

Department of Parks and Wildlife
South Coast Region



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Second Annual

**COMPLIANCE
ASSESSMENT REPORT
(Ministerial Statement 884)**

22 December 2012 to 21 December 2013

Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal
Walk Trails from Point Ann to Fitzgerald
Inlet and from Cave Point to Quoin
Head

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS (FIRST) YEAR	3
2.	OVERVIEW OF SECOND YEAR AND CURRENT STATUS	3
3.	STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE	5
4.	DETAILS OF DECLARED COMPLIANCE STATUS	5
4.1	Key Characteristics Table (Condition 1-1)	5
4.2	Protection of Wilderness Management Zone (Condition 5-1)	7
4.3	Environmental Management Plan (Conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3)	8
4.4	Pre-construction Flora and Vegetation Surveys and Assessments (Conditions 7-1 and 7-2).....	17
4.5	Flora and Vegetation Monitoring Reference Sites (conditions 7-3 and 7-4).....	18
4.6	Dieback Risk Assessment and Management Plan (condition 8-1, 8-2 and 9-1 to 9-5)	26
4.7	Staging of Plans (Condition 10-1)	26
5.	PROPONENT DECLARATION	27
6.	APPENDICES	28
	APPENDIX 1 – AUDIT TABLE	29

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS (FIRST) YEAR

This Compliance Assessment Report has been prepared by the proponent, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to meet condition 4-6 of Ministerial Statement 884 (Statement 884) issued on 22 December 2011 for the *Coastal Walk Trail from Point Ann to Hamersley Inlet – Fitzgerald River National Park* (the Project). This Compliance Assessment Report covers the second year of the Project from 22 December 2012 to 21 December 2013. During this year the former Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) became a new Department of Parks and Wildlife (The department) on 1 July 2013.

The former DEC applied (under Section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*) to change the Proposal from a coastal walk trail from Point Ann to Hamersley Inlet in the Fitzgerald River National Park (FRNP) to two shorter trails, one from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet (western alignment) and the other from Cave Point to Quoin Head (eastern alignment). This change was required to comply with Statement 884 condition 5-1 that the proponent should “*not implement any aspect of the proposal within the Wilderness Management Zone*”. The former DEC also applied for slight amendments to the boundary of the Wilderness Management Zone, which was inaccurately depicted in Statement 884. These changes were approved on 28 August 2012 (EPA ref: A524261; OEPA 2012/000437).

The completion of the pre-construction conditions for this Project were staged (as per condition 10-1), with the pre-construction conditions for the western trail alignment completed on 30 August 2012 and on 21 November 2012 for the eastern alignment.

The milestones and achievements of the Project over the previous (2011/2012) reporting period in relation to the conditions of Statement 884 were:

- Compliance Assessment Plan accepted by the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) on 23 August 2012 (OEPA ref: A536149; OEPA2011/000056).
- DEC applied to the OEPA for minor changes to the proposal (as described in Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 884) under Section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. This was approved by the OEPA on 28 August 2012 (EPA ref: A524261; OEPA 2012/000437).
- FRNP Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan (2012-2013) reviewed by OEPA and determined to satisfy condition 6-1 on 30 August 2012 (OEPA ref: CEO790/12).
- Flora and vegetation survey report reviewed by OEPA and determined to satisfy condition 7-1 on 30 August 2012 (OEPA ref: CEO790/12).
- Assessment of the Threatened and Significant Flora near the Western trail alignment reviewed by OEPA and determined to satisfy condition 7-2 for the western alignment on 30 August 2012 (OEPA ref: CEO790/12).
- Construction started on 10 September 2012 on the western walk trail alignment.
- Assessment of the Threatened and Significant Flora near the Eastern trail alignment reviewed by OEPA and determined to satisfy condition 7-2 for the western alignment on 21 November 2012 (OEPA ref: CEO 1313/12).

2. OVERVIEW OF SECOND YEAR AND CURRENT STATUS

The Project (now more correctly titled) *Coastal Walk Trails – from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet and from Cave Point to Quoin Head - Fitzgerald River National Park*, has remained in construction phase throughout the reporting period, with on-ground construction works having started on 10 September 2012 and continued into March of the second year on the western trail alignment, now known as the Mamang Trail. Construction of the eastern trail alignment, now known as the Hakea Trail, commenced on 18 March 2013 and was terminated in late July. This work was undertaken by a casual contract crew provided by Skill Hire (Albany) under the direction of locally based department staff. Short sections of both trails, mainly adjoining car parks or popular beaches, were still not established by 21 December 2013, being deliberately left un-cleared as a deterrent to premature public use prior to approved opening of either trail.

Establishment and marking of vegetation monitoring sites at roughly 500m intervals along both trails was undertaken progressively until mid-2013 at which time winter rainfall affected safe access to the trails and shortly thereafter the project environmental officer departed to fill another position elsewhere in the State.

Throughout the reporting period considerable progress has also been made with the design and installation of infrastructure associated with the two trails including:

- A major set of steps from the ancient wave cut platform (about 80 – 90m above current sea level) down to current sea level near Edwards Point;
- Other significant staircases near Hamersley Inlet trail head and from West Hamersley Beach to the crest of the Tamala limestone karst section of coast which extends to Whalebone Point;
- Six platforms (four with built in seats), one stand-alone seat, two sections of boardwalk around heritage sites and four wooden dieback cleaning stations along the Mamang Trail;
- Four platforms (all with built in seats), one stand-alone seat, three sections of boardwalk between West Beach Headland and the Edwards Point area (for additional dieback protection) and one wooden dieback cleaning station along the Hakea Trail; and
- Approximately 30 aluminium totems (for trail distance signs) and about 70 aluminium trail markers, many of which also serve as reference posts for the vegetation monitoring sites.

