

Our Ref: 4004/JM/19062020

19 June 2020

Matthew Sprott
Director
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Matthew

Re: Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD-8642) Request for Additional Information

Mangoola understands the Department is continuing to progress its assessment of the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project (SSD-8642) and has received further feedback from the Department's Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) requesting additional information to complete its consideration of Commonwealth matters.

On 21 January 2019, the (then) Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) confirmed the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations (MCCO) Project was a controlled action under Section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for impacts on threatened species and communities and water related matters of national environmental significance (MNES). Specifically, DoEE considered the MCCO Project as likely to have a significant impact on:

- White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC)
- Prasophyllum sp. Wybong
- regent honeyeater (Anthochaera phrygia)
- water resources as the Project is likely to result in changes to groundwater and surface water and impact on surface water quality.

In addition, DoEE also considered that the MCCO Project may result in a significant impact on:

- swift parrot (Lathamus discolor)
- grey-headed flying fox (Pteropus poliocephalus).

The additional information requested by BCD, via correspondence received from the Department dated 4 June 2020, is identified below along with a response providing the information.

Inspired People Dedicated Team Quality Outcomes

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Please provide an update of any protected matters listed since referral of the Project, and provide a statement outlining whether any further assessment is required

Since the referral of the Project in 2018, the white-throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) was listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act (listed in July 2019). No other newly listed species were identified as relevant to the Project.

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) (2020) describes the white-throated needletail as a non-breeding migrant to Australia, mostly aerial, from heights of less than 1 m up to more than 1000 m above the ground. Although they occur over most types of habitat, they are recorded most often above wooded areas, including open forest and rainforest, and may also fly below the canopy between trees or in clearings. When flying above farmland, they are more often recorded above partly cleared pasture, plantations or remnant vegetation at the edge of paddocks. The species roosts in trees amongst dense foliage in the canopy or in hollows.

Extensive surveys of the MCCO Additional Disturbance Area over many survey periods did not detect the white-throated needletail.. The MCCO Additional Project Area is not considered to provide habitat for an important population of the species and further detailed assessment of the species is not required.

Please identify all of the EPBC Act listed threatened species that occur on, or in the vicinity of the Project site (as per the Environmental Reporting Tool), and state whether these species require any further consideration

An updated Protected Matters Search was undertaken on 11 June 2020 (refer to **Attachment 1**), buffering the MCCO Additional Project Area by 10km. **Table 1** provides a table of all EPBC Act listed MNES that are predicted to occur on, or in the vicinity of the MCCO Additional Disturbance Area and includes a statement as to whether any species requires further consideration.



Table 1 MNES Recorded or with Potential to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area

MNES Name	Status		Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further			
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?			
Wetlands of International Importance							
Hunter Estuary Wetlands	-	Ramsar	Not present – occurs approximately 120 km to the southeast of the MCCO Additional Project Area. Disturbances in the MCCO Additional Project Area will not have any impact on the Hunter Estuary Wetlands Ramsar Site.	No			
Threatened Ecological Communities							
Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland	-	CEEC	Not present – eucalypt forest and woodland communities identified in the MCCO Additional Project Area do not conform to the CEEC diagnostic criteria on the basis of soil and geological assessments ruling out the presence of potentially floristically suitable vegetation on Permian derived soils within the MCCO Additional Project Area. This community was considered as part of the referral assessment undertaken by Umwelt for the EPBC controlled action decision (2018/8280).	No			
Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Woodland	CEEC	CEEC	Not present – known occurrences of weeping myall in the MCCO Additional Project Area do not meet the condition threshold criteria for the <i>Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Woodland.</i>	No			
Weeping Myall woodlands	-	EEC	Not present – known occurrences of weeping myall in the MCCO Additional Project Area do not meet the listing criteria for the <i>Weeping Myall Woodlands</i> .	No			
Coolibah – Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions	-	EEC	Not present – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and unlikely to occur based on habitat requirements and known distribution.	No			
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	-	EEC	Not present – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and unlikely to occur based on habitat requirements and known distribution.	No			
Natural Grasslands on Basalt and fine- Textured Alluvial Plains of Northern NSW and Southern Queensland		CEEC	Not present – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and unlikely to occur based on habitat requirements and known distribution.	No			



