018: during fencing monitoring, Eastern Yellow Robins were opportunistically heard calling from a gulley near the south-western corner of the Williamsdale property, not far from the Murrumbidgee River. The absence of the other declining woodland birds may have been due to a combination of the natural spatio-temporal patchiness in bird distributions and the dry conditions leading up to the 2018 surveys.

Bird monitoring in spring 2018 recorded 57 species, of which 42 were opportunistic records. The transect monitoring recorded 48 individuals across 15 species. An abundance index was generated and is outlined in **Table 5** below. The Weebill (*Smicronis brevirostrisi*) was the most abundant species recorded within the offset property, followed by the Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*). As in spring 2016, Noisy Miners were recorded during bird surveys only in the northern offset site, which provides favourable open woodland habitat. However, it should be noted that the species was also recorded opportunistically, in lower numbers, in the southern offset site. The Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*) were the next most abundant species recorded during monitoring.

Both the abundance and species richness of birds along the transects was lower than in spring 2016, when 128 individuals across 23 species were recorded. The reduction in bird abundance and species richness may have been due to dry conditions preceding the 2018 surveys.

Common Name	Latin Name	No. of records	No. of individuals	Abundance index
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris	6	13	0.43
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	7	12	0.4
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	4	5	0.17
Pardalote, Striated	Pardalotus striatus	5	5	0.17
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	2	2	0.07
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	2	2	0.07
Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus	1	2	0.07
Galah	Eolophus roseicapillus	1	1	0.03
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis	1	1	0.03
Pardalote, Spotted	Pardalotus punctatus	1	1	0.03
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	1	1	0.03
Rosella, Eastern Platycercus adscitus		1	1	0.03
White Throated Tree Creeper Cormobates leucophaeus		1	1	0.03
White-throated Gerygone Gerygone olivacea		1	1	0.03

Table 5: Species abundance index	x (highest to lowest)
----------------------------------	-----------------------

4.3.2 Fauna habitat assessment

A rapid assessment of the range of fauna habitat features present across the offset site and their abundance was undertaken during the baseline surveys in 2010. These values were subsequently confirmed during surveys in spring 2018 and are presented below in **Table 6**. No changes in habitat features was observed in comparison to 2016. The following categories were used to identify abundance or frequency of each feature:

- Abundant = feature occurs in an almost continuous manner.
- Common = feature encountered commonly, i.e. without having to search for it.
- Occasional = feature occurs in more than a few cases, but not encountered frequently.
- Rare = feature observed very infrequently, one to a few cases at most.

Fauna habitat feature	Northern	Southern
Tree hollows	Occasional	Occasional
Large trees > 60 cm DBH	Occasional	Occasional
Dead standing trees	Occasional	Rare
Stumps (<2 m)	Rare	Rare
Mistletoes	Occasional	Occasional
Regenerating tree thickets	Abundant	Abundant
Native shrub thickets	Common	Occasional
Exotic shrub thickets	Rare	Rare
Logs (fallen)	Occasional	Occasional
Timber (fallen)	Occasional	Occasional
Litter (leaf, twig, bark)	Common	Common
Loose rocks	Common	Common
Outcropping rocks	Common	Common
Termite mounds	Rare	Rare
Meat ant nests	Occasional	Occasional
Earth banks/deep gully walls	Rare	Rare

Table 6: Fauna habitat features observed across the offset site

The plantings of mixed native shrubs, particularly *Acacia* species, along the gullies within the northern offset will further enhance habitat values for a range of native woodland birds that forage and nest in mid-canopies of forests and woodlands.

An assessment of the dominant habitat features recorded within each 50 m x 20 m vegetation monitoring plot was also undertaken during the baseline surveys (**Table 7**). These features were again reassessed in spring 2018. No substantial change in these features relative to the baseline conditions was observed.

Plot	HBT	Logs	Comment	Dominant habitat features present within each 50 m x 20 m plot
1	0	0 m	No	Limited surface rocks; abundant exotic annuals
2	1	2 m	No	Surface and outcropping rocks abundant; minor course woody debris
3	0	15 m	No	Litter common; minor coarse woody debris
4	0	0 m	No	Developing canopy regeneration; course woody debris
5	0	16 m	No	Developing canopy regeneration; limited surface rocks
6	0	0 m	No	Developing canopy regeneration
7	0	0 m	No	Minor surface rocks and course woody debris; abundant exotic annuals
8	0	12 m	No	Litter; course woody debris; hollow logs; surface rocks

Table 7: Habitat assessment within 50 m x 20 m vegetation monitoring plots

4.3.3 Threatened fauna

In addition to the fauna species summarised in Section 4.3 and **Appendix B**, one species of threatened fauna, the Pink-tailed Worm Lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*), was recorded within the broader Williamsdale property during the course of monitoring. It is considered likely that individuals of the Pink-tailed Worm Lizard are present in areas of similarly suitable habitat within the offset site.

4.4 Macropod grazing

As was observed in the 2016 report, it is estimated that over 100 kangaroos and potentially up to 200 kangaroos may be utilising the offset site and surrounding properties at any one time. The Land Management Agreement (LMA) (ACT Government) for the Williamsdale property does not outline a suitable grazing level for the 'Active Conservation' rural enterprise. Previously, the grazing intensity for the Williamsdale property was set at a Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE) of 600, under a grazing enterprise.

The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan (ACT Government, 2010) indicates that a direct comparison between sheep and kangaroos in terms of DSE is inaccurate due to inherent ecological differences between the two species. However, the Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) suggests that a DSE of 0.6 per kangaroo for an unharvested population is probably a reasonable comparison for the ACT region. Using this DSE, the Williamsdale property under a grazing enterprise has the capacity to support up to 360 kangaroos. However, a grazing enterprise is not necessarily conducive to protecting land for conservation purposes (active conservation).

An alternative measure to calculate the number of kangaroos that a property can support is to look at the relative density. The KMP suggests a density of between 0.6 and 1.5 Kangaroos per hectare. The Williamsdale property is approximately 208 ha in size, which means that using the density calculation, the property could support between 124 - 312 kangaroos in total. With this total in mind, the number of kangaroos could be exceeding the grazing intensity for the site under a grazing enterprise, let alone an enterprise established for active conservation (e.g. if there are up to 200 kangaroos present). This is particularly relevant during dry periods such as those observed during the 2018 monitoring surveys.

Furthermore, opportunistic observations of grazing pressure within and adjacent to the *Swainsona recta* enclosure plots (**Figure 16**) indicates that the offset site is currently grazed at a high intensity, which is unlikely to be consistent with the conservation principles outlined in the ODP. It is noted that Icon Water have established a number of grazing exclusion plots adjacent to the main drainage line, and the north-south drainage line in the northern offset. These plots are less than 6 months old, and notable differences can already be observed.

It is recommended that kangaroo monitoring is undertaken at the site to determine a more accurate count of individuals. If kangaroo numbers are high, then kangaroo control could be considered for the site. If this is the case, then consultation with the ACT Government should be conducted in relation to the grazing pressure and any control measures proposed.



Figure 16: Evidence of grazing near existing Swainsona plot

5 Swainsona recta monitoring

5.1 Results summary

The spring 2018 *Swainsona recta* census was undertaken on 5 November 2018. Of the 112 individuals planted within the three translocation plots, 24 were present in spring 2018, a decrease of 12 compared to spring 2016. This represents an overall survivorship of 21%, which is down substantially from the 79% overall survivorship recorded in spring 2013 and is a slight decrease compared to 2014 and 2015.

Twenty two of the 24 plants present in spring 2018 were in flower or fruit. All living plants were of Mt Taylor provenance. These results contrast with the results prior to the 2016 monitoring, which indicated a stronger survival of Burra and Williamsdale individuals.