The infrastructure work was undertaken on an intermittent casual contractor basis by Green Skills Inc (Albany) under the direction of the The department Albany based A/Senior Project Trails Officer.

The milestones and achievements of the project over the current 2012/2013 reporting period in relation to the conditions of Statement 884 are:

- Compliance Assessment Report 22 December 2011 to 21 December 2012 completed and submitted to the EPA on 22 March 2013.
- Floristic Surveys for the Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project, Damien Rathbone, March 2013
- Specialist Review of the Fitzgerald River National Park – Coastal Walk Trails, Bayesian Belief Network and *Phytophthora* Dieback Management Plan, Jeremy Spencer, Great Southern Bio Logic and Peter Speldwinde, University of Western Australia, 28 October 2013
- Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal Walk Trail, Bayesian Belief Network Dieback Risk Assessment, November 2013
- Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal Walk Trails, Dieback Management Plan, November 2013
- Preparation and submission of the above walk trail dieback risk assessments and management planning referred to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority via the Acting Director General, 11 November 2013

- Visitor Risk Management (VRM) Assessments - Mamang and Hakea Trails Fitzgerald River National Park – December 2013. (internal review of immediate management/construction safety matters and associated warning signs).
- Discussion paper on the location of new boot cleaning stations, Hakea walk trail, Fitzgerald River National Park – December 2013 (internal review and proposed rationalization of location of boot cleaning stations for Hakea Trail).

All staff and contractors have been meticulous with regard to dieback hygiene during the ongoing 2013 Construction Phase. At least 2 entries of vehicle entries involving Aboriginal persons have occurred under a local area arrangement. However The department does not have the same level of control and management over the application of hygiene protocols, and which presents a disease introduction risk in the Fitzgerald River area.

The Compliance Assessment Plan will be reviewed in 2014 to take consideration of management circumstance and resubmitted to the OEPA for approval

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The department has complied with all the conditions of Ministerial Statement 884 over the reporting period of 22 December 2012 to 21 December 2013 with regard to their own staff and contractors involved in the trail construction. The compliance status for each of the conditions, as of 21 December 2013, is indicated in the attached Audit Table (Appendix 1). Details of the declared compliance status for each of the conditions are provided in Section 4.

4. DETAILS OF DECLARED COMPLIANCE STATUS

4.1 Key Characteristics Table (Condition 1-1)

Schedule 1 and the Key Characteristics Table of Ministerial Statement 884 were changed in August 2012 (under Section 45C of the Environmental Protection Act 1986) to modify the Proposal from a coastal walk trail from Point Ann to Hamersley Inlet in the Fitzgerald River National Park (FRNP) to two shorter trails from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet (western alignment) and from Cave Point to Quoin Head (eastern alignment) (Appendix 2).

The department has complied with the updated Schedule 1 (Appendix 2). Details of the compliance status for each element in the Key Characteristics Table are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Compliance status and supporting information for each element in the Key Characteristics Table as at 21 December 2013.

Element	Description of Proposal	Status	Further Information
Coastal walk trail	<p>Two walk trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a western walk trail from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet with shorter walk option at Lake Nameless, and • an eastern walk trail from Quoin Head to Cave Point including a spur trail from Hamersley Inlet. <p>Construct the trail to various classifications between Class 3 and Class 4 according to</p>	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the western (Mamang) walk trail from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet with a shorter walk option at Lake Nameless continued through 2013. • Construction of the eastern (Hakea) walk trail commenced in March and

	Australian Standards, AS 2156.1-2001 Infrastructure Design and AS 2156-2001 Walking Tracks-Classification and Signage guidance.		continued through 2013.
Overnight camping facilities	<p>At Fitzgerald Inlet, provision of a toilet and tent based camping.</p> <p>Shelter, toilet and water tank at Whalebone Beach (Creek).</p>	Compliant	<p>The pre-existing toilet and tent base camping have been retained at Fitzgerald Inlet. Old signs and gas barbecue fittings have been removed and stock-piled at a nearby location to await opportunistic aerial evacuation. The toilet cubicle and tank were successfully treated with a domestic grade 'mortein bomb' in September 2013 to remove bee colonies.</p> <p>The overnight camping location at Whalebone Creek has undergone vegetation clearing and site levelling works. Facility construction has not yet commenced and is now scheduled for February 2014.</p>
Trail Heads	Shelter, boot cleaning station and an information panel at Point Ann, Hamersley Inlet and Cave Point. Smaller trail heads at Fitzgerald Inlet, Quoin Head.	Compliant	<p>The main trail head entry points are at Point Ann and St Mary for the Mamang Trail, and at Cave Point, West Beach and Hamersley Inlet for the Hakea Trail.</p> <p>Shelters are available as incorporated into the adjoining recreation site developments and are not specific to the walk trails <i>per se</i>.</p> <p>Aluminum boot cleaning stations have been workshop fabricated with installation scheduled for early 2014. Trail head signage is also in preparation and scheduled for attachment to panels before trail opening in 2014.</p> <p>A ~15m long alternative pedestrian beach access was installed at the St Mary trail head in October to avoid</p>

			<p>visitor safety risks at the existing dual use entry to the beach which was a narrow 4WD sand track with a blind summit . A trail head information panel and cleaning station are scheduled for installation at St Mary before trail opening in 2014.</p> <p>Where visitors may enter the trail from other locations (Whalebone Point, Edwards Point and Quoin Head 4WD track termini) appropriate signage and dieback cleaning stations are scheduled for installation before trail opening in 2014.</p>
Access Tracks	Use existing access tracks and roads for construction and maintenance including Quoin Head, Whalebone, Hamersley Dunes and Edwards Point tracks, and Cave Point, Hamersley Inlet and Point Ann/St Mary roads.	Compliant	<p>Existing access tracks, as listed in the proposal description and public roads have been used for construction access.</p> <p>In order to minimize dieback hygiene risks, construction access to the Hakea Trail between Hamersley Beach and Whalebone Point was also obtained via the Hamersley Dunes and existing publicly restricted 4WD management tracks. Barriers and signage to deter public use were installed.</p>

4.2 Protection of Wilderness Management Zone (Condition 5-1)

The department remained compliant with condition 5-1 of remaining out of the Wilderness Management Zone by changing the proposal as detailed in schedule 1 of Statement 884 from the coastal trail from Point Ann to Hamersley Inlet through the Wilderness Management Zone, to two shorter trails either side of the Wilderness Management Zone from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet (western – Mamang Trail - alignment) and from Cave Point to Quoin Head (eastern – Hakea Trail - alignment).

