Thursday, 30 January 2025

Our Ref: P22.100A-LRP-FVSR- Tamala Park 1 FINAL

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**UGL Engineering Pty Limited** 

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ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: PTA RADIO SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT (RSR) PROJECT – BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT,

SITE #84 TAMALA PARK

### **Project Background**

Western Environmental Pty Ltd (WEPL) was commissioned by UGL Engineering Pty Limited (the Client) to undertake Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) at several sites associated with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) Radio Systems Replacement (RSR) Project.

The RSR Project will upgrade the radio system of Perth's rail transport by replacing the existing analogue system with a digital system. This involves the installation of monopoles and new Western Power (WP) pillars across the rail network. The Project will help to deliver High Capacity Signalling, which will provide increased reliability and flexibility of trains, to support a more efficient rail network for Perth's growing population (Metronet, 2023).

The assessments undertaken included a desktop review of the environmental site conditions and relevant surrounding and historical land uses. Where relevant, site assessments for flora, vegetation and fauna were undertaken to identify present environmental values.

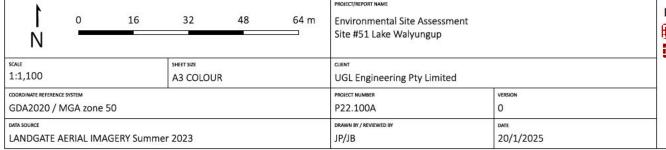
UGL has requested an additional six sites to be surveyed due to design changes and identified Western Power works required within the sites. The purpose of the biological assessment was to identify and qualify the existing vegetation in the areas and determine the project impacts within the proposed clearing footprints.

Based on the survey findings and the site reference designs provided by UGL, site #84 – Tamala Park was identified requiring a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Site location and clearing extent are displayed in Figure 1.

Table 1: Site Identification and Land Descriptions

Site Name	Property Details	Conservation Areas
Site #84 Tamala Park	200 Burns Beach Road, Neerabup Lot 3323 P219820 Land ID Number: 2009185 LGA: City of Wanneroo  2900 Mitchell Fwy, Neerabup Lot 14043 P221400 Land ID Number: 3006111 LGA: City of Wanneroo	The area where the clearing footprint is located is mapped as: Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA): ID 18620 Bush Forever Site No. 383

Figure 1: Site Location – Site #84 Tamala Park



Legend Survey Area Clearing Footprint

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### **Survey Methodology**

A flora and vegetation assessment was undertaken on 18 October 2024. The following elements were assessed:

- Broad description of vegetation types, including broad species composition and weed invasion.
- Vegetation Condition in consistence with the EPA Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessments (EPA, 2016).
- Opportunistic sampling of flora species where taxa could not be identified on Site.
- Presence of potential black cockatoo habitat values and other significant fauna habitat values.
- Presence of TECs, Threatened and Priority Flora and other Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

### Results

The results of the assessment are presented in Table 2 and displayed in Figure 2 below.

Table 2: Tamala Park - Site Inspection Form

	Site Inspection Form					
Date	9 July 2024 18 October 2024	Site Name	me 84 –Tamala Park, Joondalup Line			
Coord	Coordinates (GDA2020-Z50)		78188.68, 6498420.29 (meter MGA 2020 Zone 50) Portion No.		7	
Environmental Scientist				(i)		
Vegeta	Vegetation present Yes					
Vegetation present  Vegetation description		VT01 – Ac a groun *Pelargor One isolat This veget VT02 – C Banksia so This veget VT03 – Ac the cleari further co menziesii, Hibbertia sp. Limest	Vegetation types intersecting with clearing footprint  VT01 – Acacia shrubland: Acacia rostellifera, Chamelaucium uncinatum and Melaleuca huegelii with			



	Site Inspection Form
	VT03 is located outside the clearing extent. The site design was amended to avoid impacts to the vegetation type.
	Baeckea sp. Limestone is listed as Priority 1 species by DBCA. The species was recorded from 9 locations outside the clearing extent. Abundance ranged from 1 to 75 at locations of record.
	Tuart Woodland TEC
	One Tuart was recorded immediately adjacent to the clearing extent. The area surrounding the Tuart was assessed for the presence of further Tuarts and vegetation condition. A total of 8 Tuarts in close proximity were identified. The vegetation was assessed to be in Good condition. The patch of Tuarts is considered to be Tuart Woodland TEC in consistence with the Approved Conservation Advice by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE, 2019). Further details are discussed below.
	A portion of VT03 intersects with the mapped TEC. The portion is therefore considered to be part of the TEC.
Vegetation condition	Degraded, Good condition of VT03 outside clearing extent
Weed percentage cover	25-75%%
Disturbance	Historic clearing, fire regimes and weeds.
Wetland mapped	No
Is vegetation indicative of wetland vegetation?	No
Does the condition align with MU/RE/CCW?	N/A
Black cockatoo foraging habitat	Yes
Black cockatoo roosting habitat	No
Black cockatoo breeding habitat	No
Fauna evidence	No
Site Photos	See Appendix A
	General Comments