Five of the 24 individuals recorded during spring 2018 were not recorded in the 2016 surveys. As discussed in previous monitoring reports (ELA, 2014; ELA, 2015; ELA 2016), and as demonstrated by these fluctuating year-on-year results, it is difficult to accurately quantify survivorship in planted *Swainsona recta* individuals in only a single season, due to the species' ability to die back to below ground root stock and develop above ground growth only when conditions are favourable. It is particularly relevant for spring 2018 with the extended preceding dry conditions, and thus, some individuals may have been existing as root stock.

It is also worth considering the removing the enclosures where grazing pressure is absent, as the cover of native grasses such as *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) is very high, and maybe supressing growth due to a shading effect, or altering microclimate features. It is noted that part of enclosure (plot 2) has been reduced to allow grazing in half the plots. It is recommended that the remainder of this enclosure is removed to coincide with any grazing control, as Kangaroo numbers are currently high. If grazing pressure can not be reduced, then it is recommended to temporarily remove the enclosure for plot 2 and re-instate the enclosure following grazing (to mimic pulse grazing).

5.1.1 Plot 1

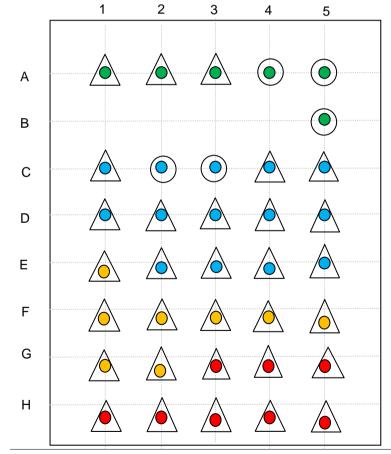
Table 8: Plot 1 monitoring results

Кеу		Re	sults				Со	nments				
0	Present -	in flower	or immatu	ure fruit	10 fertile	plants, all from 2012 plan	ants, all from 2012 plantings					
	Present -	lacking f	lowers an	d fruits	None							
\triangle	Absent - r					2012 and 15 from 2013 pla	antings not observed					
A B C D		$\overset{2}{\textcircled{0}}$	3		5 () () () () () () () () () ()	2012 and 15 from 2013 plantings not observed Plot 1 - 2015 Plot 1 occurs within Box-Gum Woodland with a <i>Themeda triandra</i> (Kangaroo Gradominated groundcover. A high diversity of native species and a low abundance of excess species have been recorded within the surrounding area. The plot contains some op ground and inter-tussock spacing between <i>Themeda</i> tussocks and is on a slight east fact slope. <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> surrounds the plot as the dominant overstorey with nature generation present. Shading from the overstorey is relatively low. Forty individuals were planted within plot 1, of which 26 were from Mt. Taylor (10 potting r & 16 soil plus potting mix) and 7 each were from the Williamsdale and Burra populations. Of the 40 plants, 10 were present in spring 2018 (all from 2012 plantings). No recruitme was observed within the plot. However, all of the plants observed were in flower and/or from the surrounded to the plants observed were in flower and/or from the plants observed were in flowere and/or from the plants observed were in flower and/or						
F						Collection location Growing media Key Planted Water crystals						
~	\wedge	Δ	\wedge	\wedge	\wedge	Mt Taylor Potting mix 2012 No						
G						Mt Taylor Soil and potting mix O 2012 No				-		
4	\bigcirc	\triangle	\wedge	\triangle	\bigwedge	Williamsdale	Potting mix	0	2013	Yes	_	
		$\underline{\langle \mathbf{O} \rangle}$	<u>/</u> 0\	<u> </u>	$\overline{\bigcirc}$	Burra	Potting mix	•	2013	Yes	_	

5.1.2 Plot 2

Table 9: Plot 2 monitoring results

Кеу	Results	Comments
0	Present - in flower or immature fruit	5 plants fertile, all from 2012 plantings
	Present - lacking flowers and fruits	None
\triangle	Absent - not observed	15 from 2012 & 16 from 2013 plantings not observed



Plot 2 - 2015

Plot 2 occurs within *E. blakelyi* dominated Box-Gum Woodland with the understorey dominated by *Austrostipa* spp. (Speargrass) and *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass). A high diversity of native species and a low abundance of exotic species have been recorded within the surrounding area. The plot is established on a slight north-east facing slope. Natural regeneration is present in the general area, but no shading of the overstorey trees is likely to occur. Some rocky habitat occurs adjacent to the plot, but not within the plot.

Thirty-six individuals were planted within plot 2, of which 20 were from Mt. Taylor (6 potting mix & 14 soil plus potting mix) and 8 were from each of the Williamsdale and Burra populations. Fourteen individuals are located outside the fenced boundary of the plot (columns one and two).

Of the 36 individuals planted, 5 were present in spring 2018, all from 2012 plantings. No recruitment was observed within the plot. However, all of the plants observed were in flower and/or fruit.

Collection location	Growing media	Key	Planted	Water crystals
Mt Taylor	Potting mix		2012	No
Mt Taylor	Soil and potting mix	0	2012	No
Williamsdale	Potting mix	0	2013	Yes
Burra	Potting mix	•	2013	Yes

© ECO LOGICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

5.1.3 Plot 3

Table 10: Plot 3 monitoring results

Key	Results	Comments				
0	Present - in flower or immature fruit	7 plants fertile, all from 2012 plantings				
	Present - lacking flowers and fruits	2 observed with leaf only, both from 2012 plantings				
\triangle	Absent - not observed	11 from 2012 & 16 from 2013 plantings not observed				
	1 2 3 4 5	·				

А В - **O** \mathbf{O} . . <mark>(</mark>) С D () /0\ Е F G Н

Plot 3 - 2018

Plot 3 occurs in *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* (Apple-box) / *E. dives* (Peppermint) woodland with an understorey dominated by *Themeda triandra*. A high diversity of native species and a low abundance of exotic species have been recorded within the surrounding area. The plot was established on a flat area on top of a small knoll. Limited surface rocks were observed within and immediately adjacent to the plot. Plot 3 is likely to experience moderate shading throughout the day from surrounding overstorey.

Thirty-six individuals have been planted within plot 2, of which 20 were from Mt. Taylor (9 potting mix & 11 soil plus potting mix), 7 of which were from the Williamsdale population and 9 of which were from the Burra population.

Of the 36 individuals, 9 were present in spring 2012, all from 2012 plantings. No recruitment was observed within the plot. However, 7 of the 9 plants observed were in flower and/or fruit.

Collection location	Growing media	Key	Planted	Water crystals
Mt Taylor	Potting mix	•	2012	No
Mt Taylor	Soil and potting mix	0	2012	No
Williamsdale	Potting mix	0	2013	Yes
Burra	Potting mix	•	2013	Yes

6 Weed monitoring

6.1 Weed management actions undertaken to date

Weed management on site has included control of the perennial grasses *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass) and *Nassella trichotoma* (Serrated Tussock) in mid-2012 and mid to late-2013, and control of the perennial broad-leaved species *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet Briar), *Rubus* sp. (Blackberry), and *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's Wort) over the summer 2012 / 2013 and summer 2013 / 2014 periods. Follow up control was also undertaken in December 2014.

Additional weed spraying operations targeting Sweet Briar and Blackberry were undertaken in spring 2015; these predominantly involved spot spraying of re-shooting Sweet Briar.

In 2015, Icon Water were advised by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PSC) to not conduct any spraying of St John's Wort within the offset site until further notice, as a biological control program for this species is being implemented in the region.

A weed management program was planned for summer 2016/2017 based on the results of the 2016 monitoring report.

