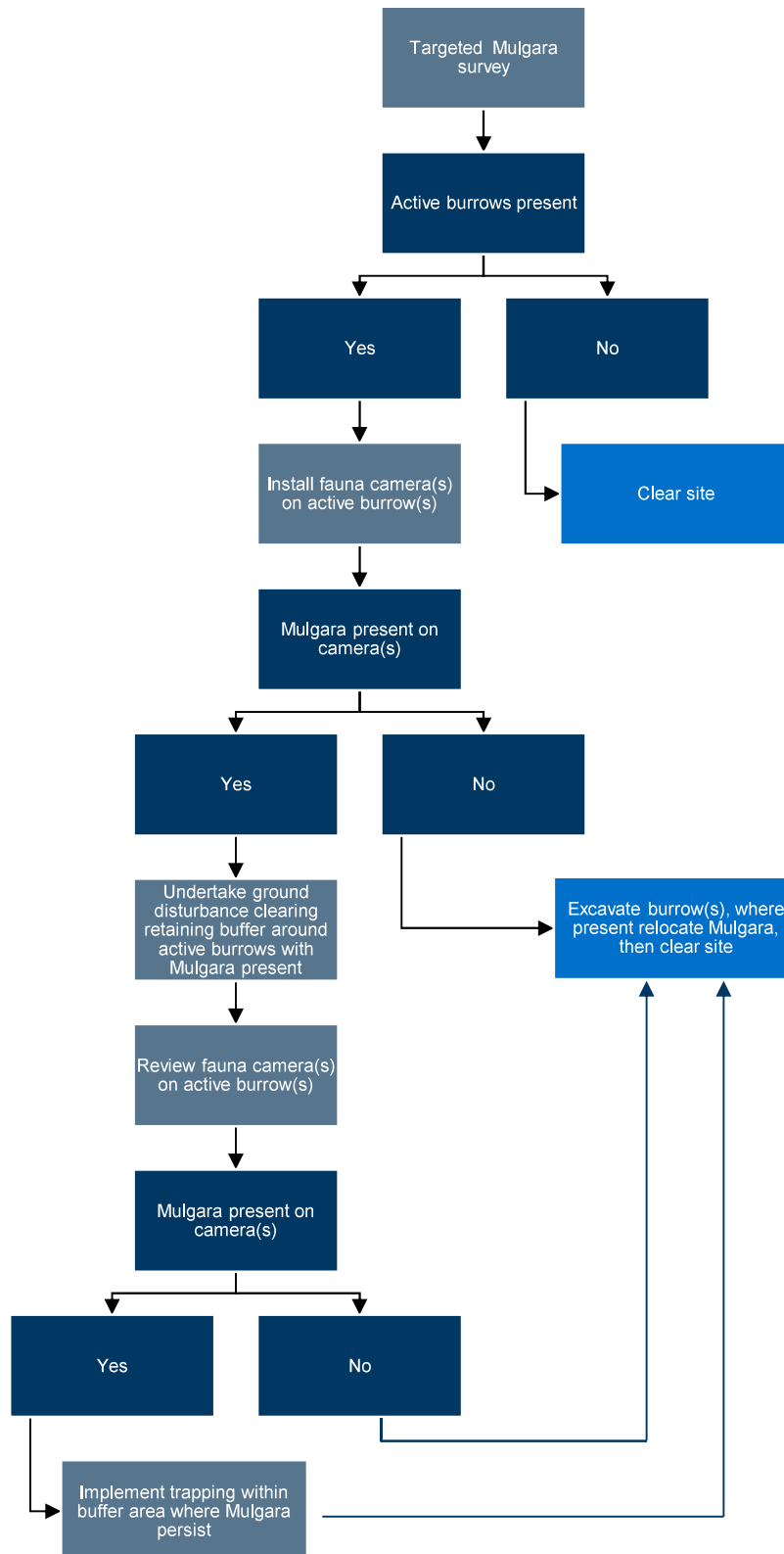


Appendix A

**Survey and clearance method statement
for Mulgara**

Survey and clearance method statement for Mulgara

Before clearing future lots within the Wedgefield subdivision, DevelopmentWA has committed to assess each area for presence of Mulgara, with tailored clearing, monitoring and/or trapping. The adaptive management approach is presented in the following flow chart



Flow chart: Adaptive management approach to Mulgara presence for clearing the Wedgefield subdivision

