

Table of contents

| | 1. | Intro | duction | .1 |
|----|------|-------|--|----|
| | | 1.1 | Background | .1 |
| | | 1.2 | Purpose of report | .1 |
| | | 1.3 | Report limitations. | .1 |
| | 2. | Part | 2 – Proposed clearing action and impact assessment details | .2 |
| | | 2.1 | Description of the proposed clearing action | .2 |
| | | 2.2 | Descriptions of the matters of NES and surveys | .2 |
| | | 2.3 | Impacts of the action on matters of NES | .3 |
| | | 2.4 | Alternatives to the project | .7 |
| | | 2.5 | Mitigation measures | .7 |
| | | 2.6 | Proposed Offset | .9 |
| | 3. | Part | 3 – Consultation | .9 |
| | | 3.1 | Aboriginal heritage considerations | 10 |
| | | 3.2 | Public comment period | 10 |
| | | 3.3 | Further public consultation | 10 |
| | 4. | Refe | rences | 11 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Ta | abl | e i | ndex | |
| | | | | |
| | Tabl | e 1 | Assessment against significant impact criteria for Western Ringtail Possum | .3 |

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

V & V Walsh Pty Ltd (Walsh) propose to develop a cold store and distribution centre (the project) in the City pf Bunbury WA. The cold store will offer services including plate freezing, order picking, boxing, repacking, backing, labelling, loading/unloading of 20' and 40' containers, import and export inspections, forwarding services, order fulfilment, palletisation and shrink wrapping and inventory management. The project will include the construction of an access road, connection of power and other utilities, heavy vehicle parking areas, warehouse, offices, fencing and drainage.

As the proposed clearing has the potential to impact upon matters of National Environmental Significance (matters of NES), a referral to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) has been submitted (2021/8902). EPBC 2021/8902 was determined as a controlled action due to the potential impacts upon Wester Ringtail Possum habitat. In light of this determination, Walsh is seeking an assessment under the bilateral agreement.

An Annex C7 application form has been completed to support the clearing permit application for the project.

1.2 Purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information to supplement the Annex C7 application form. This document is structured to align with the Annex C7 form, and it is intended this document will be submitted with the clearing permit application to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). DAWE have advised that they have prepared their "assessment approach decision" and this, along with further advice will be supplied once this bilateral assessment application has been submitted and validated. The information supplied in this supporting document may be re-assessed, or additional assessments undertaken on receival of further device from DWER or DAWE during the bilateral assessment process.

Additional supporting information can be sourced from attachments:

- 12539969-REP-0 VandV Walsh Flora and Fauna Survey
- 2021-8902 EPBC referral
- 2021-8902-Referral-Att A signed
- 2021-8902-Referral-Att B1 signed

These documents have been provided as attachments to the clearing permit application.

1.3 Report limitations

This report has been prepared by GHD for Walsh and may only be used and relied on by Walsh for the purpose agreed between GHD and Walsh as set out in the accepted GHD proposal.

GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than Walsh arising in connection with this document. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this document were limited to the preparation of the Annex C7 supporting information for the V&V Walsh Cold Stores Expansion.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this document are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the document. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this document to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the document was prepared and accepted by Walsh.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this document are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this document. GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

GHD has prepared this document on the basis of information provided by Walsh and others who provided information to GHD (including Government authorities), which GHD has not independently verified or checked beyond the agreed scope of work. GHD does not accept liability in connection with such unverified information, including errors and omissions in the document which were caused by errors or omissions in that information.

Part 2 – Proposed clearing action and impact assessment details

2.1 Description of the proposed clearing action

The proposed clearing is located in the suburb of Davenport in the City of Bunbury (the City). The property on which the proposed clearing is located is part of Lot 1050 (Local Planning Scheme 6) South Western Highway. The proposed clearing area is zoned general industry under the Greater Bunbury Regional Scheme (GBRS). The proposed clearing area falls within a Special Control Area (Bushland Areas) included as part of Reserve 670 under the City of Bunbury Local Planning Scheme No 8.

Activities that may impact the environment associated with the project include vegetation clearing, removal of topsoil, digging and trenching for utilities and drainage, import of fill to raise low lying sections, construction of roads and road formations and construction of buildings.