6.2 Priority areas for weed control works

A summary of weed occurrences across the offset site, comparison with prior weed occurrence, and a summary of priorities for weed control works in 2019 is provided in **Table 11**.

Priority areas for weed control works have also been identified across the offset site, with priority areas defined by management units. The priority areas for works have been assessed for six different species or groups of species as shown in **Figure 17** and **Figure 18**, with the overall priority for each species across the offset site summarised in **Table 11**.

Species	Prior weed occurrence	Current status					
African Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis</i> <i>curvula</i>)	Low, relatively few isolated individuals or small patches along tracks across the offset site with some heavier infestations around the main drainage line around MU5/6.	Targeted control work has been successful. This species was not recorded in the spring 2018 survey. MU occurrence : N/A Recommendation : Continue monitoring Priority : Low					
Serrated Tussock (<i>Nassella</i> <i>trichotoma</i>)	Low, scattered individuals in some areas. Scattered plants persist within MU1 near the southern boundary of the southern offset.	Targeted control work has been successful. This species was only recorded near the boundary of MU6 in the spring 2018 survey. MU occurrence : MU6 Recommendation : Continue monitoring and vigilance Priority : Low					
Blackberry (<i>Rubus</i> fruticosus)	Low, localised areas of dominance. Occasional isolated patches and scattered young individuals, particularly in MU4 along the drainage line. The species is abundant in the broader Williamsdale property, particularly close to the river corridor.	Targeted control work has been largely successful. A few isolated patches and scattered individuals were observed in 2018, predominantly near drainage lines. MU occurrence : MU4, M6 Recommendation : Follow-up control required. Priority : Low					
Woody Weeds (Hawthorn, Prunus, Pyracantha & Cotoneaster)	Very low, isolated individuals. Present within the study area as isolated individuals.	Very few scattered plants persist within MU4 and MU6 and should be removed. MU occurrence : MU4, MU6 Recommendation : Targeted control of isolated individuals using cut and paint or manual removal of the tree. Mostly associated with the northern drainage line Priority : Low					

Table 11: Summary of prior weed occurrence and spring 2018 monitoring results

Species	Prior weed occurrence	Current status			
St John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum)	Scattered and moderate occurrence across the offset site. Widely distributed across both the northern and southern offset sites, however typically with low cover.	Despite previous control efforts, the species remains widely distributed across both the northern and southern offsets and appears to have increased in both extent and abundance. While covers of this species had previously been low, dense patches were recorded in the majority of MUs. The species is particularly prevalent in open areas of the site.			
		MU occurrence : MU1a, MU1b, MU2a, MU2b, MU3, MU4, MU5, MU6,			
		Recommendation : Investigate control options through discussion with ACT parks and conservation.			
		Priority: Moderate-High			
Thistles (Carthamus lanatus, Carduus spp., Cirsium vulgare & Onopordum spp.)	Moderate, localised areas of dominance, predominantly in areas with significant history of disturbance.	Thistles were most prevalent in areas with a strong history of grazing disturbance. <i>Carduus</i> spp. and <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> (Saffron Thistle) were commonly encountered beneath the canopy of trees, and both were present, along with <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Spear Thistle) as scattered patches in open areas, particularly within MU1 and MU4.			
-11 /		MU occurrence: MU1a, MU2b, MU3, MU4, MU5, MU6			
		Recommendation : For <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> particularly, consider control options within a broader program encompassing the adjacent property to the south. This species was very common in MU1a and associated monitoring plot.			
		Priority: Low-moderate			
Sweet Briar (<i>Rosa</i> <i>rubiginosa</i>)	Isolated presence scattered throughout offset site, largely present as re-sprouting or juvenile individuals.	Weed control work on <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> appears to have been largely successful. However, as in 2015, some re- sprouting or recruitment from soil seed stores was observed and it is expected that continued follow up work for the species will be necessary, but is not considered a priority at this point in time			
		MU occurrence: MU3, MU4, MU5, MU6			
		Recommendation : Further spot spraying of individuals missed or re-sprouting.			
		Priority: Low			



Figure 17: Relative weed distribution within the southern offset site, spring 2018



Figure 18: Relative weed distribution within the northern offset site, spring 2018

7 Erosion monitoring

7.1 Erosion management actions undertaken to date

During the ERG site visit to the M2G Biodiversity Offset on 22 October 2014, concern was expressed over potential erosion problems in two areas adjacent to the main drainage channel in the northern offset. The two sites are located along the main drainage line separating MU5 & MU6 within the northern offset. Recommendations around rehabilitation options were presented in the spring 2014 monitoring report.

On ground erosion management activities were undertaken during winter 2016 in the form of placement of woody debris piles in active gullies in an attempt to slow erosion at the gully heads. For further detail on management actions recommended refer to the ODP and Erosion Management Sub-plan.

Furthermore, additional erosion control has been undertaken in the small drainage line in MU6 (flowing into the main drainage line) in the form of rocky debris. This appears to have been effective (see erosion point 18 below).

The spring 2015 monitoring report (ELA, 2015) recommended that an erosion rehabilitation concept plan be developed, with a particular focus on the main drainage line. While the small-scale erosion management activities undertaken in winter 2016 appear to have been effective, it is still recommended that the cost of more wide-scale rehabilitation be investigated and the development of an over-arching concept plan be considered for the main drainage line, particularly if dry conditions and high grazing pressure continue.

7.2 Erosion monitoring point results - spring 2018

The majority of erosion monitoring points are located along ephemeral drainage lines in the northern offset. Vegetative ground cover has decreased in many locations since spring 2016 monitoring, likely due to recent below-average rainfall and increased grazing by macropods. Active erosion at or adjacent to six of the erosion monitoring points was observed in the current monitoring period. Remediation works appear to have been successful in stabilising gully heads; further works of similar scope are recommended for a number of other points.

It should be noted that approval is required to undertake any remediation works within a drainage line (see Erosion Management Sub-plan) and may influence the type of work to be undertaken. A summary of the erosion points monitored within the offset property is provided below with a detailed description of each point and an accompanying photo.

Erosion Point 2:

Description: Situated within an ephemeral drainage line in MU4, northern offset.

Size: Approximately 4 m across, 0.8 m deep and 2.0 m in length.

Change: Although there has been no significant change observed since baseline monitoring survey, some recent slumping has occurred adjacent to the monitoring point. Groundcover vegetation has also reduced since the last survey.

Action required: Consider erosion control such as placing woody debris at the gully head to prevent further erosion. Actions to reduce grazing may also assist in reducing erosion.



Spring 2018

Erosion Point 4:

Description: Located within an ephemeral drainage line within MU4, northern offset.

Size: Approximately 2.0 m wide, 0.5 m deep, 2.5 m long.

Change: Very little change has occurred. The vegetation surrounding this point has been grazed and there is evidence of wombat activity upstream.

Action required: No works required at this stage.



Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 6:

Description: Located in an ephemeral drainage line within MU4, northern offset. Evidence of sheet erosion along bank and some rill erosion.

Size: Approximately 6 m long, 1.5 m deep and 2.5 m wide.

Change: Very little change. There has been some recent minor slumping upstream.

Action required: Consider removing erosion point from future monitoring surveys.



Autumn 2012

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 7:

Description: Located along the main creek line within northern offset. Photo taken from Photo Point 1 (co-ordinates; 6059835, 692700) looking north-west (315°) and showing the north bank.

Size: Approximately 20 m long and 1.0 m deep.

Change: No discernible activity has recently occurred at this point.

Action required: Remediation measures to slow surface water flow and stop progression of head cut could be considered.



Spring 2018

Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Erosion Point 8:

Description: Located along the main creek line within northern offset. Photo taken from Photo Point 1 (co-ordinates; 6059835, 692700) looking north-east (45°) and showing the north bank (upstream from erosion point 7).