These changes, through Section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (Appendix 2), were approved in the previous reporting period on 28 August 2012 (EPA ref: A524261: OEPA 2012/000437). There has therefore been no need to enter the Wilderness Management Zone for construction or management of the amended walk trails.

Any walking access through the Wilderness Management Zone remains as an unmarked wilderness route, as detailed in the *Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan 1991-2001*.

4.3 Environmental Management Plan (Conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3)

The "Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan 2012-2013" (EMP) was completed in April 2012 for the construction of the trails (Appendix 3). The plan was reviewed by OEPA and determined to satisfy condition 6-1 on 30 August 2012 (OEPA ref: CEO790/12). While the plan is dated 2012-2013 the management and implementation strategies still apply to works being finalized in 2014.

Construction of the walk trail, which began on 10 September 2012, and extended into the current reporting year, has continued to follow the requirements of the EMP, as required by condition 6-2. Compliance was monitored by the department Walk Trail Project Officer or Environment Officer, and then summarised in monthly environmental reports to the department South Coast Regional Nature Conservation Leader. Upon resignation from the project by both of these officers in July/August 2013, the A/Senior Trails Officer reported and discussed any compliance issues with the department's Regional Nature Conservation Leader, District Flora Conservation Officer, Sarah Barrett, and with the author of the March 2013 floristic surveys report, Damien Rathbone, as required. The compliance status and supporting information from the monthly environmental reports and other reporting for the key management objectives of the EMP is provided in Table 2.


During the 2013 reporting period there were a small number of minor environmental incidents during construction of the walk trail. Of concern was the detection of track of a trail bike to the construction site. This incident was of particular concern to the department as this form of unauthorised access owing to the potential vectors for the introduction of *Phytophthora* dieback onto the walk trail.



Preventative actions taken include installing improved management signage and bollards to further restrict vehicle access of the walk trail construction site, or camouflaging of the construction site access points where possible. Annual dieback surveillance along the length of the walk trail as per the Coastal Walk Trails Dieback Management Plan will determine whether this incident has resulted in a dieback introduction. Entries by Aboriginal persons in terms of recent amendments to the CALM Act (1984) have taken place with hygiene being applied as per the local area arrangement.



Notes on progress of implementation of the EMP are reported in Table 2 of this Compliance Assessment Report, as required for condition 6-3.


Table 2: Compliance status and supporting information for each of the key management objectives of the Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan 2012-2013.



EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
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EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Vegetation Clearing Management	Compliant	<p data-bbox="584 232 1428 398">Clearing for the walk trail has been a maximum of 2m wide and completed either by hand or with a machine mounted slasher. The edges of the machine clearing have been kept very neat by pre-clearing by hand and cleaning up afterwards. This was done to reduce incidental deaths of damaged plants along edges of the trail.</p>  <p data-bbox="616 1686 1417 1711"><i>Trail construction Point Charles 2012 (The department Trails Officer and crew)</i></p>



EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Rehabilitation Management	Compliant	<p>In most areas, mulched vegetation has been left on the trail to help stabilise the tread surface. Many of the plants within or on the edge of the slashed area are already re-sprouting.</p> 
Dieback and other Plant Pathogens Hygiene Management	<p>Compliant within the control of the department</p> <p>Beyond the department control</p>	<p>All vehicles, machines and equipment taken on site have been cleaned and inspected by either the Walk Trail Project Officer, the Environmental Officer, Park Ranger staff or other project staff. Works have ceased following rainfall events to prevent potential spread of material along the trail alignment, and have not recommenced until soil conditions were suitable (soil no longer adhering to the tyres or undercarriages of vehicles, or being transported by machinery and footwear).</p>  <p><i>Pressure spray cleaning of equipment</i></p> <p>On two known occasions during 2013, vehicles driven by Aboriginal traditional owners entered the final 1.2 km of the Mamang Trail and Fitzgerald Inlet campground. Vehicles were inspected and found to be acceptably clean on entry at the park boundary, however there is no knowledge of the (otherwise formally closed) track conditions between there and the coast. On one occasion rainfall had occurred in the Jacup – Ravensthorpe area in the preceding week.</p>



EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Access Management	Compliant	<p>The walk trail construction site has been closed to public access using signage and fencing. There were minor incidents of unauthorised trail bike and pedestrian access to both trails, following which further preventative action of improved management signage, several gates and more bollards were installed.</p>  <p><i>Mamang Trail (The Trails officer and crew member) 2012</i></p>  <p><i>Hakea Trail construction access to Whalebone area August 2013</i></p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Weed Management	Compliant	<p>No new introduction of weeds has been noted. The small patch of Dune Onion Weed (<i>Trachyandra divaricata</i>) on the Point Charles fore-dune that was identified from the flora surveys was physically removed from site in the previous reporting period.</p>  <p>The area has been subsequently been observed on visits to the area about every 2-3 months. No noticeable spread has occurred. A vegetation monitoring point is established where the trail crosses the former weed site.</p>
Fauna management	Compliant	There have been no known deaths or injury of fauna on site.
Threatened and Significant Flora Species/ Communities Management	Compliant	Priority flora species have been marked on-site with flagging tape prior to clearing, and avoided where possible. Construction crews have been given priority flora identification booklets to enable them to identify the species to avoid on-site (Appendix 4).

