



22 December 2010

Our Ref: 10.159-L002-KM

Strategen  
Level 2 322 Hay Street, Subiaco WA 6008  
P.O. Box 243 Subiaco WA 6904

ATTENTION: BART DOWNE

Dear Bart

**WESTNET RAIL UPGRADE – NARNGULU TO TILLEY (MORAWA) FAUNA ASSESSMENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

ENV.Australia Pty Ltd was commissioned by Strategen in September 2010 to undertake a Level One terrestrial fauna survey based on Environmental Protection Authority *Guidance Statement No. 56* for the proposed WestNet Rail (WNR) Upgrade from Narngulu to Tilley (Morawa). The proposed WNR upgrade survey area is 1,081 hectares (ha) and extends approximately 190 kilometres (km) from Narngulu to Mullewa and Mullewa to Tilley (approximately 2 km north of Morawa), extending 30 metres (m) either side of the existing rail infrastructure.

The purpose of this letter is to provide recommendations resulting from the fauna assessment. A summary of the survey results that relate to the recommendations is provided below. For the complete survey results and discussion please refer to the report.

***Habitat Assessment***

Four main habitat types were identified in the survey area; Shrubland, Woodland, Samphire and Riverine. The Shrubland, Woodland and Riverine habitat types were considered to have moderate habitat value. The Samphire habitat type was considered to have low habitat value. The condition of the habitats in the survey area ranged from Excellent to Completely Degraded.

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### ***Fauna Assemblages***

A total of 88 fauna were recorded during the fauna assessment, including three amphibian species, 13 reptile species, 63 bird species and nine mammal species. A total of 351 vertebrate fauna have been previously recorded within the vicinity of the survey area, including 12 amphibian species, 78 reptile species, 232 bird species and 29 mammal species.

### ***Conservation Significant Fauna***

Two fauna of conservation significance were recorded, the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*). Malleefowl were recorded at two locations, one in the Shrubland habitat type, and two individuals in the Woodland habitat type. Rainbow Bee-eaters were recorded at four locations, two in the Shrubland and two in the Woodland habitat types.

A total of 54 conservation significant fauna have been previously recorded in the vicinity of the survey area. Of these, 15 species of conservation significance were considered 'Likely', or 'Possible' to occur in the survey area. The conservation significant species at most risk from the proposed development are those that are ground dwelling and/or have limited dispersal capacity. These are the Gilled Slender Blue-tongue, Western Spiny-tailed Skink, Woma, Carpet Python, Malleefowl, Western Brush Wallaby, Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider and Shield-Back Trapdoor Spider.

The survey area contains 69.31 ha of Carnaby's Cockatoo foraging habitat and four stands of trees that contain three or more mature trees (those larger than 50 cm diameter at breast height) and are classified as Future Breeding Habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoos. Clearing more than 1 ha of foraging habitat or any trees in the Future Breeding Habitat may constitute a 'controlled action' by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and may require referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the results of the Fauna Assessment, ENV.Australia makes the following recommendations:

- Any clearing should be undertaken at the appropriate time of year to reduce any negative impacts upon breeding patterns and cycles;
- Any conservation significant ground dwelling species found during the clearing process need to be trapped and translocated by appropriately trained zoologists;
- All waste and rubbish needs to be contained in fauna proof bins to reduce the attractiveness to feral species;
- No dead, standing or fallen timber should be removed unnecessarily;
- A speed limit should be enforced along the length of the access track to reduce the likelihood of animal vehicular strikes;
- The development and implementation of a weed management plan to prevent the spread of Declared Plants and species categorised as High threat under the Environmental Weed Strategy;
- Where possible, current tracks and cleared sections should be used for site access to minimise the impact on the area's fauna and habitat;
- Boundaries of areas to be disturbed should be clearly demarcated to prevent any erroneous damage to habitat; and
- Following construction, any impacted surrounding areas should be rehabilitated as soon as possible using stockpiled topsoil, vegetation and litter from the survey area.

Yours sincerely

ENV.Australia Pty Ltd



DR KELLIE MCMASTER  
Senior Ecologist

## **STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS**

### **Scope of Services**

This environmental site assessment report (“the report”) has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract, or as otherwise agreed, between the Client and ENV.Australia Pty Ltd (ENV) (“scope of services”). In some circumstances the scope of services may have been limited by a range of factors such as time, budget, access and/or site disturbance constraints.

### **Reliance on Data**

In preparing the report, ENV has relied upon data, surveys, analyses, designs, plans and other information provided by the Client and other individuals and organisations, most of which are referred to in the report (“the data”). Except as otherwise stated in the report, ENV has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data. To the extent that the statements, opinions, facts, information, conclusions and/or recommendations in the report (“conclusions”) are based in whole or part on the data, those conclusions are contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the data. ENV will not be liable in relation to incorrect conclusions should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented or otherwise not fully disclosed to ENV.

### **Environmental Conclusions**

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

On all sites, varying degrees of non-uniformity of the vertical and horizontal soil or groundwater conditions 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 soil and/or groundwater conditions encountered.

The conclusions are based upon the data and the environmental field monitoring and/or testing and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of preparing the report, including the presence or otherwise of contaminants or emissions. Also it should be recognised that site conditions, including the extent and concentration of contaminants, can change with time.

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. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made.

#### **Report for Benefit of Client**

The report has been prepared for the benefit of the Client and no other party. ENV assumes no responsibility and will not be liable to any other person or organisation for or in relation to any matter dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report, or for any loss or damage suffered by any other person or organisation arising from matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report (including without limitation matters arising from any negligent act or omission of ENV or for any loss or damage suffered by any other party relying upon the matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report). Other parties should not rely upon the report or the accuracy or completeness of any conclusions and should make their own enquiries and obtain independent advice in relation to such matters.

#### **Other Limitations**

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

The scope of services did not include any assessment of the title to or ownership of the properties, buildings and structures referred to in the report nor the application or interpretation of laws in the jurisdiction in which those properties, buildings and structures are located.