

Revegetation Plan for Clearing Offset Purposes

Shire of Northam - Northam Airport Expansion Project

1. Project Overview

1.1 Background

This revegetation plan is prepared to offset the clearing of **0.84 hectares** of native vegetation at **Northam Airport (Lot 1 on Plan 10174, 105 Withers Street, Northam)**, required for the expansion of airport infrastructure.

The offset area is located within **Crown Reserve 3203 (Jennapullin Reserve)**, which has been designated for conservation to counterbalance biodiversity loss and maintain habitat for native flora and fauna, particularly **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**.

Reserve 3203 was identified as a suitable location for offsets and as such, Council resolved to support a Change of Purpose for Reserve 3203 from "Sand and Gravel Quarry" to "Recreation/Conservation" for the purpose of vegetation offsets.

The case was referred to DPLH for consideration with the determination made that Reserve 3203 was exhausted as a BRM supply. The Shire's future Scheme Amendment will be required to reflect Change of Purpose.

1.2 Objectives

- Restore and enhance native vegetation within the **Jennapullin Reserve offset site**.
- Improve habitat connectivity and biodiversity values.
- Ensure long-term sustainability through effective revegetation and management.

2. Site Assessment

2.1 Current Conditions

The Jennapullin Reserve offset site comprises the following habitat types:

- **Open Eucalyptus Woodland** – Provides foraging and nesting habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.
- **Allocasuarina/Acacia/Banksia Low Woodland** – Important for bird species and insect pollinators.

- **Existing Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Foraging Habitat** – 11.1 hectares of documented foraging trees.

The site also contains **251 potential habitat trees**, with **33 trees containing large hollows suitable for breeding**.

3. Revegetation Strategy

3.1 Plant Species Selection

To maintain ecological function, species selection will prioritize **native vegetation aligned with pre-clearing vegetation types** at Northam Airport. The selected species include:

- **Eucalyptus loxophleba (York Gum)** – Key canopy tree.
- **Eucalyptus wandoo (Wandoo)** – Provides hollows for bird nesting.
- **Acacia acuminata (Jam Wattle)** – Mid-storey species.
- **Allocasuarina huegeliana (Rock Sheoak)** – Essential for Black Cockatoo foraging.
- **Banksia prionotes (Acorn Banksia)** – High-value food source for birds and pollinators.

3.2 Planting Methods

- **Tube stock planting** at a density of **1,500 stems per hectare**.
- **Direct seeding** to complement tube stock planting in designated areas.
- **Staggered planting** to enhance diversity and natural succession.

3.3 Soil Preparation and Weed Management

- **Pre-planting weed control:** Targeting invasive species using selective herbicides.
- **Soil amendments:** Light ripping and mulching to improve soil structure and moisture retention.
- **Post-planting weed suppression:** Mulching and manual removal as required.

3.4 Irrigation and Maintenance

- **Initial supplementary watering** during first two summers if needed.
- **Monitoring for pest and disease management**, particularly dieback.

- **Replanting if survival rate falls below 80% within first two years.**

4. Monitoring and Reporting

4.1 Performance Indicators

- **Survival rate of at least 80% after two years.**
- **Canopy cover establishment over five years.**
- **Fauna return, particularly Carnaby's Black Cockatoo sightings.**

4.2 Monitoring Schedule

- **6 months post-planting:** Initial survival assessment.
- **1 year post-planting:** Growth rate measurements.
- **5 years post-planting:** Final evaluation of revegetation success.

4.3 Reporting Requirements

- **Annual progress reports** to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).
- **Final offset compliance report** after the five-year monitoring period.

5. Long-Term Management and Protection

- **Permanent conservation designation of Jennapullin Reserve.**
- **Ongoing weed and pest control** to maintain ecosystem integrity.
- **Restrictions on public access** to protect regenerating vegetation.

6. Offset Costs

- Tube Stock Planting: \$3,864
- Direct Seeding: \$1,260
- Site Preparation: \$1,680
- Post-Planting Maintenance: \$840
- Project Management: \$1,500

Total cost: **\$9,144**

Conclusion

This revegetation plan ensures that biodiversity loss at **Northam Airport** is effectively offset through the restoration and conservation of native habitat at **Jennapullin Reserve**, providing long-term ecological benefits to the region.