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Cultural and Heritage Sites Management	Compliant	<p>No indigenous artefacts have been found during construction activities.</p> <p>Several non-indigenous artefacts from the telegraph line (e.g. telegraph poles, old insulator fragments) have been located. The trail has gone around artefacts where possible, or they have been moved off to the side of the trail and marked with flagging tape to ensure they are not accidentally damaged during construction. Before trail opening visible moveable artefacts will be recorded, photographed and removed for safe keeping (otherwise they will inevitably become visitor souvenirs). In some locations boardwalks have been constructed around heritage sites and interpretation panels are to be installed to provide visitor information and re-enforce the need for visitors to remain on the trail.</p>  <p>19th century Intercolonial telegraph line post stump 2012</p>  <p>Boardwalk around same heritage feature installed July 2013 (Green Skills). Old insulator (moveable heritage) will be taken for safe keeping and a low information panel will be installed as indicated by the red ribbon</p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Visual Amenity Management	Compliant	<p>Strict housekeeping practices have been followed so that no litter has been left on site from construction activities.</p> <p>Some minor re-alignments of the trail have occurred due to landscape impact. These have all been assessed first for any flora and vegetation issues.</p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Materials and Infrastructure Management	Compliant	<p>Natural rocks from the trail or nearby have been utilised to construct rock bars and other trail features. No other basic raw materials have been brought on-site.</p> <p>Infrastructure timber (steps/lookouts) and aluminium (trail markers & signs) have been installed along both trails during 2013. Most materials have been obtained clean from suppliers but any dirty or re-cycled poles have been cleaned before being taken into the national park. All working tools have also been cleaned prior to and after use. All materials and tools have been carried in by hand thereby avoiding further impacts by machinery upon vegetation or the natural trail surface.</p>  <p><i>All construction materials were carried in up to 3km by hand (Green Skills crew) to minimize vegetation impacts caused by machinery July 2013</i></p> <p>In order to provide resistance to termites and minimize risks of later structure failure, treated pine timber has been used in (e.g. platform support posts) or on the ground (primarily steps and drainage bars). Decking and seating materials have met required standards for human contact.</p>  <p><i>Lookout platform construction (Green Skills supervisor) next to trail July 2013</i></p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Water Management	Compliant	Only limited amounts of (clean) tap water have been used for the construction progress where concrete footings were required in shallow or rocky soil types.
Waste Management	Compliant	Construction activities have not resulted in any waste that requires disposal.
Drainage and Erosion Management	Compliant	<p>Water bars and other trail erosion management features have been constructed to minimise potential erosion of the trail.</p>  <p><i>Mamang Trail stone work (The Department crew) 2012</i></p>  <p><i>Boardwalk and seating platform on sandy substrate (Green Skills), Lake Nameless, Mamang Trail July 2013</i></p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Fuel, Oil and other Hazardous Substances Management	Compliant	<p>There have been no oil or fuel spills or leaks. All fuel and oil have been managed according to the EMP procedures.</p> <p>Protective bituminised paint has been modestly applied to infrastructure posts in the ground to reduce the risk of deterioration. Wooden boardwalks and platforms etc have been double coated with a protecting water based stain. Only fine localized droplet spillage has occurred.</p>
Fire Control and Response Management	Compliant	<p>Construction activities have been following strict safety protocols including fire extinguishers on all machines and work has ceased during Extreme or Catastrophic fire weather conditions – or the announcement of harvesting or vehicle movement bans.</p>
Travel and Overnight Management	Compliant	<p>Existing camping facilities at St Mary's and Hamersley Inlet have been used by construction crews for overnight camping with no open fires permitted.</p> <p>For logistical and safety reasons the crew constructing major beach steps at Edwards Point were allowed to camp for 3 nights at an old already cleared area near the construction site.</p> <p>The newly cleared camping ground at Whalebone Creek was subsequently used for overnight camping due to the otherwise long commuting time from Hamersley Inlet or Hopetoun (1.5 hours driving each way).</p> <p>Portable toilet facilities have been used in all cases where permanent facilities were not available.</p>

4.4 Pre-construction Flora and Vegetation Surveys and Assessments (Conditions 7-1 and 7-2)

The department was compliant with conditions 7-1 and 7-2 by completing flora and vegetation surveys and assessing the potential impacts of the trail alignment prior to construction.

A detailed flora and vegetation survey of a ~20m wide corridor following the originally proposed alignment for the FRNP coastal walk trail from Point Ann to Hamersley Inlet was completed by botanist Cate Tauss in summer (December 2010) and again in spring (September 2011) (Appendix 5). Due to some subsequent trail realignments, short sections of the trail were either missed completely or only surveyed once. Therefore the whole of the alignment was subsequently been re-assessed by the department Flora Officer Damian Rathbone during autumn or spring 2012 as part of a comprehensive flora survey that the department has completed of the coastal catchments which the original trail alignment crossed (Appendix 6).

The results of all the flora and vegetation survey's were used to assess the potential impacts of the trail alignment on threatened and significant flora and to adjust the alignment where required to minimise impacts. This assessment was summarised in two documents "*Threatened and Significant Flora and Vegetation near the Western Walk Trail, Fitzgerald River National Park*" and "*Threatened and Significant Flora and Vegetation near the Eastern Walk Trail, Fitzgerald River National Park*", as provided to the OEPA under condition 7-2 (Appendix 7).

