

Department of Parks and Wildlife
South Coast Region



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Second Annual

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

22 December 2013 to 21 December 2014

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

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1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS (FIRST) YEAR

This Compliance Assessment Report has been prepared by the proponent, the Department of Parks and Wildlife ('Parks and Wildlife' or 'the department'), 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 2013 to 21 December 2014.

The department 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*". Parks and Wildlife 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 28th 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 between 2011 and 2013 reporting periods 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);
- Parks and Wildlife (formerly 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);
- Compliance Assessment Report 22 December 2011 to 21 December 2012 completed and submitted to the EPA on 22 March 2013 (OEPA ref: A613205 / OEPA2012/000056).
- Floristic Surveys for the Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project, Damien Rathbone, March 2013 (Appendix 6);
- 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, the department, November 2013;
- Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal Walk Trails, Dieback Management Plan, The department, 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, Parks and Wildlife, 11 November 2013 (OEPA ref: AC05-2014-0008);
- Visitor Risk Management (VRM) Assessments - Mamang and Hakea Trails Fitzgerald River National Park – J. Watson December 2013. (internal review of immediate management/construction safety matters and associated warning signs); and
- Discussion paper on the location of new boot cleaning stations, Hakea walk trail, Fitzgerald River National Park – J. Watson December 2013 (internal review and proposed rationalization of location of boot cleaning stations for Hakea Trail).

2. OVERVIEW OF THIRD YEAR AND CURRENT STATUS

The Project *Coastal Walk Trails – from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet and from Cave Point to Quoin Head - Fitzgerald River National Park*, was in final construction phase in the first half of the reporting period, with on-ground construction works being completed 4 June 2014 and becoming officially open for public use on 7 June 2014. The construction work reported in the previous report had been undertaken by a casual contract crew provided by Skill Hire (Albany) under the direction of a locally based departmental trails officer in Albany. In 2013-14 Greenskill Inc. was engaged to undertake the construction works

Establishment and marking of vegetation monitoring sites at roughly 500m intervals along both trails was completed during the reporting period.

Throughout the reporting period final construction was undertaken along the two trails, which included but not limited to:

- Construction (vegetation clearing) of the remaining sections of the Hakea walk trail;
- Installation of remaining trail totems and markers along the Mamang and Hakea Walk Trails;
- Final installation of viewing platforms, seating and interpretation base plates (some interpretation signage is still being finalised);
- Installation of boot cleaning hygiene stations at trail heads and key locations along both walk trails;

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

The milestones and achievements of the project over the current 2013/2014 reporting period in relation to the conditions of Statement 884 are:

- Compliance Assessment Report 22 December 2012 to 21 December 2013 completed and submitted to the EPA on 22 March 2013;
- Finalised construction of the walk trail in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan with no significant incidents;
- Completed the establishment of photo monitoring sites along both the Mamang and Hakea Walk Trails and baseline photos captured for all sites;
- Completion of the Comprehensive Flora and Fauna Survey of the Fitzgerald River National Park Wilderness Management Zone;
- Implementation of key actions from the Fitzgerald River National Park Coastal Walk Trails Dieback Management Plan including:
 - Management access restricted to dry soil conditions;
 - Regular maintenance of walk trails to maintain a high walk trail standard with regard to surface and potential erosion issues;
 - Installation of tread structures and surface treatments in areas where wet conditions may result in significant soil adherence;
 - Inclusion of the walk trail onto publicised road closure reports to minimise the use of the walk trails during wet soil conditions;
 - Installation of Phytophthora dieback hygiene infrastructure as per the Dieback Management Plan;
 - Liaison with local stakeholders on dieback issues and information; and
 - Installation of signage at the walk trail ends on the boundary of the Wilderness Management Zone with reference to the biological significance of the zone and the risk of dieback on these values.

All staff and contractors have been meticulous with regard to dieback hygiene during the ongoing 2013-14 Construction Phase. As far as the department is aware there have been no entries involving Aboriginal persons into the Fitzgerald Inlet site. Aboriginal person under the amendments to the CALM Act have customary rights to access Parks and Wildlife managed lands. Access under a local area arrangement has been developed for the Fitzgerald inlet area with one family which includes the application of hygiene protocols and defines access points/routes.. However Aboriginal people are not obliged to inform the department should they access land. This does present some risk for dieback but Parks and Wildlife does not have reason to believe that the local area arrangement is not being upheld.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Parks and Wildlife have complied with the conditions as laid out in Ministerial Statement 884 for the reporting period with exception of the modified frequency of fixed point photographs taken at vegetation reference sites on the trails. Through review and reflection it was found that it was not practicable to photograph these reference points at the stated frequency of once a month owing to access limitations during wet periods and the questionable value of such frequency. Despite this photo monitoring still occurred at reference sites at a lower frequency providing a baseline for review of trail and vegetation condition.

The compliance status for each of the conditions, as of 21 December 2014, 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.

