

# Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust Annual Report



## 2018-2019

A report of the outputs, expenditure  
and governance of the Trust

August 2019

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## Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Management Panel of the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust, I am pleased to present the sixth Annual Report on our activities. This report is a public documentation of the Trust's activities for the 2018-19 financial year, ensuring our accountability to the organisations that fund the Trust, to the key stakeholders in the Great Victoria Desert (GVD), and to the broader WA public.

The budget figures show that the Trust has continued to increase funding to significant projects in the GVD. Last year we spent over \$450,000 on projects compared to \$270,498 the year before.

In the year ahead, the Trust will continue to increase its funding of important projects related to Malleefowl and Sandhill Dunnart, and we plan to start a major landscape scale project related to managing habitat using fire and introduced predator control methods, with a particular emphasis on working with Traditional Owners and supporting traditional burning practices. The aim of this work is to provide landscape scale improvements to the existing desert habitats, in particular, those of the Malleefowl and Sandhill Dunnart.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Management Panel for their continued commitment to the Trust's objectives and the Technical Advisory Panel for their high level and invaluable technical advice, all of whom have provided their time without being remunerated. A special thanks Kathryn Sinclair our Operations Manager, and to Kylie Payne whose stint in job-sharing with Kathryn has ended – their support of the Trust's activities has been highly professional and invaluable

Finally, I would like to formally acknowledge the strong and effective working relationship the Trust has with AngloGold Ashanti Australia and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and with the WA Public Trustees who manage the funds for the Trust.



Dr Garry Middle



## Executive Summary

In the 2018-19 Financial Year the Trust completed two major projects. The results from these projects are pivotal in setting the foundations for on-ground projects. The first project, the Greening Australia Sandhill Dunnart Pitfall Trapping survey, including Malleefowl long-walks, surveyed two sites which were thought to contain Sandhill Dunnarts based on the initial camera survey conducted in 2017-18.

The second major project was the Malleefowl Mound LiDAR survey which was a large scale LiDAR project which spanned areas of the GVD to spatially record over one hundred Category 1 mound targets.

Two workshops were held with land managers and experts to discuss the critical next steps for working with fire and for Sandhill Dunnarts in the GVD. These workshops were essential for understanding the knowledge among different stakeholders, their priorities, and bringing together the most recent research and studies. The combined results of the two major projects and these workshops have set a strong course of action for the Trust to fund projects in the 2019-2020 Financial Year.

The received annual contribution from the Tropicana Joint Venture to the Trust was \$366,985, based on an annual fee of \$100,000 plus \$80 per hectare of cleared footprint for the Tropicana Gold Mine. The Trust also received \$35,814 interest from the funds held on its behalf by the Public Trustee. A total of \$475,850 was spent directly on projects in the 2018-19 financial year.

The Management Panel continues to provide oversight and direction on Trust matters, working with the Trust's Operations Manager, throughout the year, including during two Management Panel meetings, one informal Management Panel meeting, and several out-of-session decisions including advice. The Technical Advisory Panel for the Trust, which met three times during the year, have played a critical role in shaping the projects of the Trust and helping to ensure projects are consistently building knowledge on threatened species and shaping future projects.

The Trust continues to work with a large number of partners and organisations to ensure there are two-way learning opportunities which strengthen all the projects funded by the Trust.

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Trust Purposes .....	6
1.2 Trust Area.....	6
<b>2. Governance .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 The Management Panel.....	10
2.2 The Operations Manager.....	10
2.3 The Public Trustee.....	11
2.4 The Technical Advisory Panel.....	11
<b>3. Trust Activities .....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Projects and Activities .....	12
3.1.1 Sandhill Dunnart Pitfall Trap Survey and Malleefowl long walks (Greening Australia).....	12
3.1.2 LiDAR for the detection of Malleefowl mounds in the GVD (Anditi and MNG) .....	13
3.1.3 Workshop on Sandhill Dunnarts.....	15
3.1.4 Fire discussion .....	15
3.1.5 Additional camera surveys (Kingfisher Environmental).....	15
3.1.6 Standards and Mapping Protocol document (Kylie Payne) .....	16
3.1.7 Trust Promotion.....	16
<b>4. Finances, Administration and Allocation of Funds.....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 Finances .....	16
4.2 Administration .....	18
4.3 Funding.....	19
<b>5. Future Direction .....</b>	<b>19</b>
5.1 Planned projects for 2019-2020.....	19
5.1.1 Landsat Fire scar Mapping.....	19
5.1.2 Integrated land management project.....	19
5.1.3 Update of the Sandhill Dunnart Guidelines .....	20
5.1.4 Ground truthing Malleefowl mounds – LiDAR results.....	20
5.1.5 Data management.....	20
5.1.6 Attendance at the Southern Deserts Ranger Forum .....	20
5.2 Stakeholder Engagement .....	20
5.2.1 Trust led initiatives.....	20
5.2.2 Ten Deserts – Buffel Free GVD .....	21
5.2.3 Malleefowl Adaptive Management Workshop.....	21



**Appendix 1: Statement of Transactions 2018-2019 FY ..... 22**

## 1. Introduction

The Trust represents a unique model for an environmental offset in Western Australia, and Australia in general. It was established by the Tropicana Joint Venture (AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA) Ltd (manager and 70% owner) and Independence Group NL (30% owner)) as the central part of an offset package for the Tropicana Gold Mine (TGM) in Western Australia under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

The Trust's main aim is to deliver conservation benefits to nationally-listed threatened species, at a landscape-scale, and facilitate indigenous involvement in land management and conservation activities in the region. The projects implemented in the 2018-19 financial year have generated substantial information about the threatened species in the region which can be directly applied to on-ground programs by different organisations and groups.