### **General Comments**

The entire Tamala Park Site is located within Bush Forever Site No. 383 and mapped as Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

The following vegetation types have been found within the survey area:

### Vegetation intersecting with the clearing extent:

The vegetation immediately west of the bike path appears to be a mixture of landscaping/revegetation in a Degraded condition. The vegetation present is not representative of the vegetation naturally occurring in adjacent areas outside the survey area. The vegetation within the clearing extent has been historically cleared and landscaped with the construction of Mitchell Freeway and the bike path.

### VT01 - Acacia shrubland

Acacia rostellifera, Chamelaucium uncinatum and Melaleuca huegelii over native and non-native shrubs. The ground stratum is covered by weeds.

Degraded condition

0.30 ha of VT01 intersects with the clearing extent.

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### **Site Inspection Form**

VT02 - Open shrubland

Dominated by Chamelaucium uncinatum over weedy understorey. Scattered Banksia sessilis.

Degraded condition

0.05 ha of VT02 intersects with the clearing extent.

A total of 2 scattered Banksia sessilis were recorded within the clearing extent.

### Outside of the clearing extent, west of the unsealed footpath:

VT03 - Acacia and Banksia sessilis Woodland

Dominated by Acacia spp. Banksia sessilis, Allocasuarina fraseriana and Nuytsia floribunda with scattered Banksia menziesii and Banksia attenuata, over Macrozamia fraseri and native forbs.

### Threatened and Priority Flora Species

The Priority 1 species *Baeckea* sp. Limestone (P1, as listed by DBCA) was recorded along the edge of the Banksia Woodland (VT03), outside of the clearing extent. Nine populations were recorded in total, as displayed in Figure 2. Impacts have been avoided.

### Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC)

One Tuart has been recorded within the northern portion of the survey area within VT03 (Figure 2).

The area surrounding the Tuart has been assessed for the occurrence of other Tuart trees outside the survey area to confirm the potential for the Tuart to be part of a patch of Tuart Woodlands TEC. Seven other Tuarts were recorded within close proximity. Aerial imagery indicates the presence of further Tuart trees in the surrounding area. All trees were less than 60 m apart from each other. In accordance with the 2019 Approved Conservation Advice by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE), a patch with a size of 2 ha or above is considered Tuart Woodlands TEC if its condition is at least "Moderate". "Moderate" condition is defined as either "≥50 % of all understorey vegetation cover is native" or "at least 4 native understorey species per 0.01 ha (10 m x 10 m plot or equivalent sample unit)" (DoEE, 2019). As the mapped area of Tuart Woodland was assessed as being > 2 ha, the vegetation is identified as meeting the diagnostic criteria for the Tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain.

The portion of VT03, which intersects with the mapped intersecting 30 m buffers around Tuarts, is therefore considered to be Tuart Woodland TEC. The site design was amended to avoid impacts to VT03 and any Tuart trees.

It is recognised that VT01 intersects with the mapped Tuart Woodland TEC buffer. The vegetation is however entirely different in regard to species composition and richness compared to VT03, the vegetation type containing the Tuarts. VT01 is therefore not considered representative of Tuart Woodland TEC and is not part of the TEC patch.