Size: Approximately 15 m long and 1.0 m deep.

Change: No discernible activity has recently occurred at this point.

Action required: None. Expected to grade out over time and naturally revegetate.



Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 9:

Description: Situated near the western boundary of the southern offset.

Size: Approximately 20 m long and 1 m deep.

Change: Some recent minor active erosion has occurred at this point. The left side has deepened and is now 1.2-1.5 m deep in some sections.

Action required: Consider remediation of head cut to stop progress of gully. Low priority.



Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 10:

Description: Situated along the western fence line of the southern offset. Small area of erosion due to upslope runoff.

Size: Approximately 5.0 m long and 0.5 m deep.

Change: This point shows signs of minor active erosion.

Action required: No immediate action required.



Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 13:

Description: Moderately sized erosion point in northern offset. Evidence of existing slumping.

Size: Approximately 4.0 m long, 1.5 m deep and approximately 3 m wide.

Change: Only minor change activity has occurred since previous monitoring. Groundcover has also decreased.

Action required: Consider placement of woody debris or other stabilising materials to remediate and prevent further erosion.



Erosion Point 18:

Description: Located along an ephemeral drainage line within the northern offset. Evidence of stream bed exposure, pooling and in-stream vegetation.

Size: Approximately1.5 m deep, 2.5 m wide, 3 m long.

Change: Woody debris placed at gully head and rocks placed in drainage line; this erosion point now appears to be fully stabilising.

Action required: No further action required.



Autumn 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 21:

Description: Located west (just downstream) from the access track running along the western boundary in the northern offset. The site has developed a plunge pool, which has exposed the bedrock in some parts.

Size: 1-2 m wide, 0.5 m deep, 2 m long.

Change: There has been some minor recent activity at this erosion point at the gully head. Groundcover has also decreased.

Action required: Consider placement of woody debris or other stabilising materials to remediate and prevent further erosion.



Spring 2012 (baseline)

Spring 2018

Erosion Point 22: Point established at overflow point of southern dam during the spring 2013 monitoring surveys.

Description: Southern dam overflow – flowing water causing erosion at exit point.

Size: 50 cm wide, 20 cm deep, 1.5 m long.

Change: Groundcover has decreased on the access track.

Action required: No immediate works required at this stage.



Spring 2013 (baseline)



Spring 2018

8 Feral animals

8.1 Feral animal background and previous control

The autumn and spring 2012 monitoring surveys identified *Sus scrofa* (Feral Pig) within the offset property. Prior to the autumn 2012 monitoring, this species had not been observed. Disturbance within the offset included pig rooting, often in areas associated with a forage source, and tracks through boggier areas of the site. The disturbance caused by the pigs was locally significant, but pig activity was at a low density across the whole of the offset. It was recommended that the level of disturbance be monitored and appropriate action taken if the level of disturbance increased substantially. In response to the recommendation, Regional Feral Animal Control (RFAC) was engaged to conduct control activities at the M2G offset site during 2012 and 2014.

Feral Goats (*Capra hircus*) were observed within the offset site during the spring 2013 monitoring surveys. The species was considered likely to be utilising a large area including the offset site, neighbouring properties, and the Murrumbidgee River corridor. The lack of disturbance (agriculture activities) within the offset site is likely to provide a refuge for goats. The spring 2013 monitoring surveys observed localised goat camps (e.g. under a stand of trees) and increased grazing pressures at these points. However, the overall quality and condition of the offset site did not appear to be greatly impacted. As a proactive measure Icon Water undertook goat control activities in December 2013. A total of 150 feral goats were removed from the offset site. Subsequent aerial monitoring did not record any goats within the offset site. RFAC observed goats within the offset site during July 2014 and lower numbers of Goats have been observed in subsequent monitoring surveys.

Further feral animal control measures were undertaken during spring 2015 (feral pig trapping) and winter 2016 (feral goat removal and fox shooting). Further operations to remove the large population of feral goats present on site were planned for 2017.

8.2 Feral animal monitoring results (opportunistic observations) – Spring 2018

Opportunistic records (direct and indirect) of feral animals are presented in Figure 19.

8.2.1 Vulpes vulpes (European Fox)

A single fox was observed in the northern offset site during the bird survey in spring 2018.

8.2.2 Oryctolagus cuniculus (European Rabbits) and Lepus europaeus (Hares)

One active rabbit warren was observed within the offset site in 2018. Other non-active warrens were also noted. Rabbit scats were also observed in multiple locations within the southern offset area.

8.2.3 Dama dama (Feral Deer)

Two feral deer were recorded within the Williamsdale property during the spring 2016 surveys. The species was not observed in spring 2018, but likely to be in the area.

8.2.4 Capra hircus (Feral Goat)

Large numbers of feral goats (approximately 40 in one herd) were observed within the offset site. Feral goats (up to 70 in one herd) were also observed in 2016.

8.2.5 Sus scrofus (Feral Pig)

No evidence of pigs was recorded in spring 2018.

8.3 **Recommendations and actions**

- Undertake control of feral goats across the property.
- Liaise with Parks and Conservation Service to expand existing fox baiting programs.
- Report presence of feral animal activity (for goat and foxes) to the local control agencies. This will assist with information that may guide any broad or landscape scale control activities.



Figure 19: Opportunistic records of feral animals within the Williamsdale property, spring 2016

9 Fencing monitoring

Fencing of the offset site was one of the required actions highlighted in the ODP. Fencing is required to prevent grazers such as sheep and cattle from entering the offset site from the neighbouring properties. The primary aim of a stock proof fence is to keep grazing stock out of an area (e.g. conservation area) where it is bordered by a private rural property. This type of fencing generally consists of 4 or 5 stranded wire with wooden posts and/or star-pickets, approximately 1.2 m high. In response to recommendations in previous monitoring reports (ELA, 2012), all internal fencing within the offset site was removed in June 2013 to enhance the wildlife friendly nature of the offset site and to be consistent with the biodiversity conservation ideals of the ODP and associated sub-plans.

9.1 Fence condition spring 2018

The overall condition of the Williamsdale property and offset boundary fencing is considered adequate to exclude grazing by stock within the offset site. No areas of major damage ('high risk') were recorded during the spring 2018 survey (**Figure 20**).

Older style boundary fencing comprising a rabbit netting base with plain wires along the top is still present along some sections of the offset site boundary. As highlighted in previous monitoring reports (ELA, 2013; ELA, 2014; ELA, 2015; ELA, 2017), this style of fencing is not wildlife friendly and can require considerable ongoing maintenance as a result of damage by fauna (wombats etc.). Minor damage to fence sections of this style along the boundary has occurred where native fauna have pushed up existing rabbit netting to gain access to the offset site (e.g. Wombats). As recommended in previous reports, eventual replacement of this style of fencing should be considered to minimise impacts to fauna and reduce management costs and maintenance required in the long term.

It is recommended that the fence continue to be monitored to ensure that it is maintained as an effective barrier to the movement of stock.



Figure 20: Williamsdale property fence with points recommended for repair

10 Rehabilitation survival assessment

A summary of the rehabilitation survival assessment is presented in **Table 12** below. Survival percentages were considered high, with 96% survival observed in the small gully north of the main drainage channel and 79% and 83% at the two points near the substation in the main drainage channel.

A number of live individuals were observed as being in poor health, with discoloured foliage or dieback. There was evidence of previous waterlogging along the larger gully near the substation, which may have contributed to plant deaths.