The Trust's purposes, region of focus ('Trust Area') and governance structure are outlined in more detail below.

### 1.1 Trust Purposes

The purpose of the Trust is to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop a Bioregional Management Plan (also referred to as a 'Biodiversity Conservation Plan') for the Western Great Victoria Desert bioregions 1 and 2 (i.e. the 'Trust Area');
2. Facilitate and/or undertake priority research in the Bioregional Management Plan at the landscape level and into species considered to be of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*, including the Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl;
3. Fund on-ground environmental and conservation management at the landscape level, with emphasis on net conservation benefits to threatened species, including those considered MNES;
4. Facilitate indigenous involvement in land management and conservation activities in support of the above objectives.

These objectives reflect those specified in Condition 6 of the *EPBC Act* approval 2008/4270 for the Tropicana Gold Mine. They have been integrated into the Project Plan submitted to the former Department of the Environment (DoE) in 2011 and Schedule 1 of the Trust Deed executed in 2013. The Project Plan was updated and approved in August 2015 to reflect the revised direction of the Trust since it commenced activities in late 2013.

### 1.2 Trust Area

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classifies Australia's landscapes into 89 large geographically distinct bioregions. These are based on common climate, geology, landform, native vegetation and species information (DoE, 2015). The 89

bioregions are further refined to form 419 subregions. These are more localised and homogenous geomorphological units in each bioregion.

The GVD is one of the 89 IBRA bioregions. It is comprised of 6 subregions which extend from approximately 200km east of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia to cover large areas of South Australia. The entire GVD IBRA region covers 42,375,084 ha. The Trust’s area of focus (‘Trust Area’) is comprised of the two most western subregions of the GVD, known as Shield and Central, which are entirely located within Western Australia (refer to Figure 1). These two sub-regions cover an area of 17,332,721 ha.

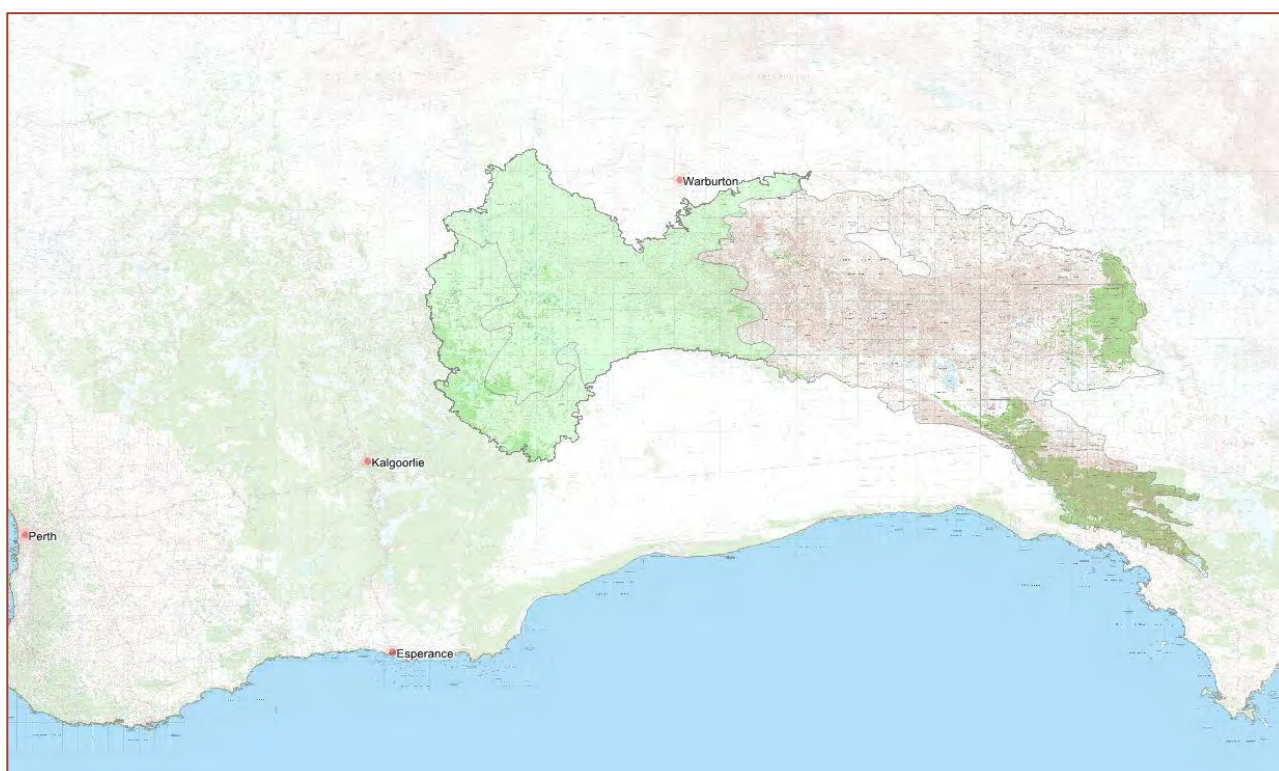


Figure 1. The location and extent of the GVD (outlined) and the Trust Area (bright green)

Whilst the Trust’s activities are predominantly focussed on research and on-ground activities within the Shield and Central subregions of the GVD, they can occur outside this region if they meet the Trust’s overall objectives. That is, they must be relevant and beneficial to species and biodiversity within the Trust Area, especially species and communities that are MNES as listed by the *EPBC Act*.