### **Black Cockatoo Habitat Values**

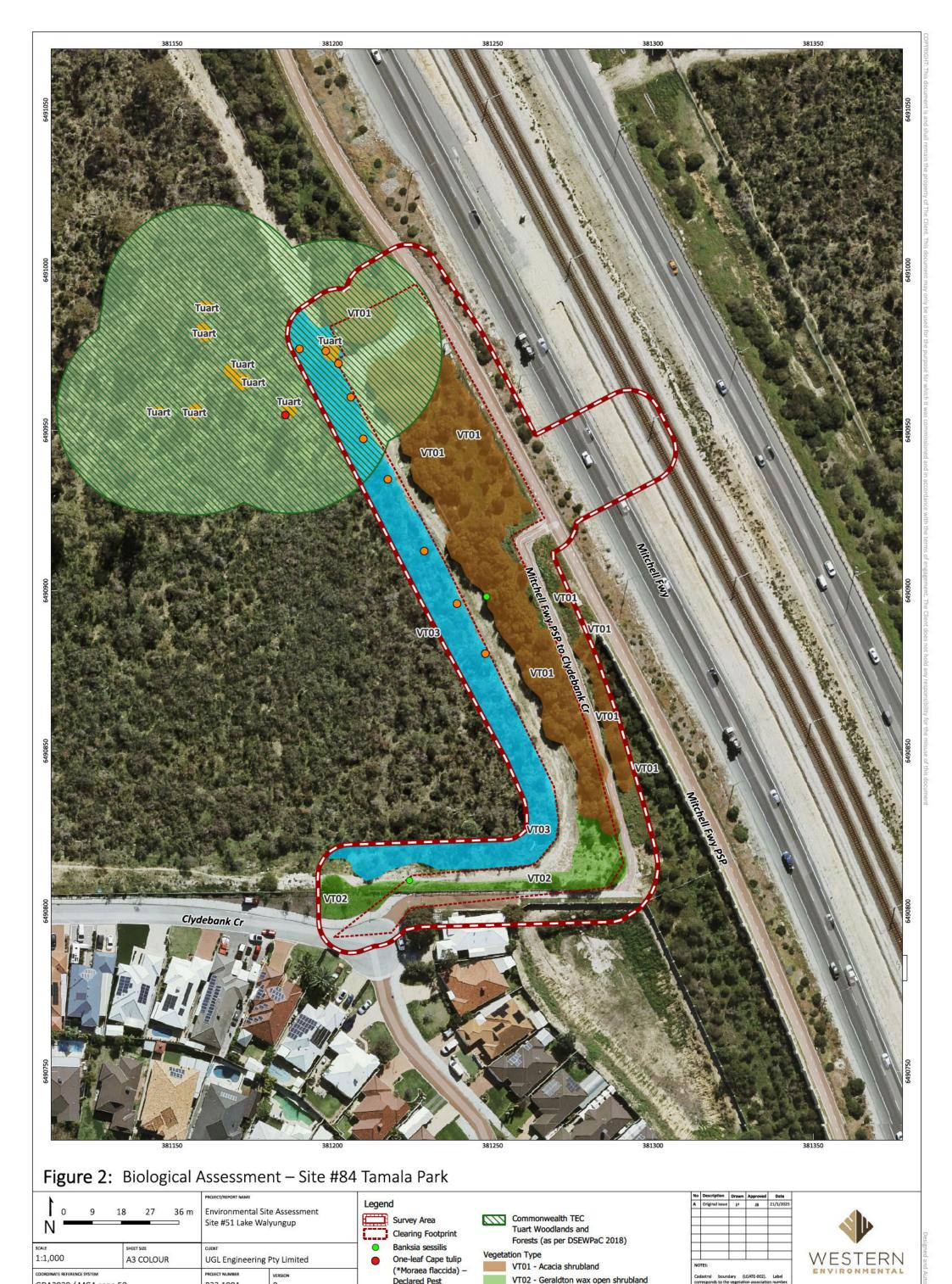
The two recorded *Banksia sessilis* located within the clearing extent have high foraging value for Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*).

The Tuart tree had a DBH < 500 mm and is therefore not a potential breeding tree. It has moderate foraging value for Forest redtailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*). The Tuart is located outside the clearing extent. Impacts will be avoided.

Vegetation and clearing footprint mapping are presented in Figure 2.



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**Declared Pest** 

(N. Gibson& M.N.