Targeted survey for Mulgara

- DevelopmentWA will engage a suitably experienced ecologist/zoologist to complete a targeted survey to assess presence of Mulgara burrows within the area to be cleared
- The targeted survey will involve traversing the entire of the area to be cleared, using a transect spacing of 10 – 20 metres (depending on vegetation density) on foot so as to provide sufficient coverage to search for evidence of Mulgara, including diggings, burrows and scats.
- The search effort will be approximately 1 - 2 persons ha⁻¹ h⁻¹, giving consideration to vegetation density and habitat suitability. Targeted surveys will include searches for burrow entrances under spinifex, noting these entrances may be difficult to detect and may result in false negatives for Mulgara presence
- Where Mulgara evidence is observed, the location is to be recorded on a handheld GPS, with representative photos taken and observation notes. Where active Mulgara burrows are identified, these are to be flagged while in the field to assist with managing potential impacts appropriately during clearing
- An active or potentially active Mulgara burrow is defined as one that has no spider webs across the entrance, any loose vegetation in the entrance or there is at least some evidence of ground disturbance at the entrance to indicate that an animal has moved in and out of one of the entrances recently. If there are multiple burrow entrances in a small area, then this will be deemed to be a single burrow complex and recorded once.

Fauna camera(s) installation

- Remote fauna cameras will be installed at least 48 hours prior to proposed ground disturbance clearing. Cameras will be positioned on the entrances of identified active burrows, with the following recorded:
 - Camera I.D.
 - Camera/Burrow location (GPS coordinates)
 - WIEDP Lot number
 - Notes.

Note: Although using lured camera traps during pre-clearance surveys may help determine the presence/absence of Mulgara, it may also alter the behaviour of Mulgara present, such as modify the distribution of Mulgara present within or adjacent to the Wedgefield Industrial Estate. The clearance method does not intend to attract animals to an area that is intended to be cleared, therefore lured cameras are not proposed.

- Camera images will be analysed by a suitably experienced ecologist/zoologist to determine presence of Mulgara prior to ground disturbance clearing.

Ground disturbance clearing

- Ground disturbance clearing will occur implementing the management measures specified in the Vegetation and Fauna Management Plan, while retaining a 10 m buffer around identified active burrows with Mulgara activity captured on the deployed fauna camera. The clearing will:
 - Occur outwards from already disturbed or developed areas to allow fauna to escape into remaining vegetated areas (Measure 25)
 - Follow a sequential clearing plan that avoids isolating fauna in 'islands' and allows for fauna to escape and relocate (Measure 42)
 - Avoid active Mulgara burrows that are flagged and not cleared until the animals have had an opportunity to escape (24 to 48 hrs depending on the distance from the disturbance) (Measure 43)
- The ground disturbance clearing will aim to result in sufficient disturbance in proximity of burrows to induce Mulgara to vacate these burrows prior to full clearing.

Post ground disturbance clearing monitoring

- Immediately following ground disturbance clearing, fauna cameras will be re-installed at respective burrows, if removed during clearing. This will allow detection of Mulgara (if present) post ground disturbance clearing and inform whether full clearing can proceed.

- Camera analysis for active burrows is to occur for two (or more) nights to confirm nil mulgara activity during the window of avoidance following initial ground disturbance. Camera images will be analysed by a suitably experienced ecologist/zoologist to determine presence or absence of Mulgara
- If there is no activity recorded on the cameras, careful excavation of burrows using handheld tools following the avoidance window will support the conclusion Mulgara have vacated the burrow following ground disturbance (noting burrows may have numerous entrances and some may be undetected/unmonitored). This will also provide opportunity for displacement of any Mulgaras that may still be within their burrow system
- Once burrows are excavated, the remainder of the area will be cleared.

Post ground disturbance clearing trapping

- If Mulgara activity is recorded on the fauna cameras following ground disturbance clearing, the associated vegetation buffer around the active Mulgara burrow will not be immediately cleared, with a Mulgara trapping program implemented by a suitably experienced ecologist/zoologist
- Where practicable, trapping will initially involve fencing the perimeter of the vegetation buffer. The minimum trapping effort to detect and remove Mulgara from an area will be for seven nights, unless there are three consecutive nights with no Mulgara captured, in which case trapping can cease. A suitable number/density of traps will be set with bait to lure Mulgara
- Remote fauna cameras will be retained to record any Mulgara activity
- Once trapping has ceased, the burrow(s) will be carefully excavated using handheld tools to ensure there are no remaining Mulgara present. This will also provide opportunity for displacement of any Mulgaras that may still be within their burrow system
- Once burrows are excavated, the remainder of the area will be cleared.