MNES Name	Status		Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further	
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?	
White Box — Yellow Box — Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	EEC	CEEC	Recorded – known occurrences in the MCCO Additional Project Area identified through targeted floristic surveys. Vegetation mapped as PCT 1598 and PCT 1607 is considered to conform to the Box Gum Woodland CEEC based on the identification of samples of intergrades or hybrids of Blakely's red gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>) and forest red gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>). A total of 15.6 hectares of woodland and 8.4 hectares of derived native grassland is considered to meet the diagnostic criteria of the CEEC.	Yes – Detailed assessment of significance provided in Appendix 24 of the EIS. There are no changes to the outcomes of that assessment	
Threatened Flora Species					
Androcalva procumbens	V	V	Not present – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. This species occurs more commonly in the Dubbo-Mendooran-Gilgandra region and the Pilliga and Nymagee areas	No	
Sandy Hollow Commersonia Androcalva rosea	E	E	Not present – detailed targeted surveys did not identify this species within the MCCO Additional Project Area, however known to occur in surrounding areas within an 8 km radius of Sandy Hollow.	No	
Leafless Tongue-orchid Cryptostylis hunteriana	V	V	Not present – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species however it is known to occur in the Karuah Manning and Wyong CMA sub-regions. This species appears to favour moist soils on the flat coastal plains.	No	
White-flowered Wax Plant Cynanchum elegans	E	E	Not present – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. It is recorded from rainforest gullies scrub and scree slopes (PlantNET, 2017).	No	
bluegrass Dichanthium setosum	V	V	Unlikely – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area. It is predominantly located in the northern tablelands in the Saumarez area, west of Armidale and east of Guyra and was not recorded during detailed floristic surveys and targeted threatened species surveys	No	



MNES Name	Sta	atus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?
Euphrasia arguta	CE	CE	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.	No
Lasiopetalum longistamineum	V	V	Unlikely - the MCCO Additional Project Area provides suitable habitat for this species however it has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area during detailed floristic surveys and targeted threatened species surveys.	No
Ozothamnus tesselatus	V	V	Unlikely – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and is known to occur east of Ravensworth, NSW.	No
Omeo Stork's-bill Pelargonium sp. striatellum	E	E	Not present – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species as it typically occurs just above the high water level of irregularly inundated or ephemeral lakes.	No
Philotheca ericifolia	-	V	Not present – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species, growing chiefly in dry sclerophyll forest and heath on damp sandy flats and gullies.	No
Denman Pomaderris Pomaderris reperta	CE	CE	Unlikely – the MCCO Additional Project Area provides suitable habitat for this species however it has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area during detailed floristic surveys and targeted threatened species surveys.	No
Leek Orchid Prasophyllum sp Wybong	E	CE	Recorded – known occurrences throughout the MCCO Additional Project Area from targeted surveys and is known from near Ilford, Premer, Muswellbrook, Wybong, Yeoval, Inverell, Tenterfield, Currabubula and the Pilliga area.	Yes – Detailed assessment of significance provided in Appendix 24 of the EIS. There are no changes to the outcomes of that assessment



MNES Name	Sta	atus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further	
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?	
Wollemi Mint-bush V Prostanthera cryptandroides subsp.cryptandroides		V	Unlikely – the MCCO Additional Project Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species which has been recorded between Lithgow and Sandy Hollow.	No	
Illawarra greenhood Pterostylis gibbosa	E	E	Unlikely - known only from a small number of populations in the Hunter around Milbrodale, the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven regions. It has not been recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and is unlikely to occur based on known distribution.	No	
Austral toadflax Thesium australe	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area despite targeted floristic surveys and is unlikely to occur based on a lack of preferred <i>Themeda triandra</i> habitat and the highly disturbed condition of the MCCO Additional Project Area.	No	
Pokolbin Mallee (Euclayptus pumila)	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area despite targeted floristic surveys and is unlikely to occur based on a lack of preferred habitat.		
Tylophora linearis	V	Е	Unlikely – unlikely to occur based on known distribution.	No	
Threatened Fauna Species					
Amphibians					
Booroolong frog Litoria booroolongensis	E	E	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and unlikely to occur based on known distribution and lack of suitable habitat as it is known to live along permanent streams.	No	



MNES Name	Sta	ntus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further	
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?	
Birds					
regent honeyeater Anthochaera phrygia	CE	CE	Potential – the species has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area despite targeted surveys however is known to occur in surrounding areas. The MCCO Additional Project Area contains low to moderate quality potential habitat for this species and is within the likely distribution of the species.	Yes – Detailed assessment of significance provided in Appendix 24 of the EIS. There are no changes to the outcomes of that assessment	
Australasian bittern Botaurus poiciloptilus	E	E	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or surrounds and unlikely to occur based on a lack of suitable habitat within the MCCO Additional Project Area.	No	
curlew sandpiper Calidris ferruginea	E	CE	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution in mainly coastal wetland environments and lack of suitable habitat in the MCCO Additional Project Area.	No	
red goshawk Erythrotriorchis radiatus	CE	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area and is unlikely to occur based on a lack of records in NSW since the 1980s.	No	
painted honeyeater Grantiella picta	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution mainly on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range.	No	