Baeckea sp. Limestone

Lyons 1425) - Priority 1

VT03 - Acacia and Banksia sessilis Woodland

**Tuart Woodland TEC** 

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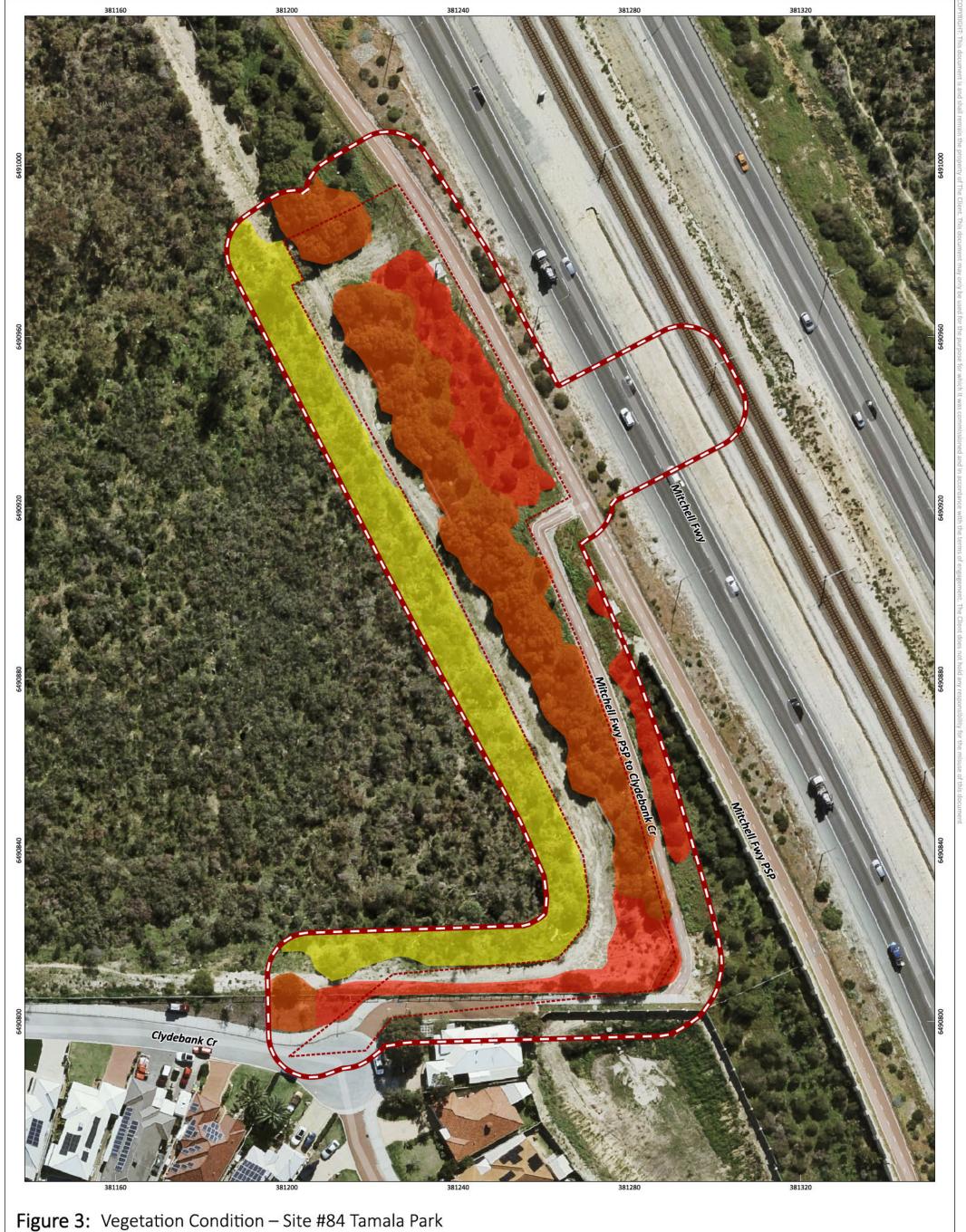
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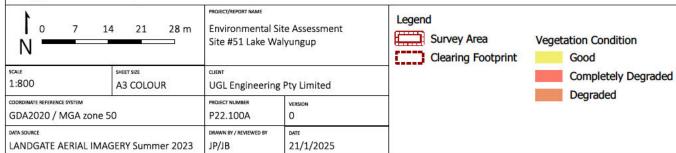
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JP/JB

GDA2020 / MGA zone 50









### Summary of Residual Clearing Impact and Significance Assessment

A summary of the clearing necessitated by the Project is presented in Table 3. The impact significance was assessed to comply with the EPBC Act Significant impact guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance (DoE, 2013) (Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1).