## 2. Governance

The governance structure of the Trust is a key component of ensuring stakeholder support and the delivery of activities that align with the Project Plan approved by the former DoE as part of the TGM *EPBC Act* approval (2008/4270). The governance structure of the Trust is outlined in Figure 2.

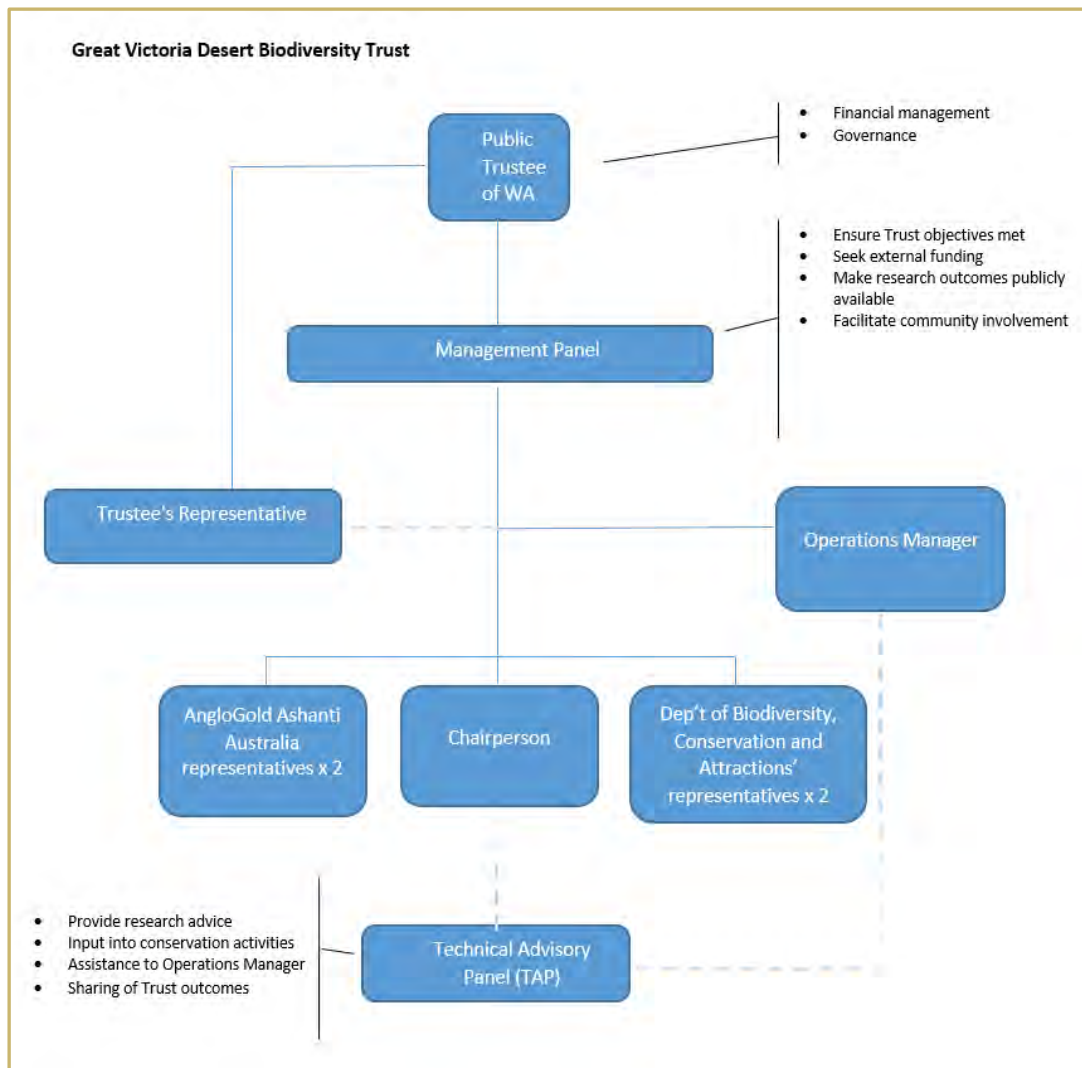
The activities and expenditure of the Trust are the overall responsibility of the Trust's Management Panel, which consists of representatives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA), as well as an independent Chair.

The day-to-day management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager reports to the Trust's Management Panel via the Chair. The Operations Manager is supported through the provision of technical advice from the Trust's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). The TAP consists of five members – four independent experts and a technical expert from the Management Panel.

The Public Trustee of Western Australia maintains the financial accountability of the Trust, ensuring that all the spending of the Trust account aligns with the Trust Deed. The Public Trustee maintains a role on the Management Panel, having a standing invitation to attend meetings.

The Trust's funds, held by the Public Trustee, are allocated to various organisations and individuals according to anticipated benefit, value for money, and alignment with the Trust's objectives and priorities. The recipients include Traditional Owner groups, researchers, not-for-profit environmental groups and expert consultants.





**Figure 2. The Structure of the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust**

The Trust, and all of its activities and expenditure, is governed by an overarching Trust Deed. This document details the relationship between:

- The Trust's Management Panel;
- AngloGold Ashanti Australia, as the founder; and
- The Public Trustee of Western Australia, as the financial manager.

The Trust Deed also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Management Panel, Chair, Trustee, Operations Manager and the TAP, and the purposes and scope of the Trust.