			ļ	Alive			Dead	Survival
Location	<i>Acacia</i> sp.	Dodonaea sp.	Cassinia sp.	<i>Bursaria</i> sp.	Leptospermum sp.	Total		(%)
Northern offset, point 1, small gully in MU6	29	10	9	-	-	48	2	96%
Northern offset, point 2, drainage gully near substation	37	27	13	1	1	79	21	79%
Northern offset point 3, drainage gully near substation	37	6	12	23	5	83	17	83%

Table 12: Rehabilitation survival counts

11 Summary

11.1 General

In general, the offset site is in moderate to good condition, with a relatively good diversity of native vegetation (species and cover) and habitat features providing habitat for a range of threatened, rare and uncommon flora and fauna species. The highest diversity of native birds was recorded during the spring 2018 surveys, compared to previous years, with native birds occupying a range of habitat including regenerating and remnant woodland, open grassland, standing water, riparian corridors and standing and fallen dead wood.

11.2 Bushfire

The access track through the offset site is in a satisfactory condition.

Ongoing grazing by macropods across the property is high and is more than sufficient in controlling the growth of the ground cover vegetation and preventing excessive accumulation of fine surface fuels.

11.3 Threatened, rare and uncommon plant species

Four nationally threatened and 12 rare and uncommon ACT plant species occur or have been known to occur on the offset site. Although no species is imminently threatened within the offset site, it is recommended that periodic monitoring be undertaken to ensure that the populations of these species within the site are at a minimum maintained over time, and ideally expanded. Factors to consider monitoring include:

- population numbers
- evidence of recruitment
- potential threats such as grazing or browsing and weed competition. This is particularly relevant for the *Swainsona recta* plots

Staff and contractors should be made aware of these species and their locations on site (i.e. provided with maps and photographs) to minimise inadvertent damage to populations. This is particularly important for personnel involved in spraying herbicides.

11.4 Weeds

Primary control of weeds across the site has reduced the abundance and distribution of key weed species. However, follow up control is required to target any individuals missed or those that are resprouting. On-going weed control should be prioritised for St John's Wort and Thistle species, with other weeds considered a low priority. The increase in extent and abundance of St John's Wort is of concern, and further discussions with ACT PCS should be prioritised.

It is recommended that weed control within the broader Williamsdale property (including other offset areas) be considered to minimise the chance of weed propagules from surrounding land becoming established within the offset site.

11.5 Erosion

Minor active gully erosion or slumping was observed at or adjacent to 6 of the erosion monitoring points in the current monitoring period. Previous remediation works appear to have been successful in stabilising gully heads; further works of similar scope are recommended for a number of other points, but are considered a low priority at this stage. Vegetative ground cover has decreased in many locations since spring 2016 monitoring, likely as a result of recent below-average rainfall and increased grazing by macropods.

11.6 Feral animals

The overall incidence of feral animals within the offset site was low, with the exception of feral goats, which a flock of approximately 40 Goats were observed in the northern offset site. The presence of foxes and rabbits was also recorded, but in low numbers and are of lesser concern. Continued monitoring and management control is recommended.

11.7 Fencing

The condition of the Williamsdale property and offset boundary fencing is considered adequate to exclude stock grazing from the offset site. However, some minor repairs are likely to be required. Some sections of the fence may require replacing in the future with a five-strand plain wire fence.

11.8 Grazing

High numbers of Kangaroos, and high densities of Kangaroo droppings, were observed during monitoring, indicating that the offset site is subject to high intensity grazing. The condition of vegetation in grazing enclosures (e.g. *Swainsona recta* monitoring plots) suggests that grazing by Kangaroos is having a substantial impact on vegetation, which may be inconsistent with biodiversity conservation. It is recommended that kangaroo monitoring is undertaken at the site to determine a more accurate count of individuals. If kangaroo numbers are high, then kangaroo control could be considered for the site. If this is the case, then consultation with the ACT Government should be conducted in relation to the grazing pressure and any control measures proposed.

12 Management recommendations

A summary of the recommended adaptive management actions relating to the offset site is provided in Table 13 below. The actions relate to the appropriate ODP sub-plan and are based on the results presented in the above sections.

ODP Sub-Plan	Action status	Recommended management actions
		• Target priority species and priority areas as identified in Section 6 (St John's Wort and Thistle species).
Weed	On-going control and monitoring.	• Continue to undertake follow up weed control as required on persistent species such as St John's Wort, Thistle species, Sweet
		• On-going weed management will be required at the site to combat the introduction of propagules from adjacent rural areas.
Rehabilitation	To be considered.	No additional recommendations follow from this report. However, if rehabilitation survival of plants adjacent to the substation decline, then adjacent decline, the substation decline, the subst
		The spring 2015 and 2014 reports recommended the following:
		 It is recommended that consideration be given to low density scattered plantings in MU7. Plantings should include over storey (such as, <i>Bursaria spinosa, Acacia</i> sp., <i>Cassinia</i> sp., <i>and Dodonaea sp.</i> Plantings need to consider the proximity to the pow easement. Within the powerline easement consideration could be given the plantings of low shrubs, forbs and native grasse Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) mulch to suppress weeds and introduce seed into the site.
		• Prior to any planting works, weed control needs to be undertaken, particularly for broad leaf exotic species. Plantings sho outcompeted by exotic annual grass growth during the growing season.
		• Box-Gum Woodland, the dominant vegetation community within MU7 is an open woodland community with a typically absent plantings considered should mimic the structure and species diversity present in the remainder of the offset site. There are likel the offset site to ensure that local provenance is preserved.
Sediment and erosion	Action required.	The majority of sites within the offset are considered to be stable and no immediate action is required.
Control		• Minor remediation works, such as placement of woody debris, should be considered at points 2, 9, 13, 18 and 21.
Bushfire	Complete. On-going monitoring.	 It is recommended that the track continues to be maintained in a condition to facilitate bush fire management. If track management that care is taken to ensure that the track remains in good condition and does not widen due to overuse, incorrect maintenanc remain in a grassed condition.
Bushine	Complete. On going monitoring.	• Consider developing and implementing an improved bushfire management plan which specifically manages the site for conser of fire as a tool to manage invasive species, increase native species diversity, maintain an open structure to the woodland and er across the site.
		Undertake feral goat control.
Feral animal control	Action and on-going monitoring required.	• Implement a follow up fox baiting program in 2019 (if it can be conducted on a broad scale to include adjacent land owners).
		• Evidence of rabbit in several locations may indicate that, control measures may be required for this species in the future.
Fencing	Completed in August 2012 and June 2013. On-going	No immediate major actions required. Minor repair actions are likely to be needed in the near future.
	maintenance and monitoring	As previously recommended (ELA, 2017), replacement of older style boundary fence (rabbit netting) with a 5 strand plain wire the strand plain wire th
Grazing	On-going monitoring	Grazing level is currently not considered to be appropriate to the management objectives (active conservation) of the site, point grazing levels should be monitored to obtain an accurate count of kangaroos inhabiting the property, and control measures of noted that high macropod numbers have been observed opportunistically in the 2018 monitoring surveys.
		• It is recommended that advice be sought from ACT government regarding grazing pressure and the potential control options for

 Table 13: Summary of proposed actions relating to the ODP

eet Briar and Blackberry after priority control.

additional plantings should be considered.

ey (*Eucalyptus blakelyi, E. melliodora*) and shrubs powerlines and need to maintain an appropriate sses. Rehabilitation works could trial the use of

should be monitored to ensure that they are not

ent or scattered mid-storey of native shrubs. Any kely to be suitable locations to collect seed within

ement is required in the future, it is recommended unce, or result in erosion. The track would ideally

servation. The plan should include consideration I enable a mosaic of fire classes to be established

re fence should be considered.

particularly when conditions are dry. Macropod s considered if high numbers are recorded. It is

for native herbivores.