MNES Name	Sta	tus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further	
	BC Act	EPBC Act		Consideration Required?	
swift parrot Lathamus discolor	Е	CE	Potential – the species has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area despite targeted surveys however is known to occur in surrounding areas. The MCCO Additional Project Area contains low to moderate quality potential habitat for this species and is within the likely distribution of the species.	Yes – Detailed assessment of significance provided in Appendix 24 of the EIS. There are no changes to the outcomes of that assessment	
eastern curlew Numenius madagascariensis	-	CE	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution in mainly coastal wetland environments and lack of suitable habitat in the MCCO Additional Project Area.	No	
Australian painted snipe Rostratula australis	E	E	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution in mainly shallow wetlands.	No	
White-throated needle-tail (Hirundapus caudacutus)	-	V	Unlikely - Extensive surveys of the MCCO Additional Disturbance Area over many survey periods did not detect the aerial white-throated needletail, although the species could forage throughout the areal space above the MCCO Additional Disturbance Area. The MCCO Additional Project Area is not considered to provide a habitat for an important population of the species.	No	



MNES Name	Sta	atus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further
BC Act		EPBC Act		Consideration Required?
Mammals				
large-eared pied bat Chalinolobus dwyeri	V	V	Potential – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area however the MCCO Additional Project Area contains suitable foraging habitat for the species. This species was considered as part of the referral assessment undertaken by Umwelt for the EPBC controlled action decision (2018/8280).	No
spotted-tailed quoll Dasyurus maculatus maculatus	V	E	Potential – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area however is known to occur in surrounding areas. The MCCO Additional Project Area contains areas of suitable foraging and movement habitat for the species as the species preferred habitat is highly variable. This community was considered as part of the referral assessment undertaken by Umwelt for the EPBC controlled action decision (2018/8280).	No
Corben's long-eared bat Nyctophilus corbeni	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution primarily west of the Great Dividing Range.	No
greater glider Petauroides volans	-	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution in contiguous eucalypt forests at higher elevations.	No
brush-tailed rock-wallaby Petrogale penicillata	E	V	Recorded – one record of a scat is known to occur near the boundary of the north-western extent of the MCCO Additional Project Area adjacent to suitable rocky habitat of the type the species is known to occupy. There is no suitable habitat for this species in the impact area of the Proposed Action and the location of the scat is greater than 1 km from the proposed additional mining area. The Project will not impact the habitat of this species and therefore it will not be adversely impacted.	No



MNES Name	Sta	itus	Likelihood to Occur within the MCCO Additional Project Area	Further
BC Act EPBC Act			Consideration Required?	
Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (Combined Populations of Qld, NSW and ACT)	V	V	Potential – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area. Habitat critical to the survival of the koala was identified, as defined by the Koala Referral Guidelines, however the species was not considered to be likely to be significantly impacted by the Project. This species was considered as part of the referral assessment undertaken by Umwelt for the EPBC controlled action decision (2018/8280).	No
New Holland mouse Pseudomys novaehollandiae	-	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area or the surrounds and unlikely to occur based on known distribution in contiguous wet eucalypt forests and coastal heaths.	No
grey-headed flying-fox Pteropus poliocephalus	V	V	Potential – not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area however it is known to occur in surrounding areas with a camp located at Muswellbrook, approximately 17km from the MCCO Additional Project Area.	Yes – Detailed assessment of significance provided in Appendix 24 of the EIS. There are no changes to the outcomes of that assessment
Reptiles	·			
Pink-tailed worm lizard Aprasia parapulchella	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area. Known distribution in NSW is in the Central and Southern Tablelands and the South Western Slopes but highly isolated from each other.	No
striped legless lizard Delma impar	V	V	Unlikely - not recorded within the MCCO Additional Project Area. The striped legless lizard is a grassland specialist, found only in areas of high-quality native grassland and nearby grassy woodland and exotic pasture.	No



Please clarify the extent of suitable habitat for the Regent Honeyeater. The Biodiversity Assessment Report notes 6.3 hectares (ie Table 5.4) while an area of 8.6 hectares is quoted in Appendix 24 (ie page 26)

Consultation with the DAWE (formerly DoEE) assessment officer during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) determined that DAWE had identified all PCTs that contain ironbark as providing critical habitat for the species.