The following sections of this report describe the Trust's governance in more detail, as well as specifics regarding governance of the Trust in the 2018-19 financial year. Additional background information is located at [www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au/about-us](http://www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au/about-us) and in the Trust Deed (<http://www.gvdbiodiversitytrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GVDBT-Trust-Deed.pdf>).

## 2.1 The Management Panel

The Management Panel met two times during the 2018-19 financial year, as outlined in Table 1, to ensure progress was maintained on key priorities. The Management Panel also had one out-of-session meeting which was conducted via email and utilised consensus-based decisions regarding projects and variations to projects.

**Table 1: Management Panel Meetings and Attendance 2018-19**

Attendee	Meeting 1: 25/9/2018 Attendance	Meeting 2: 22/11/2018 (Out of session – conducted via email)	Meeting 3: 21/6/2019 Attendance
Kris Anderson / Sue Wormald (Public Trustee)	Apologies	n/a	✓
Norm Galli (AGAA)	✓	✓	✓
Garry Middle (Chair)	✓	✓	✓
Nerilee Rockman (AGAA)	✓*	✓	✓
Stephen van Leeuwen (DBCA)	✓	✓	✓
Nigel Wessels (DBCA)	✓	✓	Apologies
Kathryn Sinclair (OM)	✓	n/a	✓
Kylie Payne (OM) / Contractor	✓	n/a	✓

Key: \* = Skype/teleconference

The Trust's management team continues to acquire a greater understanding of the GVD's assets and threats, which is essential for effectively planning and implementing sound conservation and management strategies.

## 2.2 The Operations Manager

For three quarters of the year, Kylie Payne and Kathryn Sinclair job-shared the Operations Manager position.

The Chair of the Trust had regular meetings (approximately one per fortnight) with the Trust's Operations Manager/joint Operations Managers throughout the year to ensure the Trust maintained steady progress on key activities and maintained a strategic vision of the objectives of the Trust.

### 2.3 The Public Trustee

The Public Trustee’s representative attended one of the meetings of the Management Panel in 2018-19, as well as providing assistance with financial documents to the Trust and project invoice payments. The Trustee has provided quarterly and annual financial statements (refer to section 4.1), which are tabled at Management Panel meetings.

As in previous years, the Public Trustee’s representative worked closely with Ernst and Young, the nominated financial auditors, to ensure that all of the Trust’s spending, accounting and financial reporting had been conducted appropriately. The Trustee continues to give strong guidance to the Trust to ensure it meets both financial and legal obligations.

### 2.4 The Technical Advisory Panel

The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) was established in April 2015 to provide expert advice and support to the Trust, such as providing feedback on the scope of research proposals, on-ground environmental or conservation activities, and draft research reports. The membership of the TAP has remained unchanged since establishment, retaining its five original biodiversity experts.

The TAP met three times during the 2018-19 financial year, as outlined in Table 2, to discuss issues including: the scoping of Sandhill Dunnart pitfall trapping surveys, the Malleefowl mound LiDAR survey, and the Data Standards and Mapping Protocols document. TAP members regularly made themselves available providing advice on, and review of, documents and projects throughout the year.

**Table 2: Technical Advisory Panel Meetings and Attendance 2017-18**

Attendee	Meeting 1: 6/8/2018 Attendance	Meeting 2: 10/4/2019 Attendance	Meeting 3: 7/6/2019 Attendance
Belinda Bastow	✓*	✓	✓*
Ryan Ellis	✓	✓	✓
Katherine Moseby	✓*	✓*	✓*
Blair Parsons	✓	✓	✓*
Stephen van Leeuwen	Apologies	✓	Apologies
Kathryn Sinclair	✓	✓	✓
Kylie Payne	✓	✓	n/a

Key:\* = Skype/teleconference

## 3. Trust Activities

### 3.1 Projects and Activities

In the 2018-19 Financial Year (FY) the Trust completed two major projects, the results from these projects are pivotal in setting the foundations for on-ground projects.

The first project, the Greening Australia Sandhill Dunnart Pitfall Trapping survey, including Malleefowl long-walks, surveyed two sites which were thought to contain Sandhill Dunnarts based on the initial camera survey conducted in 2017-18.

The second major project was the Malleefowl Mound LiDAR survey which was a large scale LiDAR project which spanned the Western Australia areas of the GVD and detected over a hundred Category 1 mound targets.

Two workshops were held to discuss with land managers and experts the critical next steps for fire and for Sandhill Dunnart. These workshops were essential for understanding the knowledge of different groups, the priorities of different groups and bringing together the most recent research and studies.

The combined results of the two major projects and these workshops have set a strong course of action for the Trust to fund projects in the 2019-2020 FY.

An overview of the work scopes initiated and/or completed during the 2018-19 financial year is provided below.

#### 3.1.1 Sandhill Dunnart Pitfall Trap Survey and Malleefowl long walks (Greening Australia)

Following on from the Sandhill Dunnart Camera Trapping Survey in 2017, a second phase Sandhill Dunnart survey was conducted to investigate the two locations where Sandhill Dunnart images were detected. This project involved two trips: first, a trip to install pitfall traps and establish camera trapping grids. During the second trip pitfall traps were opened and species capture and identification was undertaken.

The two locations were located approximately 130km apart and 16 survey sites were established. Pitfall trapping was conducted over seven consecutive nights (a total of 1,305 trap nights) and 64 cameras were deployed for a minimum of 30 days (2,526 camera nights).

During the second trip, Malleefowl long walks were conducted during the day. This was to maximize the time of the field crew and gain important information on the Malleefowl in areas of highly suitable habitat. Targeted searches were conducted across 62 km (ie 16 long walks) between the two sites.