While the constructed walk trail alignment has been kept within the 20m surveyed alignment, a few short sections have needed to be realigned slightly outside the 20m surveyed area. These realignments were for environmental protection, visitor safety or visual impact reasons. Prior to the department approval of construction, each of these realignments have been surveyed by the the department Walk Trail Project Officer and Environment Officer (who have a general knowledge of the Parks environment and can identify the areas threatened and significant flora), who then complete a risk assessment on the alignments flora, fauna, dieback and heritage values. If the realignment is found to go through a different vegetation type or landscape feature than the surveyed alignment, further survey (flora, fauna, dieback or heritage) of the realignment has been undertaken prior to construction. Five realignments were approved in 2013, as described in attached memo and email (Appendix 8).

4.5 Flora and Vegetation Monitoring Reference Sites (conditions 7-3 and 7-4)

The department is compliant with condition 7-3 as permanent photographic monitoring points have been progressively established along the walk trail alignment. These sites have been established approximately every 500m along the trail alignment and in sensitive areas including dunes and high impact areas such as trail beach entry sites and lookout points, with the objectives of:

- Documenting the impacts of walk trail construction on the flora and vegetation in the vicinity and adjoining the trail and related facilities.
- Monitoring for visitor impacts on trail erosion and wear and tears for at least ten years.

The methodology of this photographic monitoring is detailed in the '*Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal Walk Trails Flora Monitoring Procedure*' (Appendix 9). Wherever possible the monitoring points are being established just prior to construction, however this is not always possible especially where vegetation obscures the ground surface resulting in subsequent refinement of the trail alignment within the 20m wide corridor. The photo-monitoring points are progressively being marked with ground level survey pegs or discs attached to rock and trail marker pegs are being installed within the view shed of each photo point.





During the reporting period all but one of the Mamang (western) Trail monitoring points were established and in most cases the survey and trail marker posts were also installed. In the case of the Hakea Trail more limited progress was achieved due to the mid-year resignation/contract terminations of the environmental officer and trails officer. It is anticipated however that virtually all sites will be marked by Easter 2014 and that all sites will be fully established prior to trail opening to the public.

The department has been compliant with the intent of condition 7-4 within the considerable practical and logistical constraints on weekly, monthly and six monthly photography of some 70 sites spread over 40km of trail in various stages of construction. Furthermore, the need for avoidance of trail entry during wet or extreme fire risk conditions has also hampered meeting what, in retrospect, was a highly ambitious monitoring programme without creating environmental or safety risks and having a full time dedicated monitoring officer. A further complication is that by the time the trails are open to the public there will have been over 1 ½ years difference in time between establishment of the first and last monitoring sites. Until public use commences the monitoring is primarily recording natural vegetation re-growth and virtually no trail use has occurred apart from intermittent use/inspections by project personnel. Taking these points into consideration photo monitoring will be undertaken to an extent that it does not present a environmental risk and weekly monitoring has occurred during actual construction rather than over the construction period due to the impracticality lack of need to monitoring when construction was not occurring.

Three examples of the photographic monitoring points (sites M12, M14 and M17) were provided in the previous compliance report, showing before and after the vegetation clearing for the walk trail, and additional photographs of these same sites are include below as an indicator of the

natural re-growth. Photo monitoring examples from the Hakea Trail are now included in this year's report for sites H7, H20 and H35.

Monitoring Site M12

 <p>Pre-construction – approaching machine slasher just visible in distance (5 October 2012)</p>	 <p>Post vegetation clearing – temporary reference peg in place (6 October 2012)</p>
 <p>~ 8 months after clearing (12 June 2013)</p>	 <p>~ 16 months after clearing (17 February 2014 - in 2013/2014 reporting period with new permanent reference marker)</p>

Monitoring Site M14



Pre-construction (22 November 2012)



Post vegetation clearing (28 November 2012)



~ 7 months after clearing with temporary reference peg (12 June 2013)



~15 months after clearing (21 February 2014 – in 2013/2014 reporting period with new reference marker on right – temporary peg removed after photograph taken)

Monitoring Site M17



Pre-construction (22 November 2012)



Post vegetation clearing (28 November 2012)



~7 months after clearing (12 June 2013)



~ 15 months after clearing (21 February 2014 – in 2013/2014 reporting period with permanent reference marker installed)

Monitoring Site H7 (Closed 4WD track on quartzite wave cut platform)



Pre-construction (9 May 2013)



One week after clearing - slasher has traversed left hand wheel track (17 May 2013)

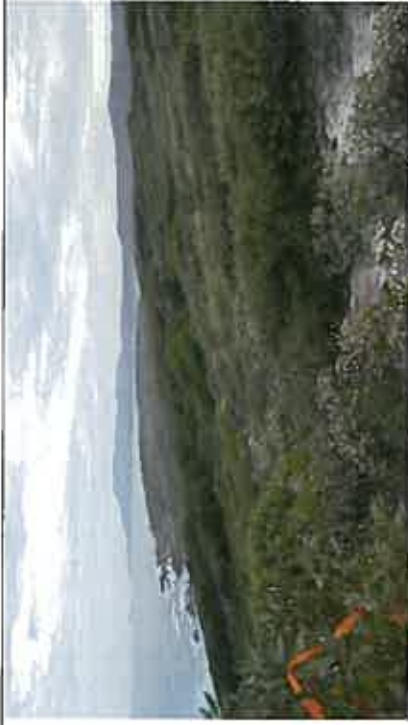


Six months after clearing (6 November 2013)



~ 8 months after clearing (18 February 2014 - in 2013/2014 reporting period with new permanent reference marker)

Monitoring Site H20 (shallow sand over Tamala limestone)



Pre-construction (1 May 2013)



Same day after clearing (1 May 2013)



~ 6 weeks after clearing and forming (13 June 2013)



~ 9 months post clearing (29 January 2014 - in 2013/2014 reporting period with new permanent reference marker)

Monitoring Site H35 (quartzite wave cut platform West Beach Point)



Pre-construction (27 May 2013)



~ 3 months post clearing (7 September 2013)



~ 4 months post clearing (7 October 2013)



~ 7 months post clearing (20 February 2014 - in 2013/2014 reporting period with new permanent reference marker)

4.6 Dieback Risk Assessment and Management Plan (condition 8-1, 8-2 and 9-1 to 9-5)

The dieback risk assessment and management plan for the walk trail (conditions 8-1, 8-2 and 9-1 to 9-5) were developed and submitted during the reporting period but are for implementation prior to operation of the trail, so their compliance status is 'Not required at this stage'.