Review of PCTs determined that the MCCO Additional Project Area contains 147.97 hectares of woodland and forest communities that contain narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*) as occurring in the canopy. These communities meet the broad definition of potential habitat that DAWE has considered as habitat critical to the survival of the species. Derived native grassland communities of these PCTs have not been included in the analysis of potential habitat. PCTs include the following:

- HU816/PCT1602 Spotted Gum Narrow-leaved Ironbark Shrub Grass Open Forest of the Central and Lower Hunter
- HU817/PCT1603 Narrow-leaved Ironbark Bull Oak Grey Box shrub grass open forest of the central and lower Hunter
- HU821/PCT1607 Blakely's Red Gum Narrow-leaved Ironbark Rough-barked Apple shrubby woodland of the upper Hunter (*Eucalyptus tereticornis x Eucalyptus blakelyi intergrades* dominant in the canopy).

The regent honeyeater has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area and it is unlikely to contain breeding or nesting habitat for the species. The above assessment based on advice from the DAWE assessment officer at that time is conservative and based on the presence of canopy species only and with no consideration of the quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater as defined by the recovery plan for the species and knowledge of the species ecology and habitat preferences.

The 6.3 hectares of potential habitat identified in the BAR (Umwelt 2019) represents the outcome of Umwelt's analysis of potential habitat based on specific site assessment and consideration of the habitat preferences of the species, based on the recovery plan for the species. The 8.6 hectares referred to in Appendix 24 is incorrect, with the 6.3 hectares of Table 5.4 based on boundary revisions during the EIS finalisation process.

Please provide an assessment of the Project's cumulative impact on food resources for the Greyheaded Flying-fox in the broader region, and also of the Project's proximity to any nationally significant camps

All eucalypt forest and woodland vegetation within the MCCO Additional Project Area provides potential foraging habitat for the grey-headed flying-fox. Eucalypt-dominated vegetation communities within the MCCO Additional Disturbance Area occur across approximately 162.6 hectares.

Camp sites (breeding habitat) were not identified within the MCCO Additional Project Area and are not expected to occur. The nearest substantial roost camp site of the grey-headed flying-fox to the MCCO Additional Project Area is in Muswellbrook approximately 17 km to the east (DoEE 2019). The population estimate for grey-headed flying-foxes in Muswellbrook was estimated to be between 2,500 and 9,999 individuals during surveys in August 2018 (DoEE 2019) and recent surveys identified a population size of approximately 500 to 1200 individuals between October and December 2019 (Umwelt in prep). The highest estimate of this population is from 2015 with the population at that time estimated to be between 16,000 and 49,999 individuals (DoEE 2019). Potentially occurring



foraging individuals in the MCCO Additional Project Area are likely to be from this camp site located within 50 km of the site.

Figure 1 shows the locations of nationally significant camp sites. The MCCO Additional Project Area is located approximately 90 km from the closest nationally significant camp site located at East Cessnock.

The Muswellbrook Camp Management Plan (Muswellbrook Shire Council 2017) provides an analysis of the foraging habitat of the Muswellbrook grey-headed flying-fox population which may potentially forage within the MCCO Additional Project Area during suitable flowering conditions in the canopy of eucalypt forest and woodland communities. This analysis identifies the extent of habitat available to the Muswellbrook population against which the cumulative loss of potential habitat for the species can be measured. Native forests and woodlands in the local area have been extensively cleared historically, with only 17% of land within 20km of the Muswellbrook population supporting native forests and woodland. The following excerpt is from the Muswellbrook Camp Management Plan (Muswellbrook Shire Council 2017):

The number of flying-foxes present in a camp is primarily driven by the amount and quality of food available in the local area, relative to that available within migration distance (Tidemann 1999; Eby 1991; Roberts et al 2012). Flying-foxes typically feed within 20 km of their roost (Tidemann 1999), and digital maps of feeding habitat for Grey-headed Flying-foxes have been used to summarise feeding resources within 20 km of the Muswellbrook camp (Eby and Law 2008).

The area surrounding the Muswellbrook camp has been heavily cleared for agriculture and mining. Approximately 17% of land within 20 km of the site supports native forests and woodlands, primarily in small remnant patches. While some dry rainforest occurs in the area, it is rare and rainforest fruits provide sparse food resources for flying-foxes during late summer and autumn.

Approximately 90% of forested land within 20km of Muswellbrook contains flowering trees visited by flying-foxes.

Based on the analysis provided in the Muswellbrook Camp Management Plan (Muswellbrook Shire Council 2017), approximately 19,227 hectares of potential foraging habitat exists within a 20km radius of the population. The loss of 162.6 hectares of potentially suitable eucalypt foraging habitat for this species represents a reduction of 0.8% of the local foraging habitat.