A total of 172 fauna species were recorded during the survey via pitfall trapping, camera trapping and opportunistic observations. This comprised 63 reptiles species, 69 bird species, 27 native mammals and 13 introduced species observations. Sandhill Dunnarts were captured at two pitfall trapping sites and on camera at four sites. Four Malleefowl were observed and five mounds were recorded (see Figure 3).

The project was completed in February 2019.



Figure 3 Sandhill Dunnarts captured during the 2018 survey (left to right: Female 1, Male 1, Female 2)

### 3.1.2 LiDAR for the detection of Malleefowl mounds in the GVD (Anditi and MNG)

The LiDAR survey for the detection of Malleefowl mounds used aerial laser scanning and aerial photography to cover 1,675 km of 600 m wide corridors across a wide area of the GVD. This totalled approximately 1,005 km<sup>2</sup> or 100,500 ha of aerial survey area. Figure 4 demonstrates the areas flown and Category 1 mound targets.

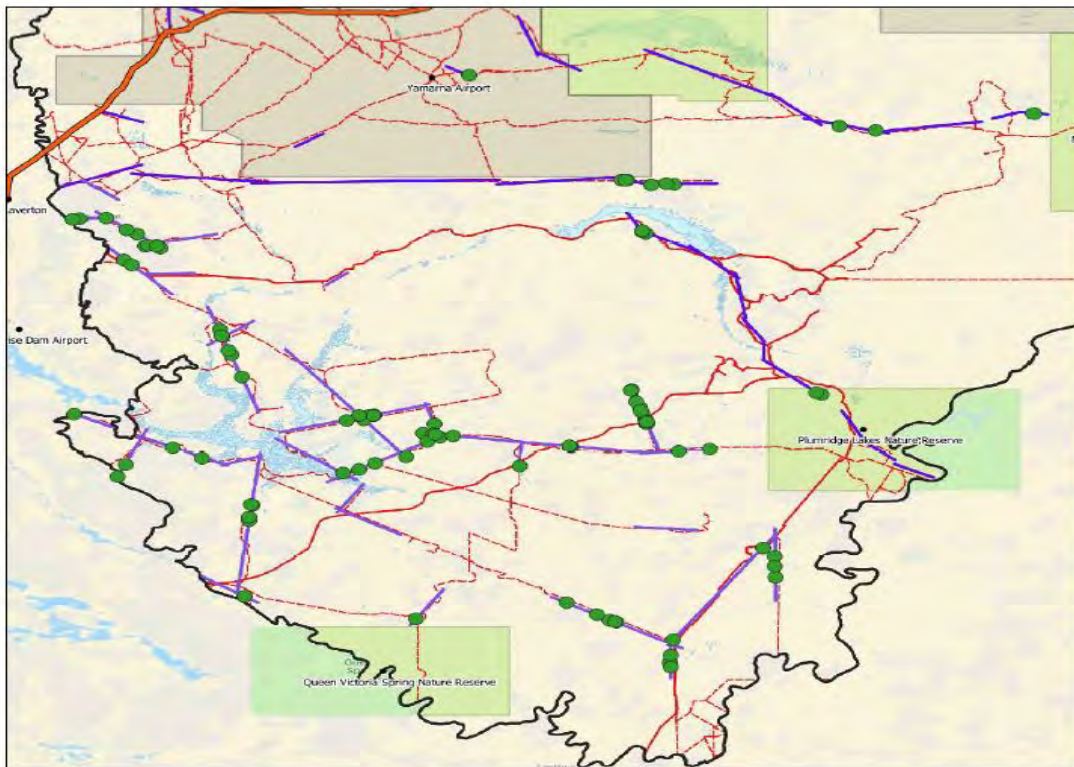


Figure 4 Areas flown (purple lines) and Category 1 mound targets detected (green circles)

Mounds were classified into four Categories:

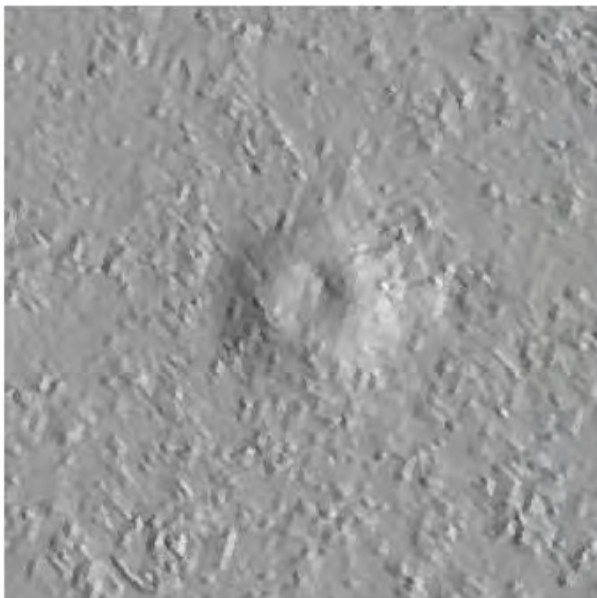
1. Very closely matches a Malleefowl mound shape and is highly likely to be a mound
2. Is similar to a Malleefowl mound shape and could be a mound
3. Is a mound shape that is approximately within the parameters of size for a Malleefowl mound but isn't very similar to a typical Malleefowl mound. This could be an old Malleefowl mound, a mound of earth around living or dead tree/vegetation, natural hummocks around waterways, etc.
4. Is a mound shape that is approximately within the parameters of size for a Malleefowl mound but isn't very similar to a typical Malleefowl mounds. This could be a broken Malleefowl mound, a mound of earth around living or dead tree/vegetation, natural hummocks around waterways, tussock vegetation etc.