The originally proposed walk trail alignment was interpreted for dieback via helicopter by The department Interpreter Peter Blankendaal in July 2011 to provide a baseline map of the trail, required for the Dieback Management Plan that will be developed prior to operation of the trail (condition 9-2) (Appendix 10). The majority (86%) of the trail alignment was assessed as uninfested, the other 14% was uninterpretable. The uninterpretable areas were those areas that are either, beach, dunes or uninterpretable vegetated areas close to estuaries and lakes.

The dieback interpretation will be repeated annually and prior to construction. The western walk trail alignment was re-surveyed on foot by the department Interpreter Greg Freebury in August-November 2012 prior to construction. The trail alignment was assessed as uninfested, except the sections on the beach, dunes or close to Fitzgerald Inlet that are uninterpretable (Appendix 11).

4.7 Staging of Plans (Condition 10-1)

Condition 10-1 allows for staged implementation of the components of the Project. The department is compliant with this condition, having continued to stage the assessment of the potential impacts of the trail alignment on threatened and significant flora (Appendix 8).

The department is also continuing to stage the implementation of the flora and vegetation monitoring reference sites (conditions 7-3 and 7-4), setting the sites up just ahead of the trail construction, some of which is still to occur within the next reporting period in 2014 (Section 4.5).

5. PROPONENT DECLARATION

I, PETER SHARP..... (full name and position title)
declare that I am authorised on behalf of PARKS + WILDLIFE..... (being the person
responsible for the proposal) to submit this form and that the information contained in this form
is true and not misleading.

Signature: Pete Sharp.....

Date: 20/6/14.....

6. APPENDICES

The Audit Table (Appendix 1) is attached to this document below. The other appendices are provided as separate documents.

Appendix 1: Audit Table

Appendix 2: Change to proposal under s45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Appendix 3: *Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan 2012-2013 (EMP)*

Appendix 4: Western and Eastern walk trail significant flora identification booklets

Appendix 5: Flora and vegetation survey of the FRNP coastal walk trail alignment (Tauss 2012)

Appendix 6: Floristic surveys for the Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project (Rathbone 2013)

Appendix 7: Assessments of potential impacts on significant flora and vegetation

Appendix 8: Trail realignment risk assessment process

Appendix 9: Flora monitoring procedure (the photographs from this monitoring are provided to the EPA with the electronic copy of this compliance assessment report)

Appendix 10: FRNP coastal walk trail dieback interpretation report 2011

Appendix 11: Western walk trail alignment dieback interpretation report 2012

APPENDIX 1 – AUDIT TABLE

Note:

- Phases that apply in this table = Pre-Construction, Construction, Operation, Decommissioning, Overall (several phases).
- This audit table is a summary and timetable of conditions and commitments applying to this project. Refer to the Minister's Statement for full detail/precise wording of individual elements.
- Code prefixes: M = Minister's condition, P = Proponent's commitment.
- Acronyms list: CEO = Chief Executive Officer of OEPA; DEC = Department of Environment and Conservation; DIA = Department of Indigenous Affairs; DMP = Department of Mining and Petroleum; EPA = Environmental Protection Authority; DoH = Department of Health; DoW = Department of Water, Minister for Env = Minister for the Environment; OEPA = Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- Compliance Status: C = Compliant, CLD = Completed, NA = Not Audited, NC = Non – compliant, NR = Not Required at this stage. Please note the terms VR = Verification Required and IP = In Process are only for OEPA use.

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:G									
884:M1.1	Proposal Implementation	The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.	Implement the proposal as per Statement 884, Schedule 1.	Compliance Assessment Report	Minister for Env		Overall		C
884:M2.1	Proponent Nomination and Contact Details	The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.	Implement the proposal as per Statement 884, Schedule 1.	Compliance Assessment Report	Minister for Env		Overall		C

884:M2.2	Proponent Nomination and Contact Details	The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (CEO) of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.	Notify the CEO of OEPA of any change of name and address.	Copy of correspondence to CEO of OEPA advising of change of name and address.	CEO	Overall	Within 30 days of such change.	NR
884:M3.1	Time Limit of Authorisation	The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.	Commence implementation of the proposal by 22 December 2016.	Compliance Assessment Report	Minister for Env.	Overall	Commence implementation of the proposal by 22 December 2016.	C

884:M3.2	<p>Time Limit of Authorisation</p>	<p>The proponent shall provide the CEO with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.</p>	<p>Provide written evidence to the CEO.</p>	<p>Compliance Assessment Report</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>Overall</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>C</p>	
884:M4.1	<p>Compliance Reporting</p>	<p>The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the CEO.</p>	<p>Preparation of a Compliance Assessment Plan and an Audit Table in compliance with the requirements of the OEPA.</p>	<p>Approved Compliance Assessment Plan and Audit Table (this document).</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>Pre-construction</p>	<p>Compliance Assessment Plan prior to implementation of proposal.</p>	<p>CLD</p>	