A total project area of 5.28 ha was considered in the initial stages of the proposal and subject to biological surveys. Following determination of key environmental values of the project area and in consultation with the regulators it was determined that a vegetation buffer would be retained running along the west edge of the project area (the avoidance footprint). The avoidance footprint will comprise a portion of the project area zoned environmental conservation reserve under the GBRS and areas of high value fauna habitat. The avoidance footprint will be preserved for environmental conservation purposes. The avoidance footprint has been designed to reduce clearing of primary/high value habitat for Western Ringtail Possum, where dreys and an individual were observed.

The extent of this avoidance footprint is 1.14 ha, and therefore the potential clearing footprint is 3.87 ha, see attachment 12539969_001_ProposedActionArea_Rev0. map for potential clearing areas. All areas of vegetation to be cleared are in Degraded or Completely Degraded Condition, see attachment 12539969-REP-0 VandV Walsh Flora and Fauna Survey.

2.2 Descriptions of the matters of NES and surveys

2.2.1 Matters of NES

The matters of NES pertaining to the project is the clearing of habitat for Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act. The project involves clearing up to 1.59 ha of habitat described as "primary corridor and/or supporting habitat for this species" (see attachment 2021-8902-Referral-Att B1 signed) with

additional potential impacts to the local population occurring indirectly and by inhibiting the dispersal of Western Ringtail Possums. GHD understands that in the DAWE advice "primary corridor" refers to the 0.35 ha of habitat type Peppermint Woodland and "supporting habitat" refers to 0.78 ha of habitat type Flooded Gum Woodland and 0.46 ha of habitat type Marri and Melaleuca Woodland as described in attachment 12539969-REP-0_VandV Walsh Flora and Fauna Survey.

2.2.2 Previous surveys

A detailed flora and vegetation survey, basic fauna survey, Western Ringtail Possum and Western Ringtail Possum targeted assessment was completed from 1 October to 6 November 2020 with a supplementary tree hollow inspection on 10 December. The purpose of the study was to identify and map key flora and fauna values as they occur in the survey. See attachment 12539969-REP-0 VandV Walsh Flora and Fauna Survey for details of biological survey results.

2.3 Impacts of the action on matters of NES

2.3.1 Significance of impacts

To determine if the proposal will have a significant impact on the Western Ringtail Possum an assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia 2013) was undertaken (Table 1). This assessment also analyses and discusses the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect, short term or long-term impacts on the species as well as identifying if impacts are permanent, unpredictable or unknown.

Table 1 Assessment against significant impact criteria for Western Ringtail Possum.

Significant Impact Criteria

Outcome

An action is likely to have a significant impact to an endangered or vulnerable species if there is real chance or possibility that it will:

1. Lead to a long-term reduction in the size of a population

The project will result in direct impacts through permanent removal of up to 0.35 ha of primary habitat and 1.24 ha of supporting habitat. The potential for indirect impacts by inhibiting dispersal are discussed below in item 3 of this table.

Western Ringtail Possum habitat is well represented within the locality, with significant areas reserved for conservation within the Kalgalup Regional Park and nearby Manea Park. The potential clearing footprint is classified as Medium suitability class under the assessment of habitat for the Swan Coastal Plain (Shedley & Williams, 2014). An assessment of habitat extent mapped as Very High, High-Medium or Medium suitability within a 10 km radius of the potential clearing footprint recorded 8021 ha of habitat in these classes (Shedley & Williams, 2014). The potential clearing footprint represents just 0.02% of this habitat extent. This is not considered to represent a significant portion of overall habitat utilised by the local population.

The project, with the implementation of species-specific mitigation measures, is considered unlikely to result in a long-term decrease in the size of a population of this species. In the short-term reduction in population size is also expected to be avoided. This is through the design of the potential clearing footprint, which avoids recorded dreys and the majority of habitat mapped as primary/ high value, as well as through fauna management procedures undertaken during clearing. Avoidance, mitigation and management strategies are