Eucalypt forest and woodland habitat of the grey-headed flying-fox continues to be cleared as a result of agricultural, mining and other industrial development and residential land uses. Habitat loss is identified in the Muswellbrook Camp Management Plan as a key threat to the survival of the species.

The MCCO Additional Project Area is considered to comprise up to 162.6 hectares of potentially suitable eucalypt foraging habitat for this species and may be productive during winter and spring. The loss of 162.6 hectares of suitable foraging habitat for the species is not considered to comprise a significant cumulative impact on foraging resources for the species in the Hunter Valley. Eucalypt forests and woodlands providing potential foraging habitat for this species occur widely in lands surrounding the MCCO Additional Project Area and more broadly across the Hunter Valley.

It is also noted that over time, the native woodland vegetation proposed as part of the rehabilitation of the MCCO Project will replace the habitat removed, however, it is recognised that the vegetation will take time to provide foraging habitat.



Therefore, given that this species has not been recorded in the MCCO Additional Project Area, and given that it only represents a relatively small area of suitable fragmented habitat when compared to the local area, it is considered that the MCCO Project is unlikely to substantially adversely affect foraging habitat critical to the survival of the species.

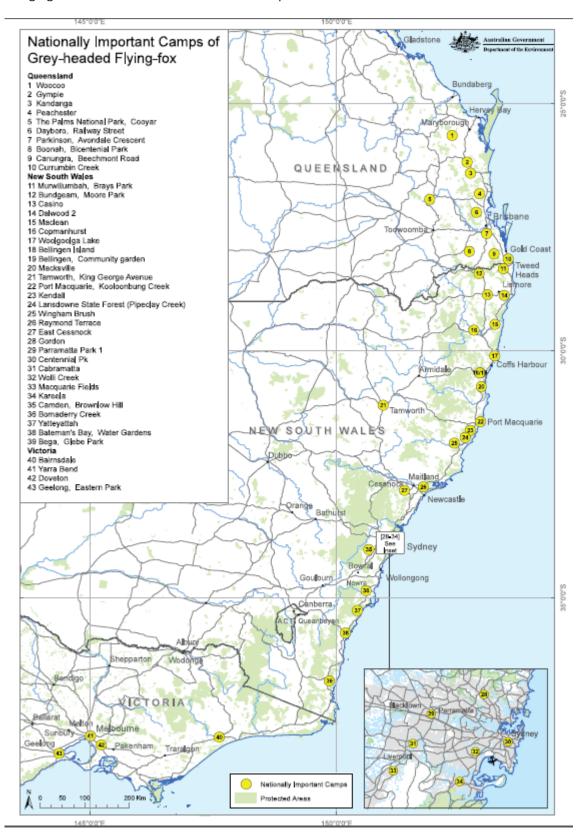


Figure 1 Nationally Important Grey-headed Flying-fox Populations



Please identify the total number of ecosystem credits generated by White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland

Approximately 15.6 hectares of woodland and 8.4 hectares of derived native grassland that conforms to the *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* CEEC will be directly impacted as a result of the MCCO Project. The following PCTs in the MCCO Proposed Additional Project Area were identified as having Blakely's red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) or Blakely's red gum/forest red gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi x Eucalyptus tereticornis*) intergrades as the dominant overstorey species and are therefore considered to conform (in part) to *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* CEEC:

- HU812/PCT1598 Forest Red Gum Grassy Open Forest on Floodplains of the Lower Hunter
- HU812/PCT1598 Forest Red Gum Grassy Open Forest on Floodplains of the Lower Hunter derived native grassland
- HU821/PCT1607 Blakely's Red Gum Narrow-leaved Ironbark Rough-barked Apple shrubby woodland of the upper Hunter.

Table 2 identifies the areas of each and the total number of ecosystem credits generated by these three communities.

Table 2 Ecosystem credits generated by White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland

White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland	Area of PCT that conforms to White Box-Yellow Box- Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland CEEC (ha)	Ecosystem Credits generated by White Box- Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
HU812/PCT1598 Forest Red Gum Grassy Open Forest on Floodplains of the Lower Hunter	9.4	737
HU812/PCT1598 Forest Red Gum Grassy Open Forest on Floodplains of the Lower Hunter – derived native grassland	8.4	399
HU821/PCT1607 Blakely's Red Gum - Narrow- leaved Ironbark - Rough-barked Apple shrubby woodland of the upper Hunter.	6.2	253

Please identify the potential foraging habitat area (in both hectares and PCTs) for the Regent Honeyeater

Consultation with the DAWE (formerly DoEE) assessment officer during preparation of the EIS determined that they consider that all PCTs that contain ironbark provide critical habitat for the species.