884:M4.2	Compliance Reporting	<p>The proponent shall submit to the CEO the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least six months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6, or prior to implementation, whichever is sooner.</p>	<p>Provide CEO Compliance Assessment Plan in accordance with requirements of OEPA.</p>	<p>Approved Compliance Assessment Plan and Audit Table (this document).</p>	CEO		Pre-construction	Prior to implementation of proposal.	CLD
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884:M4.2	Compliance Reporting	<p>The compliance assessment plan shall indicate: 1. the frequency of compliance reporting; 2. the approach and timing of compliance assessments;</p> <p>3. the retention of compliance assessments;</p> <p>4. the method of reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken;</p> <p>5. the table of contents of compliance assessment reports; and 6. public availability of compliance assessment reports.</p>	<p>Provide CEO Compliance Assessment Plan in accordance with requirements of OEPA.</p>	<p>Approved Compliance Assessment Plan and Audit Table (this document).</p>	CEO	Pre-construction	Prior to implementation of proposal.	CLD
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884:M4.3	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.	As specified in Compliance Assessment Plan.	Compliance Assessment Report	Minister for Env	Overall	Annually by 22 March, reporting on the previous twelve month period from 22 December (date of issue of Statement).	C
884:M4.4	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall retain reports of all compliance assessments described in the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 and shall make those reports available when requested by the CEO.	Records and reports shall be retained and maintained in accordance with the DEC's document management system requirements so that they can be retrieved if requested	Availability of records at the request of the CEO.	CEO	Overall	When requested by CEO.	C
884:M4.5	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall advise the CEO of any potential non-compliance within seven days of that non-compliance being known.	Notify the CEO in writing.	Written correspondence to CEO advising of non-compliance. Compliance Assessment Report.	CEO	Overall	Within 7 days of non-compliance being known.	NR

884:M4.6	Compliance Reporting	<p>The proponent shall submit to the CEO the first compliance assessment report fifteen months from the date of issue of this Statement addressing the twelve month period from the date of issue of this Statement and then annually from the date of submission of the first compliance assessment report. The compliance assessment report shall: 1. be endorsed by the proponent's Director General or a person delegated to sign on the Director General's behalf;</p>	<p>Provide CEO with Compliance Assessment Report in accordance with Compliance Assessment Plan.</p>	<p>Compliance Assessment Report. Endorsement by DEC's Director General (or delegate) of the Compliance Assessment Report. Copies of the Compliance Assessment Report available on DEC website (www.dnpaw.wa.gov.au/fmp) and sent to the Department of Parks and Wildlife Library and PIMB (OEPA).</p>	CEO	<p>Endorsement by Director General of DEC</p>	Overall	<p>The first Compliance Assessment Report submitted by 22 March 2013, then annually by 22 March..</p>	C
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884:M4.6	Compliance Reporting	<p>2. include a statement as to whether the proponent has complied with the conditions;</p> <p>3. identify all potential non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken;</p> <p>4. be made publicly available in accordance with the approved compliance assessment plan; and 5. indicate any proposed changes to the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.</p>	<p>Provide CEO with Compliance Assessment Report in accordance with Compliance Assessment Plan.</p>	<p>Compliance Assessment Report.</p> <p>Endorsement by DEC's Director General (or delegate) of the Compliance Assessment Report.</p> <p>Copies of the Compliance Assessment Report available on DEC website (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/jtrp) and sent to the Department of Parks and Wildlife Library and PIMB (OEPA).</p>	CEO	<p>Endorsement by Director General of DEC</p>	Overall	<p>The first Compliance Assessment Report submitted by 22 March 2013, then annually by 22 March..</p>	C
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884:M5.1	Protection of Wilderness Management Zone	The proponent shall not implement any aspect of the proposal within the Wilderness Management Zone as depicted in Figure 1.	No aspect of the proposal will be implemented in the Wilderness Management Zone.	Compliance Assessment Report		Overall	Duration of proposal.	C
884:M6.1	Environmental Management Plan	Prior to the commencement of construction of the proposal, the proponent shall prepare an Environmental Management Plan for the construction of the proposal to the satisfaction of the CEO.	Preparation of <i>Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan (Walk Trails EMP)</i> addressing the environmental management of the proposal.	Walk Trails EMP to the satisfaction of the CEO.	CEO	Construction	Prior to construction.	CLD

884:M6.1	Environmental Management Plan	<p>The primary objective of the Environmental Management Plan is to ensure that dieback disease (<i>Phytophthora</i> species) is not introduced as a direct or indirect result of construction activities into uninfected areas of the proposal area. Other potential impacts associated with construction including, but not limited to, weeds, fire, erosion and uncontrolled access, shall be addressed in the Plan.</p>	<p>Preparation of Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project Walk Trails Environmental Management Plan (Walk Trails EMP) addressing the environmental management of the proposal.</p>	Walk Trails EMP to the satisfaction of the CEO.	CEO		Construction	Prior to construction.	CLD
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884:M6.2	Environmental Management Plan	During the construction phase, the proponent shall implement the Environmental Management Plan referred to in condition 6-1.	Implementation of the Walk Trails EMP.	Monthly EMP compliance reports, which will be summarised in the Compliance Assessment Report.		Construction	Annually during construction.	C
884:M6.3	Environmental Management Plan	During the construction phase, the proponent shall annually review and report progress on conditions 6-1 and 6-2 in the compliance assessment report required by condition 4-6.	Annual review of Walk Trails EMP and progress report as part of the Compliance Assessment Report.	Compliance Assessment Report.		Construction	Annually during construction.	C