| Cignificant Impost Cuitaria | Outcomo |
|--|---|
| Significant Impact Criteria | Outcome |
| | discussed in detail below in section 2.5. The project is unlikely to substantially: Reduce the overall area of available habitat to the population Reduce the overall area of occupancy of the population Exacerbate existing barrier effects or create new barrier effects Disrupt the breeding cycle of part of the population. |
| | Therefore, it is considered that clearance of up to 0.35 ha of primary habitat and 1.24 ha of supporting habitat is unlikely to lead to a long-term or short-term decrease in the size of the local population of Western Ringtail Possums. |
| 2. Reduce the area of occupancy of the species | The project is unlikely to substantially reduce the area of occupancy of the populations of Western Ringtail Possums within the local area or region. The species occurs primarily across three key management zones these being: |
| | Swan Coastal Plain from north of Bunbury to Augusta, but principally around Busselton |
| | Southern Forest Zone near Manjimup around the Warren River catchment |
| | South Coast Zone near coastal between Walpole and Cheynes beach. |
| | The area of occupancy across these zones is calculated to be less than 800 km2 (DPaW 2017). |
| | As discussed the potential clearing footprint represents just 0.02% of mapped habitat suitability classes within a 10 km radius using Shedley & Williams, 2014 habitat extents. |
| 3. Fragment an existing | The removal of up to 0.35 ha of primary habitat and 1.24 ha of supporting habitat within the potential disturbance footprint is not considered to be substantial for the species in a regional context, due to the extent of the known habitat adjacent to the project area as well as the availability of known and modelled suitable habitat within the three key management zones. The potential for the project to fragment an existing population |
| population into two or more populations | was a key consideration in the development of an avoidance strategy, which shaped the potential clearing footprint and led to the establishment of an avoidance footprint (see attachment 12539969_001_ProposedActionArea_Rev0 Map). |
| | The DAWE referral advice indicates that potential impacts to the local population occurring indirectly by inhibiting the dispersal of Western Ringtail Possum was a consideration in the controlled action decision. The retained vegetation corridor in the avoidance footprint allows for a maintenance of habit connectivity running north south adjacent to the project. The corridor will maintain a connectivity of habitat for a range of species, linking vegetation to the north and south of the project area. These areas of vegetation are preserved as regional open space under the GBRS. In addition, and to improve on the existing habitat linkages present, the project will include the construction of a Western Ringtail Possum connective structure (e.g. rope bridge) linking the southern end of the retained vegetation buffer with the larger section of habitat to the south of the project area. This is currently separated by a |

| Cinnificant Inspect Oritonia | Outron |
|--|---|
| Significant Impact Criteria | Outcome |
| | 30 m wide un-vegetated area. Additionally, revegetation work is proposed in the retained vegetation avoidance footprint to improve habitat quality for Western Ringtail Possum through the planting of additional Peppermint and Marri trees adjacent to existing habitat. Avoidance, mitigation and management strategies are discussed in detail below in section 2.5. |
| | Considering the application of these avoidance, mitigation and management strategies the project is considered unlikely to substantially increase the current fragmentation of habitat occurring around the potential clearing footprint. |
| 4. Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species | The project is unlikely to significantly affect habitat critical to the survival of the species. Up to 0.35 ha of primary habitat and 1.24 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the project however this represents just 0.02% of local habitat extent. The habitat located within the project area is not habitat listed on the Register of Critical Habitat maintained by the Minister under the EPBC Act (Commonwealth of Australia 2013). The Recovery Plan identifies that habitat critical to survival for Western Ringtail Possums is not currently well understood and the identification of habitat critical for survival for the species is listed as a goal, however specific mapping has not been provided at this stage (DBCA, 2017). The recovery plan identifies any habitat where the species occurs naturally as being considered critical stage (DBCA, 2017). Therefore, the vegetation within the project area may be classified as critical habitat, but as discussed due to the small potential clearing footprint, and the potentially suitable habitat extent (Shedley & Williams, 2014) represented adjacent to the project area and in the greater Bunbury locality, the impact of this project is not considered significant. |
| 5. Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population or important population | In coastal populations Western Ringtail Possum may breed year-round, with breeding peaks recorded in April to July and September to November (DPaW 2017). Habitats where the species occurs are likely suitable for breeding, with no highly specific locations or areas identified as essential for the breeding cycle of the species. The proposal will result in direct impacts to the species through clearing, however as discussed in item 1 of this table, the project is unlikely to lead to a long-term or short-term decrease in the size of the local population of Western Ringtail Possums. Following weaning young disperse to habitats, many establishing home ranges adjacent to the natal range (DPaW 2017). It is identified that habitat fragmentation may impact the success of young animal dispersion. However the project is considered unlikely to substantially increase the current fragmentation of habitat occurring around the potential clearing footprint as discussed in item 3 of this table. |
| 6. Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline | The works associated with the project will modify or destroy a small proportion of potential habitat for the species, but unlikely to the extent that the species would decline significantly. The small scale of the habitat loss within a regional context (is considered unlikely to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitats to the extent that the species are likely to decline. See item 1 of this table for detailed description. |
| 7. Result in invasive species that are harmful to the species becoming | The project is identified as having the potential to exacerbate invasive plant species that already occur within the project area or region. Due to the high level of existing disturbance |