References

ACT Government, 2010, ACT Kangaroo Management Plan, Prepared by Territory and Municipal Services, ACT Government.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) 2018. 'Monthly rainfall: Michelago (Soglio). Available: http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/av?p_nccObsCode=139&p_display_type=dataFile&p_ startYear=&p_c=&p_stn_num=070064

Eco Logical Australia 2012. M2G Offset Monitoring Report – Spring 2012. Prepared for ACTEW Water.

Eco Logical Australia 2012. *Offset Delivery Plan*. Prepared for ACTEW Corporation. Includes associated sub-plans and baseline data.

Eco Logical Australia 2013. M2G Offset Monitoring Report - Spring 2013. Prepared for ACTEW Water.

Eco Logical Australia 2014. M2G Offset Monitoring Report – Spring 2014. Prepared for ACTEW Water.

Eco Logical Australia 2015. M2G Offset Monitoring Report - Spring 2015. Prepared for Icon Water

Eco Logical Australia 2017. M2G Offset Monitoring Report - Spring 2016. Prepared for Icon Water

Sharp, S. and Milner, R. 2014. *Procedures Manual for Monitoring Matters of National Environmental Significance in the Molonglo Conservation Areas*. Territory and Municipal Services, ACT Government.

Stone C, Urquhart CA, 1995, *Psyllids – Insect Pests of Eucalypts,* Forest Protection Research Division Series, Number 7. State Forests of NSW.

Appendix A: Flora species list – monitoring plots

D = dead
+ = few, small cover (<5%)
r = solitary, small cover (<5%)
1 = numerous (up to 5%)
2 = 5-25%
3= 25-50%
4= 50-75%
5=>75%

Note: The species cumulative list includes all species observed over all monitoring surveys.

Native species, spring 2018

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Acacia dealbata	х								
Acacia mearnsii	х								
Acacia rubida	х								
Acaena echinata	х								
Acaena ovina	x		1	1	1	1	1		1
Acrotriche serrulata									
Ajuga australis	х								
Alternanthera denticulata									

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Alternanthera sp. A									
Amphibromus nervosus									
Amyema pendula subsp. pendula									
Aphanes australiana									
Aristida ramosa	x								1
Aristida sp.	x				1				
Aristida vagans	x								
Arthropodium minus									
Arthropodium sp.									
Asperula conferta	x			+	1	r	r		+
Asplenium flabellifolium									
Astroloma humifusum	x								
Austrostipa bigeniculata	x								1
Austrostipa densiflora	x								
Austrostipa scabra	x		1	r	1	1	1		2
Austrostipa setacea									
Austrostipa sp.									
Avena barbata	x								
Bossiaea buxifolia									
Bossiaea prostrata	x					r			
Bothriochloa macra	х	2	2		1	1	2	1	1
Brachycome sp.									
Brachyloma daphnoides	х								
Brachyscome dentata									
Bulbine bulbosa	x								

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1 (MU1A)	2 (MU2B)	3 (MU3)	4 (MU4)	5 (MU5)	6 (MU6)	7 (MU7)	8 (MU3)
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)								
Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla	x		r	+		r			
Callistemon sieberi									
Callitris endlicheri	x								
Calocephalus citreus	x			+					r
Calotis scabiosifolia var. integrifolia									
Carex breviculmis									
Carex appressa	x							r	
Carex inversa	x	х	r	r	r		1	2	
Carex sp.									
Cassinia aculeata	x								
Cassinia longifolia	x								
Cassinia quinquefaria	x								
Centipeda cunninghamii									
Cheilanthes sieberi	x		1	1		+	1		1
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	x		1	1		1	1		1
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	x						+		
Clematis leptophylla	x			1	r		r		
Convolvulus angustissimus	x		1	2		2	2		+
Cotula australis	x								
Craspedia variabilis	x				+				
Crassula helmsii									
Crassula peduncularis									
Crassula sieberana	x	х							
<i>Crassula</i> sp.	x				r				
Cryptandra amara	x					1	+		

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1 (MU1A)	2 (MU2B)	3 (MU3)	4 (MU4)	5 (MU5)	6 (MU6)	7 (MU7)	8 (MU3)
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)								
Cymbonotus lawsonianus	х		+	r			1	1	
Cymbonotus preissianus									
Cymbonotus sp.						+			
Cymbopogon refractus	х		1		r				
Cynoglossum sp.									
Cynoglossum suaveolens									
Cyperus Ihotskyanus									
Daucus glochidiatus									+
Desmodium brachypodium									
Desmodium varians	х		1	+		+	1		1
Dianella revoluta	х								
Dichelachne micrantha	х								
Dichelachne sp.									
Dichondra repens	х		+		1	+			
Dichopogon fimbriatus									
Dillwynia sp. Yetholme	х								
Discaria pubescens	х								
Diuris semilunulata									
Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustissima									
Drosera peltata									
Dysphania pumilio									
Einadia nutans subsp. nutans	х						+		
Elatine gratioloides									
Eleocharis acuta									
Elymus scaber	х		+	1			1		

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 (MU7)	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)		(MU3)
Enneapogon nigricans	x								
Epilobium billardiereanum	х								
Epilobium hirtigerum									
Epilobium sp.						r			
Eragrostis brownii	х								
Erodium crinitum	х								
Eryngium ovinum	х			+			r		
Eucalyptus blakelyi	х		2	2	2	2	2		1
Eucalyptus bridgesiana	х								
Eucalyptus dives	х								
Eucalyptus mannifera	х								
Eucalyptus melliodora	х								
Eucalyptus rossii									
Euchiton japonicus	х			+					
Euchiton sp.									
Euchiton sphaericus	x						r		
Euphorbia drummondii	х						r		r
Fimbristylis dichotoma									
Galium gaudichaudii	х								
Galium sp.					r				r
Geranium retrorsum	x		+				r		
Geranium solanderi	x		+	1	r	+	1	r	r
Geranium sp.	x								
Glossostigma elatinoides	x								
Glycine clandestina	х								

Plot Number	Opportunistic (2018)	1 (MU1A)	2 (MU2B)	3 (MU3)	4 (MU4)	5 (MU5)	6 (MU6)	7 (MU7)	8
Species (cumulative list)									(MU3)
Glycine tabacina	x		+	+		+	+		
Gonocarpus tetragynus	x			+					+
Goodenia hederacea	x								
Goodenia pinnatifida	x			1					
Haloragis heterophylla	x								
Hibbertia obtusifolia	x								
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	x		+	+	r	r	r	r	
Hymenochilus cynocephalus									
Hypericum gramineum	x			r	r	r			+
Hypoxis hygrometrica	x								
Indigofera australis	x								
Isoetopsis graminifolia									
Isolepis hookeriana									
Isotoma fluviatilis subsp. australis									
Juncus australis	x								
Juncus bufonius									
Juncus filicaulis	x			+	+				
Juncus homalocaulis									
Juncus subsecundus	х							+	
Juncus usitatus	х								
Kunzea ericoides	x		r						
Kunzea parvifolia									
Lachnagrostis filiformis									
Leptorhynchos squamatus	x			1	1	1			1
Leptospermum continentale	x								

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor	х								+
Limosella australis									
Linum marginale									
Lomandra bracteata	x						r		r
Lomandra filiformis subsp. coriacea	х		r	r			+		1
Lomandra filiformis subsp. filiformis						r			
Lomandra longifolia	х								
Lomandra multiflora	х			r					
Luzula densiflora	х			+		+			r
Lythrum hyssopifolia									
Melichrus urceolatus	х		r			+			r
Microlaena stipoides	х	х	+	1	1	+	1	1	
Microseris lanceolata									
<i>Microtis</i> sp.									
Montia fontana subsp. chondrosperma									
Myosotis australis									
Ophioglossum lusitanicum									
Oreomyrrhis eriopoda									
Oxalis perennans	х	1			+	r	r	+	r
Oxalis radicosa									
Oxalis thompsoniae									
Panicum effusum	х		+		r	+	+	+	
Pellaea calidirupium									
Persicaria prostrata									
Pimelea curviflora	x								