884:M7.1	Flora and Vegetation	Prior to the commencement of construction of the proposal, the proponent shall conduct a detailed flora and vegetation survey of the proposal area to the satisfaction of the CEO.	Detailed flora survey and vegetation mapping of proposed walk trail alignment. Flora and vegetation surveys will be staged for different sections of the trail, as allowed for in Condition 10-1.	Report on the detailed flora and vegetation survey of the walk trail.	CEO	Pre-Construction	Prior to construction.	CLD
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884:M7.2	Flora and Vegetation	<p>Prior to the commencement of construction of the proposal, the proponent shall use the results of the detailed flora and vegetation survey required by condition 7-1 to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CEO that the proposal has been located to avoid, where practicable, populations of rare or threatened communities or species, or species of restricted regional distribution.</p>	<p>Alignment of the walk trails will be designed to avoid significant flora and vegetation where practicable.</p> <p>The alignment and an assessment of potential impacts on threatened and priority flora species and communities submitted to the CEO.</p>	<p>Assessment of potential impacts on threatened and priority flora species and communities reports submitted to the CEO.</p> <p>Walk Trails EMP.</p>	CEO		Pre-construction	Prior to construction.	CLD
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884:M7.3	Flora and Vegetation	Prior to the commencement of construction of the proposal, the proponent shall establish reference sites to monitor potential impacts on flora and vegetation in the vicinity of the proposal.	Establishment of fixed photographic monitoring points every 500m along the trail alignment and in sensitive areas such as dunes or high impact areas such as campsites.	Walk Trails EMP. Compliance Assessment Report.	CEO		Pre-construction.	Prior to construction.	C
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884:M7.4	Flora and Vegetation	During the construction phase, the proponent shall monitor the reference sites referred to in Condition 7-3 and report the results in the compliance assessment report required by condition 4-6.	Weekly photographic monitoring to be undertaken during construction phase at each fixed monitoring point.	Monitoring records, maps and photographs. Compliance Assessment Report.	CEO	Construction	Ongoing.	C
			Following construction, photographic monitoring at each reference site to be undertaken monthly for six months post construction, then annually for duration of proposal.					

884:M8.1	Dieback Risk Assessment	<p>Prior to the commencement of the operation of the proposal, the proponent shall prepare a Dieback Risk Assessment for the operation of the proposal to the satisfaction of the CEO.</p> <p>The primary objective of the Dieback Risk Assessment is to identify appropriate Phytophthora dieback disease risk management strategies for the operation of the proposal.</p>	<p>Dieback Risk Assessment and disease management strategies for the operation of the proposal.</p> <p>Submit Dieback Risk Assessment report to the CEO.</p>	Dieback Risk Assessment.	CEO	Operational	Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.	NR
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884:M8.2	Dieback Risk Assessment	<p>The proponent shall commission an Independent Specialist to review the Dieback Risk Assessment for the operation of the proposal, with the Independent Specialist's assessment report being provided to the CEO within 20 business days of it being received by the proponent.</p>	<p>Engage Independent Specialist to review the Dieback Risk Assessment. Submit Independent Specialist's report to the CEO within 20 business days of receipt.</p>	<p>Consultant's assessment report on the Dieback Risk Assessment.</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>Independent Specialist.</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.</p>	<p>NR</p>
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884:M9.1	<p>Dieback Management Plan</p>	<p>Prior to the commencement of the operation of the proposal, the proponent shall prepare a Dieback Management Plan for the operation of the proposal to the satisfaction of the CEO. The objective of the Dieback Management Plan is to ensure that <i>Phytophthora dieback</i> disease is not introduced into uninfected areas of the Fitzgerald River National Park during the ongoing management of the proposal.</p> <p>Preparation of a Dieback Management Plan in accordance with stated objectives.</p> <p>Submit Dieback Management Plan to CEO.</p>	<p>Dieback Management Plan.</p>	<p>CEO</p>		<p>Operational</p>	<p>Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.</p>	<p>NR</p>
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884:M9.2	Dieback Management Plan	<p>The Dieback Management Plan shall include, but not limited to: 1. the findings and outcomes from the Dieback Risk Assessment required by condition 8-1; 2. hygiene management measures to prevent the introduction of dieback disease; 3. surveys of the project area to identify and map the location of any dieback infestations; 4. a baseline map of any previously identified dieback infestations; 5. procedures for limiting and authorising access to areas that are dieback infected;</p>	Preparation of Dieback Management Plan in accordance with stated criteria.	Dieback Management Plan.	CEO	Operational	Prior to commencement of coastal walk trail operation.	NR
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884:M9.2	Dieback Management Plan	6. infrastructure and maintenance requirements; 7. public education programs and facilities; and 8. a dieback response plan detailing actions and contingency measures that will be taken if the proposal area is found to be infected by <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback including containment, resourcing and remedial treatment of <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback.	Preparation of Dieback Management Plan in accordance with stated criteria.	Dieback Management Plan.	CEO		Operational	Prior to commencement of coastal walk trail operation.	NR
884:M9.3	Dieback Management Plan	The proponent shall implement the Dieback Management Plan required by condition 9-1 during the ongoing operation of the proposal.	Implementation of Dieback Management Plan.	Compliance Assessment Report.			Operational	Annually for duration of proposal.	NR

884:M9.4	Dieback Management Plan	The proponent shall review annually the approved Dieback Management Plan required by condition 9-1 and report the results in the compliance assessment report required by condition 4-6.	Formal review of Dieback Management Plan.	Review of Dieback Management Plan. Compliance Assessment Report.	Operational	Annually for duration of proposal.	NR
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884:M9.5	Dieback Management Plan	The proponent shall make the Dieback Management Plan required by Conditions 9-1 publicly available.	Within 14 days of submission to the OEPA, the document will be posted on the DEC website for the life of the project.	Document available on DEC website (www.dec.wa.gov.au/frmp). Copy of document to DEC Library and PIMB (OEPA).	CEO		Operational	Following completion of Dieback Management Plan.	NR
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884:M10.1	Staging of Plans	Where a plan, assessment or survey is required by these conditions to be prepared and approved prior to the commencement of an activity, it is required that the plan, assessment or survey can be prepared and approved as per the relevant condition requirements for a component or stage of the activity, allowing staged implementation.	Staged flora and vegetation surveys.	Flora and vegetation surveys reports.	CEO	Overall	Ongoing	C
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