

**RE: Western Ringtail Possum Nocturnal Survey undertaken on 31 July 2013 at Lots 7 & 8 Harris Road, Picton WA.**

This letter serves as the report for a nocturnal western ringtail possum (WRP) survey of Lots 7 and 8 Harris Road.

## **1 Methods**

The nocturnal survey was carried out by two qualified zoologists on 31 July 2013. The survey involved walking a series of close spaced traverses through areas of suitable habitat while looking for animal eye shine in the tree canopy using incandescent head torches. In total a distance of 2.8 km was covered (**Figure 1**) over a period of about one hour, commencing at approximately 6:20pm.

## **2 Results**

No WRPs were observed during the nocturnal count and no other evidence of the species utilising the area was observed.

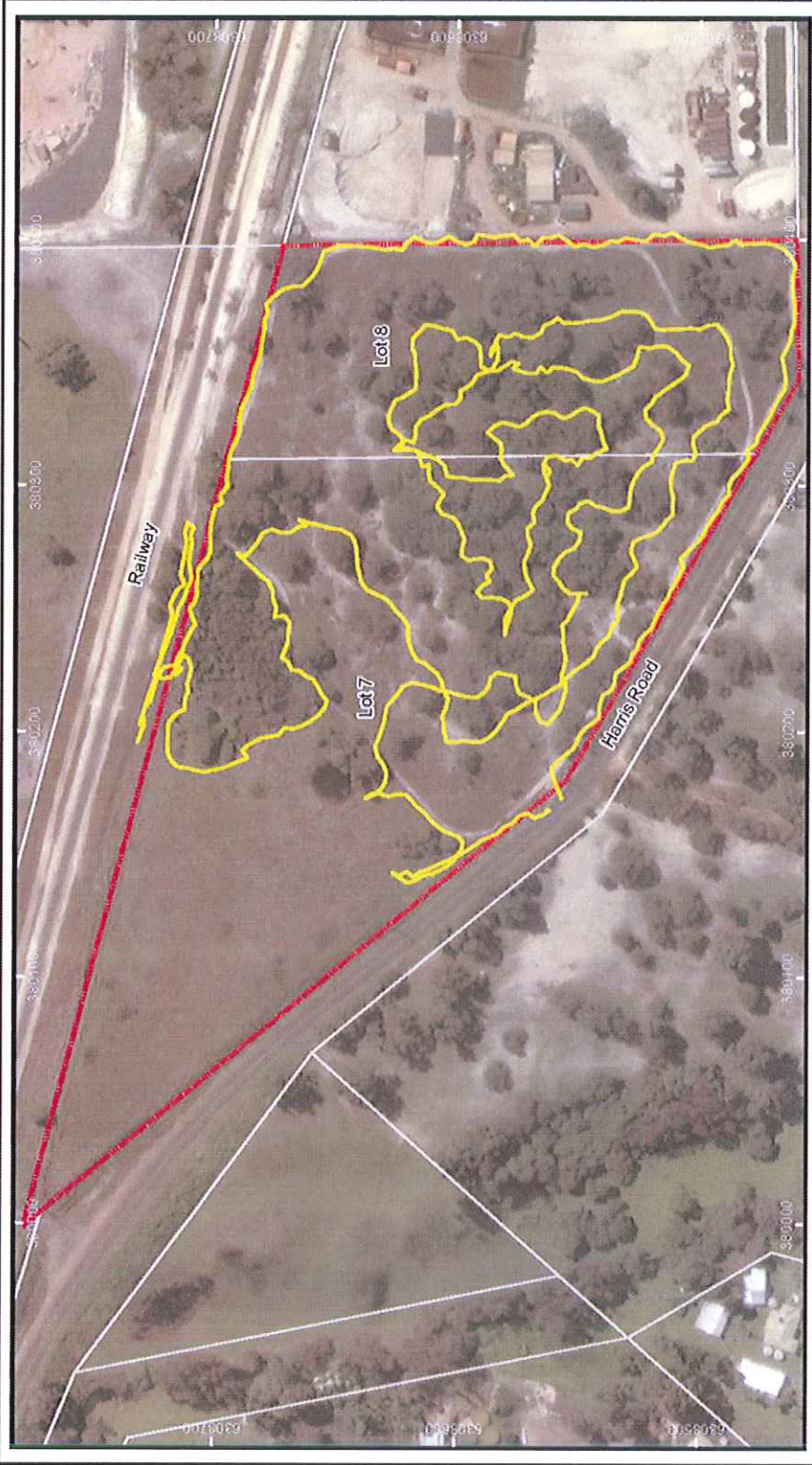
## **3 Conclusion**

The lack of observation of WRPs during the nocturnal count suggests that individuals of the species are currently not utilising the site or are only present in very low numbers (no more than one individual). The site is relatively open and easy to survey and based on the Authors experience it is considered unlikely that a significant number of WRPs could be present but not seen during a nocturnal survey by two people using the methods described.

The results of the nocturnal count are consistent with other observations made at the site by Ecoedge during a preliminary (day) survey undertaken in January 2013 (Ecoedge, 2013), where only a few deteriorating (aged) WRP scats were observed.



The conclusion drawn, based on these combined observations, suggest the vegetation at the site is used by WRPs but only on an infrequent basis by individuals that have moved from populations persisting in some of the larger remnants in the area (e.g. Lot 200, 400 metres to the east). While the vegetation on site (peppermint dominated low woodland/forest) superficially appears to represent reasonable habitat for the species its small extent, lack of directly continuity with vegetation outside of the lot boundaries and possibly a number of other unseen factors (e.g. feral predators, nutritional value of peppermint trees present) appears to be limiting its current use by the species.



<b>Lot 7 &amp; 8 Harris Road</b> Dardanup	
<b>Nocturnal Survey</b> <b>Traverse</b> <b>31 July 2013</b>	
DATE: JULY 2013	SCALE: 1:2,100

**Legend**

- Project Area
- Nocturnal Traverse

Metres

MCA Zone 50

FIGURE 1