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Plantago gaudichaudii	x			+			r		
Plantago varia	x			+	r	+			
Poa labillardieri	x								
Poa sieberiana var. hirtella									
Poa sieberiana var. sieberiana	x								
Poa sp.									
Pomaderris angustifolia	x								
Pomaderris pallida	x								
Poranthera microphylla									
Potamogeton ochreatus									
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum									
Pultenaea procumbens	x								
Ranunculus lappaceus	x								
Ranunculus pumilio var. pumilio									
Ranunculus sessiliflorus var. sessiliflorus									
Rhodanthe anthemoides									
Rubus parvifolius									
Rumex brownii	х	x			r		r	+	
Rytidosperma caespitosum	x						2		1
Rytidosperma carphoides	x								
Rytidosperma laeve									
Rytidosperma pallidum									
Rytidosperma racemosum	x	2	+	r					
Rytidosperma sp. caespitosum?						2			
Rytidosperma Sp. (carphoides?)			2						

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Rytidosperma sp.				2	1			1	r
Schoenus apogon	x				2				
Scleranthus diander									
Scleranthus fascicularis									
Sebaea ovata									
Senecio phelleus									
Senecio quadridentatus	x						r		
Solanum linearifolium									
Solenogyne dominii	x		r		1			r	+
Solenogyne gunnii	x				r				
Sporobolus sp.									
Stackhousia monogyna	x			1		+			+
Stellaria pungens									
Stylidium despectum									
Swainsona monticola									
Swainsona recta (propagated)	х								
Swainsona sericea	x			+					
Thelymitra pauciflora									
Thelymitra sp.									
Themeda triandra	x		2	2	3	3	+		3
Thysanotus patersonii									
Thysanotus tuberosus									
Tricoryne elatior									
Tripogon Ioliiformis									
Triptilodiscus pygmaeus	x		+			r			r

Plot Number	Opportunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	(2018)	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Veronica calycina	х		+						
Veronica sp.									
Vittadinia cuneata	х		+				r		
Vittadinia gracilis									
Vittadinia muelleri	х		1		r	r	1		r
Wahlenbergia communis	х		1	1		1	+		1
Wahlenbergia gracilenta									
Wahlenbergia gracilis	х		r			1	r		r
Wahlenbergia multicaulis									
Wahlenbergia sp.	х								
Wahlenbergia stricta	х								
Wurmbea dioica									r
Xerochrysum viscosum	х								+
Zornia dyctiocarpa									
Total number	117	7	33	36	29	34	38	13	36

Exotic species, spring 2018

Plot Number	Onnertunistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Acaena novae-zelandiae	х								
Acetosella vulgaris	x		+				1	+	
Aira caryophyllea									
Aira elegantissima									
Aira sp.	x	х	1	r			+		

Plot Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Anagallis arvensis	х						+		
Arctotheca calendula	х								
Avena barbata	х								
Briza maxima									
Briza minor	х								
Bromus diandrus	х		+	1	r			r	
Bromus hordeaceus	х	2	1	1	1		2	1	r
Bromus rubens									
Bromus sp.									
Caardus sp.	х							+	
Capsella bursa-pastoris	х						r	+	
Carduus pycnocephalus									
Carduus sp.	х	х							
Carduus tenuiflorus									
Carthamus lanatus	х	2					r		
Centaurea melitensis									
Centaurium erythraea	х			+					+
Cerastium glomeratum		х						+	
Chondrilla juncea	х								
Cicendia quadrangularis									
Cirsium vulgare	х	1		1	+	+	r	+	r
Conyza bonariensis	х								
Conyza sp.									
Conyza sumatrensis									
Cotoneaster sp.									

Plot Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	- Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Crataegus monogyna	x								
Cynodon dactylon	x								
Cynosurus echinatus	x			2					
Cyperus eragrostis									
Cyperus Ihotskyanus									
<i>Cyperus</i> sp.	x								
Echium plantagineum	x	r		r	+	+	r		r
Eleusine tristachya									
Eragrostis cilianensis									
Eragrostis curvula	x								
Eragrostis minor									
Erodium botrys		x							
Erodium cicutarium	x	1					1	2	
Erodium moschatum	x								
Erodium sp.									
Festuca arundinacea									
Galium aparine									
Galium divaricatum									
Geranium molle									
Hedypnois rhagadioloides subsp. cretica									
Hirschfeldia incana	x								
Holcus lanatus									
Hordeum glaucum									
Hordeum leporinum	x	1						2	
Hypericum perforatum	x	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Plot Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Hypochaeris glabra	х		+						
Hypochaeris radicata	х	1	1	+	1	1	1	+	+
Isolepis levynsiana									
Isolepis marginata									
Juncus capitatus									
Lactuca serriola	х			r	r				
Lepidium sp.	х								
Linaria arvense									
Linaria pelisseriana									+
Linum trigynum									
Lolium perenne	х								
Lolium rigidum									
Malva nicaeensis									
Malva parviflora	х								
<i>Malva</i> sp.		х						1	
Marrubium vulgare	х								
Medicago arabica	х								
Modiola caroliniana	х							r	
Moenchia erecta									
Nassella trichotoma	х	х							
Onopordum acanthium	x								
Orobanche minor									
Parentucellia latifolia									ĺ
Paronychia brasiliana	x	х	+				r	1	
Paspalum dilatatum					l		l		ĺ

Plot Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Pentaschistis airoides									
Petrorhagia nanteuilii	х		r	r	+		r		
Phalaris aquatica									
Plantago lanceolata	х		+	+	1	+	+	+	r
Poa annua									
Poa pratensis									
Polygonum aviculare									
Prunus sp.	х								
Pyracantha sp.	х								
Reseda luteola									
Romulea rosea var. australis	х								
Rosa rubiginosa	х	х	r		+	r	r	r	r
Rubus fruticosus	х		r						
Sanguisorba minor									
Setaria parviflora									
Sherardia arvensis									
Sisymbrium orientale									
Sisyrinchium sp. A									
Solanum nigrum									
Sonchus asper	х								
Sonchus oleraceus						r			
Spergularia rubra									
Stellaria media									
Taraxacum officinale	х						+	r	
Tolpis barbata	х								

Plot Number		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Species (cumulative list)	Opportunistic	(MU1A)	(MU2B)	(MU3)	(MU4)	(MU5)	(MU6)	(MU7)	(MU3)
Tragopogon dubius									
Trifolium angustifolium	х						+		
Trifolium arvense	х						+		
Trifolium campestre	х	х							
Trifolium cernuum									
Trifolium dubium	х	х		+	+				
Trifolium glomeratum	х								
Trifolium repens	х								
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.								1	+
Trifolium subterraneum	х	х							
Urtica urens									
Verbascum thapsus	х	х					r		
Verbena incompta									
Verbena sp.					r				
Veronica anagallis-aquatica									
Veronica arvensis									
Vicia sativa									
Vulpia bromoides									
Vulpia muralis									
Vulpia myuros									
Vulpia sp.	х		+		+		+		
Total number	57	20	13	13	13	7	20	18	10

M2G Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Report - Spring 2018

Appendix B: Fauna lists

Fauna observations

Fauna species recorded during the monitoring surveys from spring 2011 to spring 2018, either through opportunistic observations or targeted survey are outlined below.

A = autumn, B = spring.