In consideration of DAWE's assessment officers position, the area of potential foraging habitat in the MCCO Additional Project Area for the regent honeyeater is provided in **Table 3**, also showing each of the PCTs identified as potential habitat.



Table 3 Area of potential foraging habitat for the regent honeyeater by PCT

Potential Foraging Habitat	Area within the MCCO Additional Project Area (ha)
HU816/PCT1602 Spotted Gum - Narrow-leaved Ironbark Shrub - Grass Open Forest of the Central and Lower Hunter	6.3
HU817/PCT1603 Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Bull Oak - Grey Box shrub - grass open forest of the central and lower Hunter	135.21
HU821/PCT1607 Blakely's Red Gum - Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Roughbarked Apple shrubby woodland of the upper Hunter.	6.46
Total area of potential foraging habitat	147.97

Please identify the species-credits generated by known and predicted Prasophyllum 'sp. Wybong' plants in the proposed offset lands

Following the revisions made to the expert report in response to comments made by BCD through the response to submissions (RTS) phase of the MCCO Project, the revised Expert Report documented a small reduction in the predicted numbers of *Prasophyllum sp Wybong* in the proposed offsets (refer to **Table 4**).

Table 4 Updated Prasophyllum sp Wybong Numbers in Proposed Offsets

Species	Predicted Number of Orchids				
	Previous Expert Report (June 2019)	Revised Expert Report (December 2019)	Difference		
Prasophyllum sp Wybong	1,314	1,264	-50		

A total of 8,983 impact credits require offsetting (retirement) as part of the MCCO Project. Whilst there was a small reduction in the numbers of orchids in the proposed offset areas, the speciescredit based offsetting outcomes of the MCCO Project remains the same, that is, that sufficient credits are generated to offset the impacts of the MCCO Project on this orchid species in accordance with the FBA (refer to **Table 5**).

Table 5 Offset Credits generated by Known and Predicted *Prasophyllum sp Wybong* in the Mangoola Proposed Offsets

Known and Predicted Numbers of Orchids	Number	Offset Credits
Mangoola Offset site		
Tarengo leek orchid (<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>) (known)	877 ind	6,226
Tarengo leek orchid (Prasophyllum petilum) (predicted)	859 ind	6,099
Mangrove BioBank Site		
Tarengo leek orchid (<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>) (known)	27 ind	191
Tarengo leek orchid (Prasophyllum petilum) (predicted)	405 ind	2,876
	Total Credits	15,392

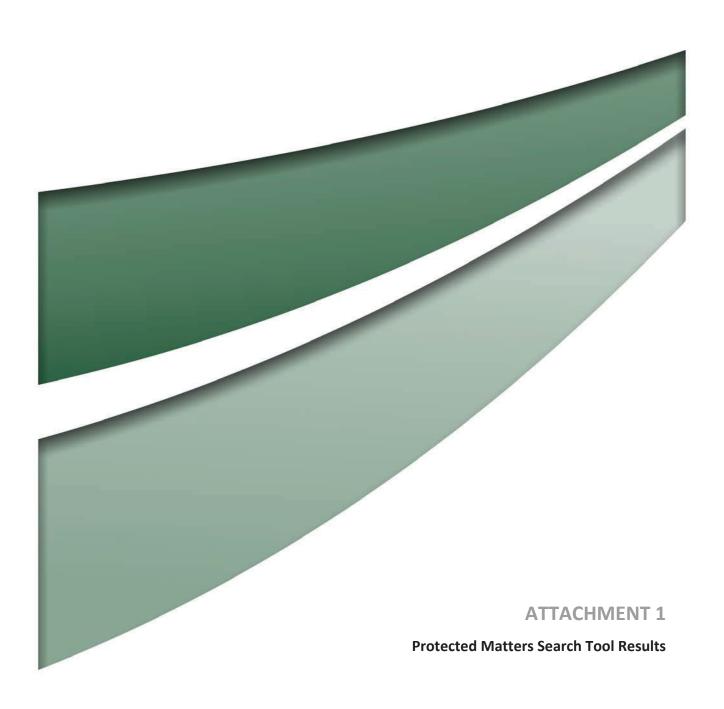


We trust that the above information meets your requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional clarification.