| Significant Impact Criteria | Outcome |
|---|---|
| established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat | from historical clearing and agriculture in the project areas and the surrounding agricultural / industrial zone it is considered highly unlikely that the project would result in the establishment of additional weed species. Introduction of weed species will be managed via the implementation of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). The project is unlikely to result in a weed species becoming established in the project area to the extent that Western Ringtail Possums are substantially impacted. Invasive animal species which are harmful to the Western Ringtail Possum are already well established in the habitat of the region. A high level of activity from feral cats and foxes was observed during biological surveys within the project area. As the project is not resulting in a modification of existing land uses in the area (agricultural, food processing and industrial) it is not considered likely that the project will exacerbate the |
| | impact of invasive animal species. |
| 8. Introduce a disease that may cause the species to decline | It is identified that clearing and earthmoving works may if not managed appropriately increase the risk of spreading soil pathogens affecting key habitat species. Such pathogens include canker pathogen <i>Neofusicoccum australe</i> impacting Peppermint trees and <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback impacting eucalypt and proteaceous species (DPaW 2017). |
| | Dieback and other soil pathogen management controls will be implemented during the construction phase of the project in line with the CEMP. This will greatly reduce the risk of introduction of a range of habitat species pathogens. |
| | There are no known specific Wester Ringtail Possum diseases that may be introduced to the area from the project that may cause the Western Ringtail Possum populations to decline and it is considered unlikely that any disease which already exists in the project area that may be spread by the activities of the project. |
| 9. Interfere with the recovery of the species | The project is unlikely to interfere substantially with the recovery of the species due to the insignificant impact on habitat extent and population size as discussed in item 1 of this table. |

2.3.2 Description of relevant impacts

Environmental:

Implementation of the project will result in the loss of habitat for the Western Ringtail Possum, listed under the EPBC Act as matters of NES. As discussed in Table 1 the impact is not considered to be significant. The project will result in direct impacts through removal of up to 0.35 ha of primary habitat and 1.24 ha of supporting habitat.

The DAWE referral advice indicates that potential impacts to the local population occurring indirectly by inhibiting the dispersal of Western Ringtail Possum was a consideration in the controlled action decision (see attachment 2021-8902-Referral-Att B1 signed). Through the retention of vegetation in the avoidance footprint a corridor maintaining habitat connectivity will be established. Through the construction of a possum connective structure and revegetation work in the avoidance footprint the value of the retained vegetation as a connective corridor between areas of regional open space to the north and south of the project area may be improved by the project.

Social:

The project is estimated to:

- Provide up to 130 direct jobs during the construction period. Considering indirect jobs such
 as suppliers and designers it is considered that the project will result in 156 construction
 related jobs over an 18-month period
- Create 36 jobs in the supply chain process
- Create ongoing permanent employment opportunities for workers in the Bunbury region
- The project will also create a second access road to the existing abattoir, improving bushfire evacuation safety for the site

Economic:

The project in addition to the job creation as discussed above will provide the option for the development of a regional cold store facility which can assist agricultural exporters throughout the southwest region. This will assist in making south west export products more competitive in a range of export markets.

2.4 Alternatives to the project

There are no feasible alternatives to the proposed location of the project. Due to a requirement for the project to occur adjacent to the existing Walsh abattoir the project has been sited on the only suitable parcel of land identified. Other adjacent areas are zoned as regional open space (whereas the project area is zoned industrial under the GBRS) or are currently occupied by existing abattoir infrastructure. The alternative to the project, which is taking no action would result in the cancellation of the social and economic benefits of the project as outlined above.

