

16 November 2020

Jacques Laubscher Supervisor – TCE Telstra Wideband Downer Group 9 Modal Crescent CANNING VALE WA 6155

Dear Jacques

RE: FLORA AND FAUNA ASSESSMENT, LEEMING ROAD LEEMING

Please find enclosed a summary of the flora and fauna assessment carried out by Natural Area ahead of trenching and drilling for service installation along Leeming Road in the vicinity of the Thornlie -Cockburn train line currently being constructed by NEWest Alliance. The site was surveyed by Natural Area Lead Botanist/Zoologist Sharon Hynes on 13 November 2020. The on-ground survey indicated that the proposed drilling areas are located in areas with little native vegetation and condition primarily degraded or completely degraded. No evidence of fauna in those locations were observed.

Regards

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Sue Brand Senior Environmental Scientist

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Introduction

Natural Area Consulting Management Services (Natural Area) was commissioned by Downer Group to undertake a flora and fauna survey along the service corridor along Leeming Road, Leeming, adjacent to the Thornlie – Cockburn line currently being constructed by NEWest. The Downer Group are in the process of installing communication and electrical cables along an area between two firebreaks on the southern side of Leeming Road in Leeming, and as a means of avoiding the presence of any native vegetation are proposing to carry out the installation via subsurface drilling combined with the excavation of a series of 550 mm x 500 mm drill pits for an approximate 1500 m length rather than installing open trenches. The excavator will be parked between current vegetation in cleared patches that contain no native vegetation, with the hole drilled to the next pit dug by the excavator parallel to the ground level at a depth of 1.2 m below the ground. Plans are provided as Appendix 1.

Flora Survey Results

The flora survey undertaken on the 13 November 2020 confirmed:

- the vegetation type was Banksia Woodland in a Degraded or Completely Degraded condition
- native species included Banksia menziesii, Allocasuarina fraseriana and Melaleuca preissiana trees, Adenanthos cygnorum, and Regelia ciliata shrubs, sparse native sedges, herbs including Hypolaena exsulca and Lyginia barbata
- none of these are listed as Threatened or Priority species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016 (WA) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Cwlth)
- the degraded nature of the site means the area in question is unlikely to be considered the threatened ecological community Banksia Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Indicative photos of the site are provided in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Current site conditions, Leeming Road, Leeming

Fauna Survey Results

The survey carried out on 13 November 2020 did not record any fauna species present within the proposed drilling areas.

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Implications of Results

The proposed drilling activities are unlikely to have any direct impact on native vegetation. Telstra have since advised Downer that it will be acceptable to carry out the cable installation within the 4.2 alignment area, meaning that impacts to native vegetation will further decrease. Where possible, it is recommended that if drilling is to occur within proximity to native species, that the root zone of the plant is avoided; as a generalisation the main root zone will coincide with the extent of the canopy, but can extend further according to species and form.



Appendix 1: Proposed Drilling Locations

233C Drumpellier Drive, Whiteman, WA 6068 | Telephone 08 9209 2767 Email info@naturalarea.com.au

Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 126 093 356

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