Kind regards,

M:

Allison Riley NSW Ecology Manager





EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about <u>Environment Assessments</u> and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

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Summary

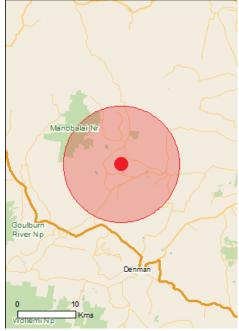
Details

Matters of NES
Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Caveat

<u>Acknowledgements</u>

Extra Information



This map may contain data which are ©Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), ©PSMA 2010

Coordinates
Buffer: 10.0Km



Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the <u>Administrative Guidelines on Significance</u>.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance:	1
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	6
Listed Threatened Species:	33
Listed Migratory Species:	14

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage

A permit may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Land:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	21
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

State and Territory Reserves:	1
Regional Forest Agreements:	1
Invasive Species:	31
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
Key Ecological Features (Marine)	None

Details

Hirundapus caudacutus

Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744]

White-throated Needletail [682]

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	[Resource Information]
Name	Proximity
Hunter estuary wetlands	100 - 150km upstream

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities [Resource Information] For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans. State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps. Name Status Type of Presence Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland Critically Endangered Community likely to occur within area Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands Endangered Community may occur and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern within area <u>Australia</u> Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Critically Endangered Community likely to occur Woodland within area Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial Critically Endangered Community may occur plains of northern New South Wales and southern within area Queensland Weeping Myall Woodlands Endangered Community may occur within area White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Critically Endangered Community likely to occur Woodland and Derived Native Grassland within area Listed Threatened Species [Resource Information] Name Type of Presence Status Birds Anthochaera phrygia Regent Honeyeater [82338] Critically Endangered Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern [1001] Endangered Species or species habitat may occur within area Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856] Critically Endangered Species or species habitat may occur within area Erythrotriorchis radiatus Vulnerable Red Goshawk [942] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470] Vulnerable Species or species habitat known to occur within area

Vulnerable

Critically Endangered

Species or species habitat known to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Numenius madagascariensis		
Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rostratula australis Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
_		
Frogs		
Litoria booroolongensis	Cadangarad	Charles ar anadica habitat
Booroolong Frog [1844]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Mammals		
Chalinolobus dwyeri		
Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat [183]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland populati	on)	
Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) [75184]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Nyctophilus corbeni		
Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat [83395]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Petauroides volans		
Greater Glider [254]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Petrogale penicillata		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby [225]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld,	NSW and the ACT)	
Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat
South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) [85104]		known to occur within area
Pseudomys novaehollandiae New Holland Mouse, Pookila [96]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat
New Holland Mouse, Fookila [90]	vuirierable	known to occur within area
Pteropus poliocephalus		
Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within
Plants		area
Androcalva procumbens		
[87153]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
		Known to occur within area
Androcalva rosea		0
Sandy Hollow Commersonia [86861]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Cryptostylis hunteriana		
Leafless Tongue-orchid [19533]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat
		may occur within area
<u>Dichanthium setosum</u>		
bluegrass [14159]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat
		likely to occur within area
Eucalyptus pumila		
Pokolbin Mallee [16510]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Euphrasia arguta		
[4325]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat
	, 5	may occur within area
Lasiopetalum longistamineum		
[19181]	Vulnerable	Species or species

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Ozothamnus tesselatus		habitat known to occur within area
[56203]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Pomaderris reperta Denman Pomaderris [77103]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Prasophyllum sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269) a leek-orchid [81964]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Prostanthera cryptandroides subsp. cryptandroides Wollemi Mint-bush [68496]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Pterostylis gibbosa Illawarra Greenhood, Rufa Greenhood, Pouched Greenhood [4562]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<u>Thesium australe</u> Austral Toadflax, Toadflax [15202]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Reptiles		
Aprasia parapulchella Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard [1665]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<u>Delma impar</u> Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard [1649]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Listed Migratory Changes		[Decourse Information]
Listed Migratory Species * Species is listed under a different scientific name on the Name	the EPBC Act - Threatened Threatened	[Resource Information] Species list. Type of Presence
Migratory Marine Birds		
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Migratory Terrestrial Species		
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Monarcha melanopsis Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Rhipidura rufifrons Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Migratory Wetlands Species		
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species

Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
		habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea		
Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris melanotos		
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Gallinago hardwickii		
Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Numenius madagascariensis		
Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Pandion haliaetus		
Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Tringa nebularia		
Common Greenshank Greenshank [832]		Species or species habitat

Species or species habitat may occur within area Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act		
Listed Marine Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name on tl	he EPBC Act - Threatened	Species list.
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Birds		
Actitis hypoleucos		
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Apus pacificus		
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Ardea alba		
Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Ardea ibis		
Cattle Egret [59542]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris acuminata		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea		
Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris melanotos		
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Chrysococcyx osculans		
Black-eared Cuckoo [705]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Gallinago hardwickii		
Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]		Species or species habitat may occur within

Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
		area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<u>Hirundapus caudacutus</u> White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<u>Lathamus discolor</u> Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Monarcha melanopsis Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Numenius madagascariensis Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rhipidura rufifrons Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Painted Snipe [889]	Endangered*	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Extra Information		
State and Territory Reserves		[Resource Information]

State and Territory Reserves	[Resource Information]
Name	State
Manobalai	NSW
Regional Forest Agreements	[Resource Information]
Note that all areas with completed RFAs have been included.	
Name	State
North East NSW RFA	New South Wales
	10 16 6 1

Invasive Species [Resource Information]

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resouces Audit, 2001.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Acridotheres tristis		
Common Myna, Indian Myna [387]		Species or species

Alauda arvensis Skylark [656] Alauda arvensis Skylark [656] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Carduelis carduelis European Goldfinch [403] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Columba livia Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove, Domestic Pigeon [803] Passer domesticus House Sparrow [405] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Streptopelia chinensis Spotted Turtie-Dove [780] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Streptopelia chinensis Storted Turtie-Dove [780] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Sturnus vulgaris Common Starling [389] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Turdus merula Common Blackbird, Eurasian Blackbird [596] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Frogs Rhinella marina Cane Toad [83218] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Mammals Bos taurus Domestic Cattle [16] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Felis catus Cati, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area Feral deer Foral deer	Skylark [656] Carduelis carduelis European Goldfinch [403] Columba livia Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove, Domestic Pigeon [803] Passer domesticus House Sparrow [405] Streptopelia chinensis Spotted Turtle-Dove [780] Sturnus vulgaris Common Starling [389] Turdus merula Common Blackbird, Eurasian Blackbird [596] Frogs Rhinella marina Cane Toad [83218] Mammals Bos taurus Domestic Cattle [16] Canis lupus familiaris Domestic Dog [82654] Felis catus Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19] Feral deer Feral deer species in Australia [85733] Lepus capensis Brown Hare [127] Mus musculus	Type of Presence
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	Brown Rat, Norway Rat [83]	
Brown Rat, Norway Rat [83] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		
Rattus rattus		
DIVIDED A OUT DIA FOAT	Black Rat, Ship Rat [84]	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Sus scrofa Pig [6]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Vulpes vulpes Red Fox, Fox [18]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Plants		
Chrysanthemoides monilifera Bitou Bush, Boneseed [18983]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Cylindropuntia spp. Prickly Pears [85131]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Genista sp. X Genista monspessulana Broom [67538]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Lycium ferocissimum African Boxthorn, Boxthorn [19235]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Opuntia spp. Prickly Pears [82753]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Pinus radiata Radiata Pine Monterey Pine, Insignis Pine, V Pine [20780]	Wilding	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rubus fruticosus aggregate Blackberry, European Blackberry [68406]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Salix spp. except S.babylonica, S.x calodene Willows except Weeping Willow, Pussy Willo Sterile Pussy Willow [68497]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Salvinia molesta Salvinia, Giant Salvinia, Aquarium Watermo Weed [13665]	ss, Kariba	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Senecio madagascariensis Fireweed, Madagascar Ragwort, Madagasca Groundsel [2624]	ar	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Tamarix aphylla Athel Pine, Athel Tree, Tamarisk, Athel Tam Athel Tamarix, Desert Tamarisk, Flowering (Salt Cedar [16018]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World and National Heritage properties, Wetlands of International and National Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been derived through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, maps are derived using either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc) together with point locations and described habitat; or environmental modelling (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where very little information is available for species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc). In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More reliable distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions as time permits.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

Such breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Coordinates

-32.25166 150.66189

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- -Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales
- -Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria
- -Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
- -Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia
- -Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory
- -Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland
- -Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
- -Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT
- -Birdlife Australia
- -Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme
- -Australian National Wildlife Collection
- -Natural history museums of Australia
- -Museum Victoria
- -Australian Museum
- -South Australian Museum
- -Queensland Museum
- -Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums
- -Queensland Herbarium
- -National Herbarium of NSW
- -Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria
- -Tasmanian Herbarium
- -State Herbarium of South Australia
- -Northern Territory Herbarium
- -Western Australian Herbarium
- -Australian National Herbarium, Canberra
- -University of New England
- -Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- -Australian Government, Department of Defence
- Forestry Corporation, NSW
- -Geoscience Australia
- -CSIRO
- -Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns
- -eBird Australia
- -Australian Government Australian Antarctic Data Centre
- -Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- -Australian Government National Environmental Science Program
- -Australian Institute of Marine Science
- -Reef Life Survey Australia
- -American Museum of Natural History
- -Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania
- -Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania
- -Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the Contact Us page.