2.5 Mitigation measures

Avoidance

Throughout the process of selecting a project area and designing the project disturbance footprint a strategy of avoidance of areas of high environmental value was applied. The project disturbance footprint was designed to maximise usage of vegetation mapped as being in Completely Degraded or Degraded condition, with all areas of vegetation in Good condition being avoided. Based on the biological survey results and in liaison with key stakeholders a retained vegetation buffer (the avoidance footprint) will be implemented. This avoidance footprint comprises 1.41 ha of the 5.28 ha total project area. This avoidance footprint will comprise the portion of the project area zoned environmental conservation reserve/ regional open space and areas of primary/high value habitat for Western Ringtail Possum. The avoidance footprint has been designed to avoid clearing the majority (0.4 ha of 0.75 ha total) of the mapped primary habitat for Western Ringtail Possum (habitat type Peppermint Woodland). The application of the avoidance footprint also prevents clearing of the habitat where dreys and an individual were observed.

The avoidance footprint and areas of the lot outside of the project disturbance footprint are proposed be managed by City of Bunbury for environmental conservation/ as regional open space on an ongoing basis.

The avoidance footprint has also been designed to maintain a connective habitat corridor, to avoid indirect impacts by inhibiting the dispersal of the species. The corridor will maintain a connectivity of habitat for a range of species, linking vegetation to the north and south of the project area. The vegetation to the north and south of the project area is preserved as regional open space. In order to improve the connectivity of the connective habitat corridor in the

avoidance footprint, Walsh propose the construction of a Western Ringtail Possum connective structure linking the southern end of the retained vegetation buffer with the larger section of habitat to the south of the project area. The Peppermint woodland habitat located to the south is considered to represent suitable habitat for the species, and the area is reserved as regional open space managed by the City of Bunbury. The connective structure may be constructed utilising existing trees linked by large diameter rope, a rope bridge using a pine pole structure, sections of piled removed trees, revegetation planting or a combination of these elements. Construction method will be confirmed following development of detailed proposal design and assessment of existing tree suitability to support a connective structure. The termination of this connective structure will be located within land managed by the City. As such consultation with and approval from the City will be required for the final design.

Mitigation and Management

A range of mitigation measures are proposed for the project. Additionally, Walsh will prepare a number of management plans for implementation during the project. Environmental impact mitigation strategies and management actions that will be implemented include:

- Minimise vegetation clearing and the area of disturbance on the ground by utilising existing cleared areas where possible
- Revegetation using habitat species such as Peppermint and Marri of an area of 0.10 ha of currently cleared land which is available to the west of the area of habitat where dreys were observed. The proposed revegetation occurs within the avoidance footprint, which is proposed to be managed by the City on an ongoing basis. As such consultation with and approval from the City will be required
- Construction and clearing impacts mitigated through the preparation of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will describe in detail the directional clearing plan, clearing staging and controls, fauna spotting and relocation procedures.
- Utilise staged directional clearing in an east to west direction, to direct displaced fauna towards the avoidance footprint. The fauna may then disperse north and south to surrounding vegetation which is protected as regional open space
- Undertake pre-clearing inspections of habitat for Western Ringtail Possum in the
 disturbance footprint to check for the presence of newly constructed dreys prior to clearing.
 At the time of the biological surveys no dreys were recorded within the disturbance
 footprint. If new dreys are identified directional clearing will be undertaken up to the drey
 and paused for one night to allow the possum to self-relocate away from the disturbance
 before recommencing clearing works
- Allow for fauna spotters to be present during clearing works in Western Ringtail Possum habitat. If Western Ringtail Possum is observed in the disturbance footprint during clearing works, clearing will pause and the tree or trees containing the animal will be left for one night to allow the possum to self-relocate. An inspection will be undertaken by the fauna spotter the following day. If the tree continues to be occupied after 48 hours, the animal will be coerced / moved to a safe area outside of the clearing footprint by the appointed zoologist / fauna spotter. Any trees containing dreys will be thoroughly inspected once felled, with the drey destroyed to prevent possible re occupation. Vegetation adjacent to the disturbance footprint appears to be suitable habitat for Western Ringtail Possum to self-relocate into
- Any Western Ringtail Possums showing signs of injury or illness will be caught, bagged and taken to an experienced wildlife veterinarian or approved wildlife rehabilitation facility.
 Liaison will be undertaken with Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

Further avoidance, mitigation and management actions may be implemented following future advice from DWER and DAWE.