As part of the contract the Trust obtained orthophotos of all the corridors flown. These photos were extremely useful in verifying the classification of mounds (See Figure 5).

After all category mounds had been analysed and verified against the orthophotos, 102 Class 1 mound targets were identified and 22 Class 2 mound targets. 1,826 Class 3 mound targets were discovered and a further 27,713 Class 4 mound targets were found.

The Trust aims to ground truth all the Category 1 and 2 mound targets and may also ground truth Category 3 and 4 targets that are enroute to the Category 1 and 2 mound targets.

**Class I Malleefowl mound in the point cloud**



**Class I Malleefowl mound in the Orthophoto**



**Figure 5 Category 1 mound targets identified through Anditi's algorithm and through examination of the orthophotos**

### 3.1.3 Workshop on Sandhill Dunnarts

In March 2019 the Trust coordinated a Sandhill Dunnart presentation and workshop. The day consisted of two parts, the first part was the delivery of three presentations by Greening Australia, Vimy Resources, and Jo Riley (PhD applicant) and Jeff Turpin (Kingfisher Environmental). The presentations were attended by over 30 people. The presentations discussed the latest available research for the Sandhill Dunnart including Vimy Resources sharing their camera set up which was based on thousands of hours of camera trapping data. Greening Australia presented on the work of the pitfall trapping survey (funded by the Trust). Jo Riley and Jeff Turpin presented their findings on:

- Radio and GPS tracking
- Habitat use
- Shelters
- Diet
- Species distribution modelling
- Climate change

The presentations were followed by a workshop to discuss the major threats facing the species and what actions should and could be taken to mitigate these threats. A range of experts attended the workshop and were able to set tangible projects that would benefit the conservation of Sandhill Dunnarts. One project in particular is to understand the interactions of Sandhill Dunnarts to prescribed burning and introduced predator control. Some of these projects will commence implementation in 2019-2020.

### 3.1.4 Fire discussion

In November 2018 the Trust facilitated a fire meeting to discuss fire management in the GVD. The meeting was attended by representatives from Yilka, Spinifex Rangers, DBCA (Regional Fire Officer, Fire Ecologist, Remote Sensing Technician), Rangelands NRM, and Ten Deserts.

Each of the groups at the meeting brought with them a unique set of knowledge about fire and its interaction in the landscape. The Trust was overwhelmed by everyone's willingness to share their knowledge and experiences and to try and work together to achieve positive outcomes for biodiversity and cultural assets in the GVD.

There were several significant outcomes of the meeting and the Trust aims to work with Traditional Owners in the 2019-2020 FY to develop projects that meet their needs as well as improving biodiversity across the region.

### 3.1.5 Additional camera surveys (Kingfisher Environmental)

Following the Greening Australia pitfall trapping survey (Section 3.1.1) the Trust made the decision to leave 32 cameras at the two locations in the field to continue to record Sandhill Dunnarts and other fauna in the areas. The rationale was based on the long term survey /

monitoring programmes established by Vimy Resources: they found detections of Sandhill Dunnarts improved after cameras had been in the field more than three months, with the greatest number of detections in the summer months. The Trust decided to leave approximately half of the cameras in the field as the value of the data likely to be collected outweighed the risks of losing cameras (due to fire or theft).

Cameras were left in the field for five months. Afterwards, in consultation with Kingfisher Environmental, 19 cameras were removed (three had been lost to fire) and the remainder (n=13) left in the field (following SD card and battery replacement). Integrate Sustainability has agreed to review images on the collected SD cards on a preliminary, pro-bono, basis.

### 3.1.6 Standards and Mapping Protocol document (Kylie Payne)

Due to the increase in projects funded by the Trust and the inconsistency of the format that data were provided to the Trust, the Trust made the decision to fund Kylie Payne to create a 'Data Provision Standards' document to be provided to all contractors of the Trust undertaking projects that generated data.

The document was compiled with assistance and review from Belinda Bastow (GVDBT Technical Advisory Panel), Gareth Evans (Anditi), Geoffrey Banks (DBCA), Katherine Zdunic (DBCA), Kathryn Sinclair (GVDBT), Paul Rampant (DBCA), Ryan Ellis (GVDBT Technical Advisory Panel) and Sue Finlayson (AngloGold Ashanti).

The Trust aims to share all data collected and in the 2019/2020 FY will investigate the best platforms or systems to share the data publically.

### 3.1.7 Trust Promotion

The Trust attended the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference held in Perth in November 2018, making several new contacts and reinforcing existing relationships through participation in this conference.

The Operations Manager, with assistance from the Chair, published a chapter (within the theme Deserts – Life in the Extremes) in the second volume of World Biomes, titled 'Conservation strategies for managing threatened species and desert landscapes: experiences from a biodiversity offset trust'. This chapter documented the challenges and successes that can result from a diversified approach to stakeholder engagement and biodiversity management.

## 4. Finances, Administration and Allocation of Funds

### 4.1 Finances

The annual contribution from the Tropicana Joint Venture (TJV) to the Trust in 2018-19 was \$366,985, based on an annual fee of \$100,000 plus \$80 per hectare of cleared footprint for



the TGM. The Trust also received \$35,814 interest from the funds held on its behalf by the Public Trustee (Table 3).

A total of \$475,850 was spent directly on projects in the 2018-19 financial year. This figure does not include the time spent by the Operations Manager managing these projects.

