

environmental and geoscience consultants

Telephone +61 8 9226 3166 Facsimile +61 8 9226 3177 Email: info@mbsenvironmental.com.au

MEMORANDUM

Attention:	Alicia Dudzinska	From:	Elizabeth Mason
Company:	Department of Mines and Petroleum	Date:	9 June 2014
Subject:	CPS 6085/1 – Further Information regarding Priority Species	Project:	Panoramic Gidgee

In response to your request for further information regarding priority species at Gidgee, please find the following.

1. **PRIORITY 3 SPECIES**

The percentage impact on Priority (P) 3 species recorded within the survey area is listed in Table 1.

Species	No. Populations	No. Plants	No. Impacted Populations	No. Impacted Plants	% Impact on Populations	% Impact on Plants
Acacia burrowsiana	4	5	2	3	50	60
Calytrix praecipua	10	81	3	50	30	62
Sauropus ramosissimus	8	11	0	0	0	0
Sida ? picklesiana	1	1	0	0	0	0

 Table 1:
 Percentage Impact on P3 Species Recorded within the Survey Area

Approximately 60% of *Acacia burrowsiana* and *Calytrix praecipua* plants will be impacted by the proposed project, with the percentage impact on populations lower. The primary reason for this is that the survey area mapped for the clearing assessment was limited to the project area and immediate adjacent areas, and did not include areas of surrounding vegetation (as shown on Figure 7 in the Clearing Permit Application). Information on the two P3 species impacted is provided below:

- Acacia burrowsiana has a wide distribution according to FloraBase and moderate regional significance. It is associated with vegetation community SL1. Maia (2011) refers to Payne et al. (1998), who describe this vegetation community as a common but minor component in numerous land systems of the region including the Wiluna Land System.
- *Calytrix praecipua* has a wide distribution according to FloraBase, and low regional significance. It is found in association with WL7, which is described as being very widespread (Maia 2013).

Based on the information provided, it is likely that these species are present in the vegetation surrounding the project area and as such it is unlikely that there will be a significant impact on these species as a result of clearing associated with the proposed project.

2. PRIORITY 1 SPECIES – PROPOSED CONDITION

As stated in the Clearing Permit application, Panoramic intends to avoid known populations of the P1 species *Stenanthemum mediale* and infrastructure has been designed to avoid populations identified in flora surveys undertaken by Maia (2013). There is however, the potential for additional plants to occur within the project



footprint which may subsequently germinate after rains or due to disturbance. Information on this species and associated vegetation community is provided below:

Stenanthemum mediale:

- There are nine populations of *Stenanthemum mediale* recorded on FloraBase.
- The species has high regional significance and moderate local significance and there are records of this species outside of the proposed clearing area.
- Maia (2013) concludes that 'given the distribution of these species at Wilsons and the similar vegetation in the surrounding area it is highly likely that this species occurs in the surrounding areas in similar numbers'.

This species is found on ironstone laterite substrate hills and is associated with vegetation community WL7 - Acacia sparse woodland. WL7 is described as:

- Very widespread and is floristically similar to Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) community (Community 4) on the Montague Range.
- The most widespread of the six communities of the Montague Range (Thompson & Sheehy 2011).
- Mapped extensively in survey areas to the north and south of Wilsons and is not endemic to or found only on the Montague Range (Maia 2011, 2013).

This species is known to occur in association with a vegetation community which is widespread in the project area and surrounds and also in nearby DPaW managed lands. Given the information provided, Panoramic does not believe that a condition to avoid all P1 species is necessary or practical.

If you have any further queries or require additional information please contact me.

Yours sincerely MBS Environmental

Elizabeth Mason Senior Environmental Scientist

