

Offsets Assessment Guide

For use in determining offsets under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
2 October 2012
This guide relies on Macros being enabled in your browser.

Matter of National Environmental Significance	
Name	Wheatbelt Vegetation
EPBC Act status	Other
Annual probability of extinction Based on IUCN category definitions	0.0%

Other annual probability of extinction	Information source

Key to Cell Colours
User input required
Drop-down list
Calculated output
Not applicable to attribute

Impact calculator							
Impact calculator	Protected matter attributes	Attribute relevant to case?	Description	Quantum of impact		Units	Information source
	Ecological communities						
	Area of community	Yes	Extensively cleared wheatbelt vegetation.	Area	1.67	Hectares	
				Quality	7	Scale 0-10	
				Total quantum of impact	1.17	Adjusted hectares	
	Threatened species habitat						
	Area of habitat	No		Area			
				Quality			
				Total quantum of impact	0.00		
	Protected matter attributes	Attribute relevant to case?	Description	Quantum of impact		Units	Information source
	Number of features e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees	No					
	Condition of habitat Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent	No					
	Threatened species						
	Birth rate e.g. Change in nest success	No					
	Mortality rate e.g. Change in number of road kills per year	No					
	Number of individuals e.g. Individual plants/animals	No					

Offset calculator																						
Offset calculator	Protected matter attributes	Attribute relevant to case?	Total quantum of impact	Units	Proposed offset	Time horizon (years)		Start area and quality		Future area and quality without offset		Future area and quality with offset		Raw gain	Confidence in result (%)	Adjusted gain	Net present value (adjusted hectares)		% of impact offset	Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met?	Cost (\$ total)	Information source
	Ecological Communities																					
	Area of community	Yes	1.17	Adjusted hectares		Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	Start area (hectares)	5.65	Risk of loss (%) without offset	30%	Risk of loss (%) with offset	10%	1.13	90%	1.02	1.02	1.17	100.05%	Yes		
						Time until ecological benefit	1	Start quality (scale of 0-10)	8	Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)	4.0	Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)	5.1	Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)	7	Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)	8					
	Threatened species habitat																					
	Area of habitat	No				Time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years)		Start area (hectares)		Risk of loss (%) without offset		Risk of loss (%) with offset										
						Time until ecological benefit		Start quality (scale of 0-10)		Future area without offset (adjusted hectares)	0.0	Future area with offset (adjusted hectares)	0.0	Future quality without offset (scale of 0-10)		Future quality with offset (scale of 0-10)						
	Protected matter attributes	Attribute relevant to case?	Total quantum of impact	Units	Proposed offset	Time horizon (years)		Start value		Future value without offset		Future value with offset		Raw gain	Confidence in result (%)	Adjusted gain	Net present value		% of impact offset	Minimum (90%) direct offset requirement met?	Cost (\$ total)	Information source
	Number of features e.g. Nest hollows, habitat trees	No																				
	Condition of habitat Change in habitat condition, but no change in extent	No																				
	Threatened species																					
	Birth rate e.g. Change in nest success	No																				
	Mortality rate e.g. Change in number of road kills per year	No																				
	Number of individuals e.g. Individual plants/animals	No																				

Offset Calculator: Land Aquisition - Significant Remnant

Offset Calculation Justification- Land Acquisition- Significant Remnant

Field Name	Description	Justification for value used
<i>IUCN Criteria</i>	The IUCN criteria for the value being impacted	0.0% - Extensivley cleared wheatbelt vegetation has not been given a formal conservation ranking under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
<i>Area of impact (habitat/community) or Quantum of impact (features/individuals)</i>	The area of habitat/community impacted or number of features/individuals impacted	Approximately 1.67 hectares of extensively cleared wheatbelt vegetation with no formal conservation ranking to be cleared under this application.
<i>Quality of impacted area (habitat/community)</i>	The quality score for area of habitat/community being impacted - a measure of how well a particular site supports a particular threatened species or ecological community and contributes to its ongoing viability	7 - The vegetation is mostly in excellent to good condition, with only one vegetation community found to be in poor condition, comprising <i>Eucalypt</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> woodlands over variable understorey.
<i>Time over which loss is averted (habitat/community)</i>	This describes the timeframe over which changes in the level of risk to the proposed offset site can be considered and quantified	20 - The offset site will be conserved in perpetuity under a conservation covenant. 20 years is the maximum value associated with this field.
<i>Time until ecological benefit (habitat/community) or Time horizon (features/individuals)</i>	This describes the estimated time (in years) that it will take for the main benefit of the quality (habitat/community) or value (features/individuals) improvement of the proposed offset to be realised	1 - The process for implementing a conservation covenant could be finalised within one year.
<i>Start area (habitat/community) or Start value (features/individuals)</i>	The area of habitat/community or number of features/individuals proposed to offset the impacts	5.65 - The potential offset will cover an area of 5.65 hectares.
<i>Start quality (habitat/community)</i>	The quality score for the area of habitat/community proposed as an offset - a measure of how well a particular site supports a particular threatened species or ecological community and contributes to its ongoing viability	8 - The vegetation occurs in an excellent condition
<i>Future quality without offset (habitat/community) or Future value without offset (features/individuals)</i>	The predicted future quality score (habitat/community) or value (features/individuals) of the proposed offset site without the offset	7 - It is assumed that the vegetation would decrease in condition as an active gravel reserve.
<i>Future quality with offset (habitat/community) or Future value with offset (features/individuals)</i>	The predicted future quality score (habitat/community) or value (features/individuals) of the proposed offset site with the offset	8 - It is assumed that the vegetation would be maintained at its current quality should it be protected under a conservation covenant.
<i>Risk of loss (%) without offset (habitat/community)</i>	This describes the chance that the habitat/community on the proposed offset site will be completely lost (i.e. no longer hold any value for the protected matter of concern) over the foreseeable future without an offset	30% - The vegetation of the Wheatbelt region is subject to continuing clearing and grazing pressures.
<i>Risk of loss (%) with offset (habitat/community)</i>	This describes the chance that the habitat/community on the proposed offset site will be completely lost (i.e. no longer hold any value for the protected matter of concern) over the foreseeable future with an offset	10% - A conservation covennant should reduce the risk of loss to 10%. The risk of catastrophic events such as fire remain.
<i>Confidence in result (%) – risk of loss (habitat/community)</i>	The capacity of measures to mitigate risk of loss of the proposed offset site	90% - there is a high level of confidence that the covenant will mitigate the risk of loss.
<i>Confidence in result (%) – Change in quality (habitat/community) or Change in value (features/individuals)</i>	The level of certainty about the successful achievement of the proposed change in quality (habitat/community) or value (features/individuals)	90% - there is a high level of confidence that the offset site would decrease in quality without a covenant, but would maintain at its current quality with a covenant.
<i>% of impact offset</i>	% of the significant residual impact that would be offset by the proposed offset (note: the offset calculations combined should equate to 100% for each residual impact)	100% - Obtained through the input of variables explained above.