Table 3: Clearing Impact for Tamala Park

Site	Impacted Vegetation - Description	Clearing Impact (ha)	Significance Assessment under the EPBC Act
Site #84 Tamala Park	<ul> <li>The project necessitates clearing of 0.35 ha of native vegetation under the EP Act.</li> <li>Remnant native vegetation to be cleared is in Good to Completely Degraded condition.</li> <li>Tuart Woodland and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC has been found present in VT03, adjacent to the clearing extent. The site design was amended to avoid impacts to the TEC.</li> <li>No Priority Flora will be impacted.</li> <li>The vegetation has low habitat value for Threatened Black cockatoo species. Two isolated <i>Banksia sessilis</i> with high foraging value for Carnaby's black cockatoo are proposed to be cleared. The site design was amended to avoid any impacts to Tuarts, which provide moderate foraging value for Forest red-tailed black cockatoo.</li> <li>The Site is located within the mapped Bush Forever Site No. 383, which represents an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). An NVCP will therefore be required.</li> </ul>	0.35 ha	Not significant

### Significance Assessment based on Current Design

After the presence of Tuart Woodland TEC was identified in the area of the Site, the site design was changed to avoid impacts to Tuarts and vegetation considered to be part of the Tuart Woodland TEC patch.

VT01 does not meet the condition criteria, has been historically cleared and is comprised by planted and regrown vegetation. The mapped TEC buffer intersecting with VT01 is therefore not considered part of the Tuart Woodland TEC patch. Therefore, no impacts to Tuart Woodlands TEC are expected.

The clearing of two individual *Banksia sessilis* is not considered a significant impact to Carnaby's or Forest red-tailed black cockatoo.

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### **Conclusions**

Based on review of publicly available data and biological assessment of the Site, the following key findings have been identified:

- The following two vegetation types have been identified within the survey buffer area:
  - VT01: Acacia shrubland Revegetation and potentially natural recruitment species mix of native shrubs (*Acacia* spp, *Melaleuca* spp.) over weedy understory. The vegetation is in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition. This vegetation type intersects with the clearing extent. The project necessitates clearing of 0.30 ha of this vegetation type.
  - VT02: Geraldton wax open shrubland over weedy understory. The vegetation is in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition. The project necessitates clearing of 0.05 ha of this vegetation type.
  - VT03: Acacia and Banksia sessilis woodland Dominated by Acacia spp., Allocasuarina fraserina and Banksia sessilis with Nuytsia floribunda, scattered Banksia spp. and Eucalyptus gomphocephala over native shrubs and forbs, including Baeckea sp. Limestone (P1). This vegetation type is associated with Tuart Woodlands TEC (see below) and will not be impacted
- A total of 0.35 ha of native vegetation will be cleared (0.30 ha of VT01 and 0.05 ha of VT02).
- A patch of Tuarts has been identified in the north-west of the Site. The area was assessed to be in "Moderate" condition as defined in the Approved Conservation Advice for the Tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community (DoEE, 2019). Since the total area of Tuart Woodland was assessed to be > 2 ha, the vegetation associated with VT03 is identified as meeting the diagnostic criteria for the Tuart Woodlands TEC. Other vegetation types, which intersect with the mapped buffer around individual Tuart trees, do not meet the condition criteria and are planted and regrown vegetation. These vegetation types are therefore not considered to be Tuart Woodland TEC.
- Nine populations of Priority 1 species *Baeckea* sp. Limestone have been recorded within the buffer area in VT03, outside the clearing extent.
- The Site is located within Bush Forever Site No. 383 and mapped as ESA.

Based on the findings of the flora and vegetation assessment Site #84 – Tamala Park, the Project necessitates clearing of 0.35 ha of native vegetation at the Site. The following environmental approvals will be required:

A Native Vegetation Clearing Permit.

Given that impacts to Tuart Woodland TEC will be avoided, no EPBC referral will be required, and the clearing activity is not considered to require environmental offsets.

PTA RSR Project – NVCP Application Supporting Documentation

This report should be read in conjunction with the Schedule - Statement of Limitations. Should you have any queries regarding the above, please contact the undersigned on (08) 6162 8980.

Yours sincerely, Western Environmental Approvals Pty Ltd



Director

### Schedule

Statement of Limitation

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Site Photos
- Appendix B: Species List

### **SCHEDULE Statement of Limitation**

## **Statement of Limitations**

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In particular, it should be noted that this report is based on a scope of services defined by the Client, and is limited by budgetary and time constraints, the information supplied by the Client (and its agents) and, in some circumstances, access and/or site disturbance constraints.

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### **Reliance on Data**

In preparing this report, WEPL has relied on data, surveys, analyses, designs, plans and other information provided by the Client (or its agents), other individuals and organisations ("the data").