2.6 Proposed Offset

No offsets are currently proposed. The requirement for offsets may be re assessed dependent on future advice from DWER and DAWE.

Part 3 – Consultation

Significant consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders the City of Bunbury (the City) and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). A summary is provided below.

Walsh lodged a Crown Land Enquiry Form with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) seeking the proposed amalgamation of a portion of adjoining Lot 1050 South Western Highway Davenport with Lot 5 Rawling Road Davenport under section 87 Land Administration Act 1997 (LA Act). The portion of Lot 1050 covered in the proposal forms part of Reserve 670, which is vested with the City of Bunbury for the purpose of endowment. The northern portion of Lot 1050 has an area of some 5.45 ha and is zoned 'Industrial' under the Greater Bunbury Region Scheme (GBRS). The majority of the subject portion of Lot 1050 is zoned 'General Industry' together with a 'Special Control Area Bushland Areas' designation under the City of Bunbury Local Planning Scheme No. 8. A relatively narrow triangular-shaped area in the north-western corner adjoining the South Western Highway and Rawling Road is reserved under LPS8 as 'Environmental Conservation'. Refer to letter from V & V Walsh to DPLH dated 05 January 2021 for maps displaying the above. Both the 'Environmental Conservation' reservation and the 'SCA Bushland Areas' designation are intended to provide for provision of an ecological linkage through the property, connecting environmentally significant areas to the south and north.

Due to the vesting and management of the Lot, the City of Bunbury is the Primary Interest Holder in Lot 1050. Consequently, in the knowledge that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) had already contacted the City for information relating to Lot 1050, in June 2020 Walsh wrote to the City requesting it relinquish a portion of the management order over Lot 1050 to facilitate the cold store proposal.

At its meeting held on 14 July 2020, Council resolved:

That Council agrees to the Revocation of portion of the Management Order over Reserve 670 (Lot 1050) South Western Highway, Davenport to enable V & V Walsh Processors and Exporters to expand into the northern portion of lot 670 allowing the Applicant to install a cold storage facility that will have direct linkages to the existing processing plant, subject to:

- 1. V& V Walsh Meat Processors and Exporters being responsible for all costs associated with the surrender;
- 2. The revocation of portion of management order over Reserve 670 is conditional that the portion of land surrendered is being used for the purpose of V & V Walsh to pursue acquisition from the Crown for their planned expansion;
- Approval of the Minister for lands; and
- 4. The Chief Executive Officer negotiating with the Applicant and relevant State Government departments regarding the retention of a vegetation buffer zone between the Reserve and South Western Hwy and Rawling Road.

3.1 Aboriginal heritage considerations

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry system (DPLH) identifies that the Preston River Registered Mythological site (ID 19795) occurs 450m to the east of the project area. Two areas described as Other Heritage Places, Stored Data/ Not a Site are identified. One intersects with the project area, this being Bunbury/Preston River (5851) -Artefacts / scatter, camp and one occurs 20 meters north, this being Bunbury 08 (4919) artefacts / scatter. As these are not registered sites a Section 18 approval is not applicable.

3.2 Public comment period

Walsh are aware the clearing permit application process involves an advertising and public comment period. The project has previously been publicly advertised during the EPBC referral process. No public comments have been advised as being received by DAWE at this time. Walsh will consider any public comments received, and these may be specifically addressed as required. The requirements for specific responses to public comment will be confirmed in liaison with DWER and DAWE.

3.3 Further public consultation

Additional targeted public consultation regarding the project may be considered pending receival of further advice or direction from DWER or DAWE.

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2013) *Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Department of the Environment, Canberra, ACT

Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017). Western Ringtail Possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis) Recovery Plan. Wildlife Management Program No. 58. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth, WA..

Shedley, E., & Williams, k. (2014). *An assessment of habitat for western ringtail possums* (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) *on the southern Swan Coastal Plain*. Bunbury, WA: Unpublished report for the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC) (2011) *Greater Bunbury Region Scheme* (GBRS), Government of WA



Document Status

| Revision | Author | Reviewer | | Approved for Issue | | |
|----------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| | | Name | Signature | Name | Signature | Date |
| Α | | | | | | 11/05/2021 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