AGAA maintains an oversight of the Trust's day-to-day expenditure as part of its administrative support function, and all Trust expenditure is presented to the Management Panel in quarterly and annual statements provided by the Public Trustee.

The Trustee has continued to provide strong support and guidance in 2018-19 to the Trust to ensure it meets its financial and legal obligations. Financial statements are provided to the Trust by the Public Trustee on a quarterly and annual basis, which are subsequently tabled at Management Panel meetings.

Ernst and Young audited the Trust in November 2018 and confirmed that the Trust's spending, accounting and financial reporting have been conducted appropriately.

Table 3: Summary of income and expenditure for the Trust during the 2017-18 financial year

Item	Income	Expenditure
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Annual contribution (AGAA)</b>	\$366,985	
<b>Interest</b>	\$35,814	
<b>Expenditure: management and administration</b>		
Salary (Operations Manager - project management and administration*) and general expenses		\$109,581
Financial management fees (Public Trustee)		\$14,771
Financial audit fees (Ernst and Young)		\$6,085
Out of pocket expenses (Chair)		\$2,934
<b>Expenditure: Projects</b>		
Sandhill Dunnart pitfall trapping survey and Malleefowl long walk survey (Greening Australia) <i>refer to section 3.1.1</i>		\$143,516
Malleefowl Mound – LiDAR Survey (Anditi) <i>refer to section 3.1.2</i>		\$321,057
Sandhill Dunnart Workshop - <i>refer to section 3.1.3</i>		\$605
Camera collection and battery replacement (Kingfisher Environmental) <i>refer to section 3.1.5</i>		\$3,960
Data Standards and Mapping Protocol document (Kylie Payne) <i>refer to section 3.1.6</i>		\$6,078
Malleefowl LiDAR Corridor – Yilka update – (Gaia Resources) <i>refer to section 3.1.6</i>		\$634
Sandhill Dunnart guidelines update, advertising (NRM Jobs)		\$165
GEMG Stall		\$548
Newsletter creation (Kylie Payne)		\$640
Website Hosting (GoDaddy)		\$320
<b>Refund</b>		
Refund of GST on expenditure	\$30,228	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$433,027</b>	<b>\$610,894</b>

Key: \* = approximately 80% of time spent on project and contract management and 20% on Trust operations and administration.

## 4.2 Administration

AGAA continues to provide essential administrative support to the Operations Manager and Trust, including:

- Human resource services, such as payroll management, employment contract;
- General office administration and equipment, such as IT, mobile phone, office/meeting space;

- Flights, accommodation and access to vehicles at TGM, as appropriate; and
- Legal services for contracts.

This substantial in-kind support represents a considerable reduction in the administration expenses that would otherwise be incurred by the Trust and ensures that the Trust maintains its administration cost below the 20% maximum outlined in the Trust Deed.

### 4.3 Funding

The TGM continues to be the Trust's sole financial contributor. Little interest in providing financial support has been demonstrated to date from other companies in the resources sector operating in or near to the Trust Area; however, Vimy Resources has been proactively sharing their knowledge and research on Sandhill Dunnart.

## 5. Future Direction

### 5.1 Planned projects for 2019-2020

#### 5.1.1 Landsat Fire scar Mapping

At the Sandhill Dunnart workshop in March 2019, the group of experts determined the need for better fire scar information than is currently available through NAFI. It was determined that Landsat fire scar mapping would be needed, which provides fine scale land imagery required for survey work in the region. This will allow patchy fire scars to be detected, and areas of remnant or long unburnt vegetation to be detected within larger fire scars.

This project is expected to be commenced in August 2019 and completed in April 2020.

#### 5.1.2 Integrated land management project

Another outcome of the workshop was the need to commence on-ground action for the conservation of Sandhill Dunnarts (among other fauna). The recommended course of action was to develop a program for fire and feral cat (introduced predator) management in an area of known Sandhill Dunnart occupancy. The defined management area would be paired with a reference site, also with known populations of Sandhill Dunnarts. It was recommended that fire and introduced predator management be conducted and monitored for changes in population numbers of the species to determine if management actions could increase the population of threatened species.

The Technical Advisory Panel recommended engaging Neil Burrows for this work given his expertise in fire management and his extensive knowledge of the Great Victoria Desert and similar desert regions. The TAP recommended the Trust's Operations Manager and Nigel Wessel hold discussions on the parameters of a fire and introduced predator management program. Other specialists will be engaged to advise on fauna monitoring.

The Trust, with the recent results of the LiDAR survey (Section 3.1.2), has evidence that Malleefowl and Sandhill Dunnarts are likely to co-occur in areas in the south-west of the GVD. By defining and designing areas to conduct fire introduced predator management, the Trust has the ability to protect

existing areas of known occupancy and aid the increase in population numbers for the species. The project areas will be defined in late 2019. This will ensure the selected areas are monitored and any changes in biodiversity detected.

### 5.1.3 Update of the Sandhill Dunnart Guidelines

In March 2019 the Trust held a workshop on latest research on Sandhill Dunnarts followed by discussion to update the current SHD survey guidelines. The guidelines are largely seen as a valuable document, with two sections in need of an update, the number of records of the species (this has increased substantially since the document was produced in 2015) and the camera trapping section of the report.

The Trust plans to select an experienced proponent to conduct this update and aims to have the project completed by the end of 2019.

### 5.1.4 Ground truthing Malleefowl mounds – LiDAR results

With the LiDAR survey (Section 3.1.2) detecting a reasonable number of potential targets, the Trust aims to ground truth all Category 1 and 2 mound targets detected through LiDAR. The Trust will also verify Category 3 and 4 mound targets that are on route to Category 1 and 2 mound targets.