Birds species, Spring 2018

Common Name	Scientific Name	2011	2012A	2012B	2013A	2013B	2014A	2014B	2015A	2015B	2016B	2018B
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae		х		х	х	х		х		х	х
Australasian Pipit	Anthus australis											х
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х
Australian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus australis											х
Australian Wood Duck	Chenonetta jubata			х	х	х			х	х		х
Australian King Parrot	Alisterus scapularis								х			
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae		х	х		х		х		х	х	х
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris										х	
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora					х		х	х			
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula											х
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera	х			х		х					х
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris									х	х	х
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes				х	х	х		х		х	х
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	х			х							
Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis										х	
Double Barred Finch	Taeniopygia bichenovii				х							
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra										x	x
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis				x					x		x
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis					x		х		x		x
Galah	Eolophus roseicapillus	x		x		x		х	x	x	х	x

Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus		х	х					х	х		х
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor									х	х	х
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	х	x	х		x	х	х	х	х	х	х
Grey Shrike-Thrush	Colluricincla harmonica		х		х	х	х	х	х			х
Hardhead	Aythya australis			х	х							х
Honeyeater, Brown-headed	Melithreptus brevirostris											х
Honeyeater, White-Eared	Lichenostomus penicillatus	х	х		х				х		х	х
Honeyeater, White-Plumed	Lichenostomus penicillatus				х	х					х	
Honeyeater, Yellow Faced	Lichenostomus chrysops			х				х	х	х	х	х
Honeyeater, White naped	Melithreptus lunatus								х			
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis							х			х	
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	х		х		х				х		
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	х		х					х	х	х	х
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula			х								х
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea											х
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles					х		х			х	
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides					х		х				х
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus			х		х		х		х	х	
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	х	x	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolous sagittatus											х
Owlet Nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus										х	
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa			х	х	x		х	х			х
Pardalote, Spotted	Pardalotus punctatus	х	x	х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х
Pardalote, Striated	Pardalotus striatus	х		x	х	x	x	x	x	x	x	х
Pallid Cuckoo	Cuculus pallidus									x		x
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis							x		x	x	-
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	х	х	x
Quail	Coturnix sp.	х				x						1
Red-Browed Finch	Neochmia temporalis			x	х	x		х	1			
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata					х		х	х	х	х	х

Robin, Eastern Yellow	Eopsaltria australis						х			x	х	Х
Robin, Flame	Petroica phoenicea	х					х					
Robin, Hooded	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	х								х		
Robin, Scarlet	Petroica boodang		х		х		х		х			
Rosella, Crimson	Platycercus elegans	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Rosella, Eastern	Platycercus adscitus	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х	х
Red Rumped Parrot	Psephotus haematonotus								х			
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus			х								х
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus							х				
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis								х			х
Southern White-face	Aphelocephala leucopsis						х					
Speckled Warbler	Chthonicola sagittatus				х		х					
Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	х				х	х	х		х	х	х
Superb Fairy Wren	Malurus cyaneus	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Thornbill, Brown	Acanthiza pusilla	х		х	х	х		х	х			
Thornbill, Striated	Acanthiza lineata											х
Thornbill, Yellow-Rumped	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Thornbill, Yellow	Acanthiza nana								х			
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans					х						х
Wedge-Tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	х	х		х		х		х			х
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris				х			х	х	х	х	х
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena								х		х	х
Whistler, Golden	Pachycephala pectoralis	х	х			х						
Whistler, Rufous	Pachycephala rufiventris			х	х	х		х		х	х	х
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster					х						
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis											х
White faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae								х	х		
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaeus	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х
White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea			х		х		х		х	х	х
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanorhamphos		х	х		х		х	х	х	Х	х
White-winged Triller	Lalage sueurii		1					х				1
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	х	х		х	х		х	х	х	Х	х
Woodswallow, White-browed	Artamus superciliosus		1									х
Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus				х						х	х

Mammals

Common Name	Latin Name	2011	2012A	2012B	2013A	2013B	2014A	2014B	2015A	2015B	2016B	2018B
Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus vulpecula					х	х	х		х		
Cow	Bos Taurus	х					х		х	х		
Echidna	Tachyglossus aculeatus					х			х	х	х	х
European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	
Feral Goat	Capra aegagrus hircus		х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х
Feral Pig	Sus scrofa		х			х	х		х			
Fox	Vulpes vulpes	x	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus	x	х	x	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	x
Red-necked Wallaby	Macropus rufogriseus										х	
Sheep	Ovis aries				х	х						
Sugar Glider*	Petaurus breviceps					х	х					
Swamp Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor					х	х	х				
Wallaroo, Common	Macropus robustus							х	х		х	
Wombat	Vombatus ursinus	Х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х

Reptiles

Reptiles	Latin Name	2011	2012A	2012B	2013A	2013B	2014A	2014B	2015A	2015B	2016B	2018B
Delicate skink	Lamphrolis delicata							х			х	
Eastern Bearded Dragon	Pogona barbata			х							х	
Eastern Common Froglet	Crinia signifera		х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	
Eastern Long-necked Tortoise	Chelodina longicollis		х		x	x	x		х	х	х	
Eastern Water Dragon	Intellagama lesueurii											
Jacky Lizard	Amphibolurus muricatus	х							х	х	х	
Peron's Tree Frog	Litoria peronii					х		х				
Pink-tailed Worm Lizard	Aprasia parapulchella											х
Plains Froglet	Crinia parainsignifera			х	х	х	х	х	х			
Red Bellied Black Snake	Pseudechis porphyriacus							х				

Rosenberg's Goanna	Varanus rosenbergi										
Smooth Toadlet	Uperolia laevigata				х		х	х		х	
Southern Rainbow Skink	Carlia tetradactyla									х	
Spotted Marsh Frog	Limnodynastes tasmaniensis		х	х	х	х	х	х	х		
Three-toed Skink	Hemiergis decresiensis										х
Whistling Tree Frog	Litoria verreauxii		х		х		х				

logical AUSTRALIA







HEAD OFFICE

Suite 4, Level 1 2-4 Merton Street Sutherland NSW 2232 T 02 8536 8600 F 02 9542 5622

CANBERRA

Level 2 11 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2601 T 02 6103 0145 F 02 6103 0148

COFFS HARBOUR

35 Orlando Street Coffs Harbour Jetty NSW 2450 T 02 6651 5484 F 02 6651 6890

PERTH

Suite 1 & 2 49 Ord Street West Perth WA 6005 T 08 9227 1070 F 08 9322 1358

DARWIN

16/56 Marina Boulevard Cullen Bay NT 0820 T 08 8989 5601

SYDNEY

Level 3 101 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000 T 02 8536 8650 F 02 9264 0717

NEWCASTLE

Suites 28 & 29, Level 7 19 Bolton Street Newcastle NSW 2300 T 02 4910 0125 F 02 4910 0126

ARMIDALE

92 Taylor Street Armidale NSW 2350 T 02 8081 2681 F 02 6772 1279

WOLLONGONG

Suite 204, Level 2 62 Moore Street Austinmer NSW 2515 T 02 4201 2200 F 02 4268 4361

BRISBANE PO Box 1422 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 T 0400 494 366

HUSKISSON

1/51 Owen Street Huskisson NSW 2540 T 02 4443 5555 F 02 4443 6655

NAROOMA

5/20 Canty Street Narooma NSW 2546 T 02 4476 1151 F 02 4476 1161

MUDGEE

Unit 1, Level 1 79 Market Street Mudgee NSW 2850 T 02 4302 1230 F 02 6372 9230

GOSFORD

Suite 5, Baker One 1-5 Baker Street Gosford NSW 2250 T 02 4302 1220 F 02 4322 2897

1300 646 131 www.ecoaus.com.au