Except as otherwise stated in this report, WEPL has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data. WEPL does not represent or warrant that the data is true or accurate, and disclaims any and all responsibility or liability with respect to the use of the data.

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The conclusions must also be considered in light of the agreed scope of services (including any constraints or limitation therein) and the methods used to carry out those services, both of which are as stated or referred to in this report.

### **Environmental Conclusions**

In accordance with the scope of services, WEPL has conducted environmental field monitoring and/or testing in the preparation of this report. The nature and extent of monitoring and/or testing conducted is described in this report.

On all sites, varying degrees of non-uniformity of vertical and horizontal conditions in media (soil, water, air, waste or other media as described in the report) are encountered. Hence no monitoring, common testing or sampling technique can eliminate the possibility that monitoring or testing results/samples are not totally representative of media conditions encountered. The conclusions are based on the data and the environmental field monitoring and/or testing actually undertaken, and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of preparing this report, including the presence or otherwise of contaminants or emissions. It should be recognised that site conditions, including the extent and concentration of contaminants, can change.

Within the limitations imposed by the scope of services, the monitoring, testing, sampling and preparation of this report have been undertaken and performed in a professional manner, in accordance with generally accepted practices and using a degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised by reputable environmental consultants under similar circumstances. To the maximum extent permitted by law, no other warranty, express or implied, is made.

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If an Auditor is engaged by the Client to undertake review of this report, it shall be made available subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement between the Client and WEPL and the caveats in this statement.

### **Other Limitations**

This report is intended to be read in its entirety, and sections or parts of this report should therefore not be read and relied on out of context.

WEPL will not be liable to update or revise this report to take into account any events or circumstances or facts becoming apparent after the date of this report.

### References

Department of the Environment (DoE). (2013). Significant impact guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance. Accessed on 12 November 2024 from <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nes-guidelines/1.pdf">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nes-guidelines/1.pdf</a>

Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE). (2019). *Approved Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the Tuart* (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) *woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community*. Retrieved on 12 November 2024 from: <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/153-conservation-advice.pdf">http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/153-conservation-advice.pdf</a>.

Metronet. (2023). *High Capacity Signalling: Radio Systems Replacement Fact Sheet*. Retrieved on 12 November 2024 from

https://metronet.wa.gov.au/Portals/31/Project%20Documents/High%20Capacity%20Signalling/Radio%20Systems%20Replacement%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf.

## Appendix A **Site Photos**



Photo 1 Date: 18 October 2024

Description: Vegetation within VT01 Acacia shrubland, within clearing extent, west of cycle path, Degraded



Photo 2 Date: 18 October 2024

Description: Vegetation within VT01 Acacia shrubland, within clearing extent, west of cycle path, Degraded



Photo 3 Date: 18 October 2024

Description: Vegetation within VT02, Acacia shrubland, Degraded



Photo 4 Date: 18 October 2024

Description: Vegetation within VT02, Acacia shrubland, Degraded



Photo 4 Date: 18 October 2024

Description: Vegetation within VT02, Acacia shrubland, Degraded

# Appendix B Species List

Species	Stratum
Melaleuca huegelii	Mid
Melaleuca systena	Mid
Acacia saligna	Mid
Acacia rostellifera	Mid
Acacia cochlearis	Mid
Grevillea preissii	Mid
Grevillea vestita	Mid
Hakea trifurcata	Mid
Daviesia triflora	Mid
Jacksonia sternbergiana	Mid
Banksia sessilis	Mid
Banksia menziesii	Mid
Allocasuarina fraseriana	Mid
*Chamelaucium uncinatum	Mid
*Acacia hilliana	Mid
Scaevola nitida	Ground
Eremophila glabra	Ground
Pelargonium capitatum	Ground
Asphodelus fistulosus	Ground
Olearia axillaris	Ground
Templetonia retusa	Ground
Hibbertia hypericoides	Ground
Macrozamia fraseri	Ground
Baeckea sp. Limestone (P1)	Ground
*Euphorbia terracina	Ground
*Aerva javanica	Ground
*Bidens subalternans	Ground
*Flaveria trinervia	Ground
*Boerhavia coccinea	Ground
*Cenchrus ciliaris	Ground
*Cenchrus setigerus	Ground
*Phyllostachys aurea	Ground
*Portulaca oleracea	Ground
*Sonchus oleraceus	Ground
*Solanum lasiophyllum	Ground