The Trust aims to engage Traditional Owners to participate in or conduct this ground truthing wherever possible.

### 5.1.5 Data management

Given the volume of data that the Trust's funded projects have generated, the Trust will investigate the best mechanisms and platforms for storing and sharing the data to make it publically available.

### 5.1.6 Attendance at the Southern Deserts Ranger Forum

The Trust aims to continue to network with the community and present its objectives and findings among stakeholders. One opportunity is the Indigenous Desert Alliance's Southern Desert Ranger Forum. This Forum is an opportunity for the Trust to establish stronger relationships with Traditional Owner groups and Ranger groups across the region and to learn about the activities that are currently being undertaken and are priorities for these groups.

## 5.2 Stakeholder Engagement

### 5.2.1 Trust led initiatives

In the 2018-2019 FY the Trust engaged directly with many groups, particularly Traditional Owner groups. The two workshops, the Fire meeting (November 2018) and the Sandhill Dunnart Workshop (March 2019) were successful at engaging partners and experts to contribute their knowledge and ideas for joint collaborations moving forward.

### 5.2.2 Ten Deserts – Buffel Free GVD

The Trust has continued to participate in meetings of the Ten Deserts – Buffel Free GVD working group. The Trust will continue to work with this project to develop future Buffel grass management / eradication projects.

### 5.2.3 Malleefowl Adaptive Management Workshop

The Trust continues to participate in the Malleefowl Adaptive Management workshops. In 2018-2019 this was held in April in Perth. The Trust participates in this initiative to continue to learn and understand about the outcomes of the programme as well as share information about the Trust's Malleefowl related activities. The Trust presented delegates at the workshop with an overview of the LiDAR project. The Trust hopes to continue to work with the National Malleefowl Recovery Team in developing future Malleefowl projects including the ground-truthing of the LiDAR results.

## Appendix 1: Statement of Transactions 2018-2019 FY

### Statement of Transactions



MR . GREAT VICTORIA DESERT BIODIVERSITY TRUST FUND

Client Reference: 33111845 Contact: TM39

Public Trustee Activity TRST / 1

Statement of Transactions Number 9

Statement Period from 30/06/18 to 30/06/19

Date	Transaction Details	Payments	Receipts
<b>Opening Balance as per Statement of Account Dated 30/06/2018</b>			<b>1875816.13</b>
<b>OTHER PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS</b>			
10-JUL-18	MALLEEFOWL LIDAR SURVEY - GAIA RESOURCES	633.60	
12-JUL-18	TRUST EXPENSES JUNE - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	14687.08	
16-JUL-18	NATIONAL MALLEEFOWL FORUM - NATIONAL MALLEEFOWL RECOVERY GROUP INC.	165.00	
01-AUG-18	TRUST EXPENSES JULY - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	9729.54	
20-AUG-18	GST REFUND		30228.00
30-AUG-18	TRUST EXPENSES AUGUST - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	9738.31	
30-SEP-18	CR INTEREST 30/09/2018		18455.15
02-OCT-18	TRUST EXPENSES SEPTEMBER - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	9675.56	
14-NOV-18	TRUST EXPENSES OCTOBER - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	11030.93	
06-DEC-18	TRUST EXPENSES NOVEMBER - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	9725.29	
10-JAN-19	TRUST AUDIT 2018 - ERNST & YOUNG	6085.34	
11-JAN-19	AVIATION SAFETY APPRAISAL - AIR SAFETY NAVIGATORS	1936.00	
25-FEB-19	FUNCTION ROOM HIRE - CANNING CITY COUNCIL	168.60	
26-FEB-19	MAPPING & DATA MANAGEMENT - KYLIE PAYNE	6078.00	
31-MAR-19	CR INTEREST 31/03/2019		17358.86
15-APR-19	AGA ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION		366985.00
24-APR-19	GVDBT NEWLETTER - KYLIE PAYNE	640.00	
26-APR-19	LIDAR AERIAL SURVEY - KYLIE PAYNE	2560.00	
09-MAY-19	CONSULTANCY ADVERT - NRMJOBS.COM.AU	165.00	
05-JUN-19	TRUST EXPENSES - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI	46343.93	
11-JUN-19	DUNNART SURVEY - GREENING AUSTRALIA	143516.49	
21-JUN-19	CAMERA COLLECTION - KINGFISHER ENVIROMENTAL	3960.00	
25-JUN-19	MALLEEFOWL LIDAR PROJECT - ANDITI	316561.30	
25-JUN-19	CHAIR OUT OF POCKET EXP. - VISION ENVIRONMENT - DR GARRY MIDDLE	2934.04	
30-JUN-19	ASSET MANAGEMENT FEE	10331.96	
30-JUN-19	TRANSACTIONAL FEE	3014.00	
30-JUN-19	PUBLIC TRUSTEE FEES	1425.00	
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>1697738.17</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
1875816.13	611104.97	433027.01	1697738.17

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**



**MR . GREAT VICTORIA DESERT BIODIVERSITY TRUST FUND**

**Client Reference: 33111845 Contact: TM39**

**Public Trustee Activity TRST / 1**

Statement of Assets & Liabilities Number 9

Statement Period from 30/06/18 to 30/06/19

Description	Recorded Value	Valuation Date
<b>ASSETS</b>		
PT CASH ACCOUNT	1697738.17	30-JUN-19
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1697738.17</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>Net Recorded Value</b>
1697738.17	0.00	1697738.17