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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 Australian Standards AS 2156.1-2001 Infrastructure Design and 2156.2001 Walking Tracks-Classification and Signage guidance.</p>	Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the western (Mamang) walk trail from Point Ann to Fitzgerald Inlet and the eastern (Hakea) walk trail was finalised on 6 June 2014.
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 extraction.</p> <p>The construction of overnight camping facilities at Whalebone Creek was completed in March 2014</p>
Trail Heads	<p>Shelter, boot cleaning station and an information panel at Point Ann, Hamersley Inlet and Cave Point. Smaller trail heads at Fitzgerald Inlet, Quoin Head.</p>	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>Boot cleaning stations have been installed at Point Ann, Hamersley Inlet, Cave Point, Edwards Point and Quoin Head. Trail head signage was installed before the trail opening in June 2014.</p>

			<p>A ~15m long alternative pedestrian beach access was installed in the last reporting period at the St Mary trail head in October to avoid 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 were installed 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 have been installed before the trail opening in June 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 were 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 <i>via</i> 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 on the 28th 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, continued to follow the requirements of the EMP, as required by condition 6-2 through to the completion of construction. Compliance was monitored by the department Walk A/Senior Trail Project Officer, and then summarised in environmental reports to the Parks and Wildlife South Coast Regional Nature Conservation Leader. Any compliance issues were discussed and addressed through the Regional Nature Conservation Leader in consultation with relevant District staff as required. The compliance status and supporting information from the environmental reports and other reporting for the key management objectives of the EMP is provided in Table 2.

During the 2014 reporting period there were no environmental incidents.

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



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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
Vegetation Clearing Management	Compliant	<p>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 style="text-align: center;"><i>Trail construction Point Charles 2012</i></p>
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> 



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EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Dieback and other Plant Pathogens Hygiene Management	Compliant within the control of the department	<p>All vehicles, machines and equipment taken on site have been cleaned and inspected by the Walk Trail Project Officer, the Environmental Officer, Park Ranger staff or other project staff.</p> <p>Works were ceased during wet conditions to prevent potential spread of potentially contaminated material along the trail alignment. This condition still applies to any post construction maintenance or monitoring activities.</p>  <p><i>Pressure spray cleaning of equipment</i></p> <p>Dieback hygiene infrastructure has been installed at trail heads and key location along the walk trail to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of Phytophthora dieback.</p>   <p><i>Boot cleaning station at Cave Point car park / and the Premier inspects the Hakea Trail Head signage</i></p> <p>There was no known un-authorized access along the walk trails</p>

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Access Management	Compliant	<p>The walk trail site was closed to public access during construction using signage and fencing. There were no known incidents of unauthorised pedestrian access to both trails.</p>  <p><i>Mamang Trail (The Department Trails officer and crew member) 2012</i></p>  <p><i>Hakea Trail construction access to Whalebone area August 2013</i></p>
Weed Management	Compliant	<p>No new introduction of weeds has been detected by monitoring staff.</p> <p>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 subsequently removed from the site.</p> <p>The area is being monitored and while the onion weed is still present no noticeable spread has occurred. A vegetation monitoring point is established where the trail crosses the former weed site and control is being undertaken.</p>
Fauna management	Compliant	There have been no known deaths or injury of fauna on site.

EMP Key Objectives	Status	Further Information
Threatened and Significant Flora Species/ Communities Management	Compliant	Priority flora species were marked on-site with flagging tape prior to clearing, and avoided where possible. Construction crews were given priority flora identification booklets to enable them to identify the species to avoid on-site (Appendix 4). No incidents relating to unauthorised taking of flora have occurred.
Cultural and Heritage Sites Management	Compliant	<p>No indigenous artifacts were found during construction activities.</p> <p>Several non-indigenous artifacts from the telegraph line (e.g. telegraph poles, old insulator fragments) have been located. The trail has gone around artifacts 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 artifacts were 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 style="text-align: center;">19th century Inter-colonial telegraph line post stump 2012</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Boardwalk around heritage feature installed July 2013. Old insulator (moveable heritage) will be taken for safe keeping and a low information panel has been installed with the interpretive panel still in production at the time of this photo.</p>
Visual Amenity Management	Compliant	<p>Strict housekeeping practices have been followed so that no litter was left on site from construction activities.</p> <p>No re-alignments of the trail have occurred in this reporting period.</p>

Materials and Infrastructure Management	Compliant	<p>Natural rocks from the trail or nearby have been used 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 continued to be installed along both trails during 2014.</p> <p><i>Completed infrastructure along walk trails including viewing platforms, surface treatment and boot cleaning points.</i></p> <p>The Whalebone Hut on the Hakea Trail was completed during this period with construction crews being accommodated off site. All materials, tools and vehicles were cleaned prior to entry on to site.</p> <div data-bbox="635 696 1393 1196" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Whalebone Creek Trails Hut</i></p>
Water Management	Compliant	<p>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.</p>
Waste Management	Compliant	<p>Construction activities have not resulted in any waste that requires disposal.</p>

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 2012</i></p>  <p><i>Boardwalk and seating platform on sandy substrate Lake Nameless, Mamang Trail July 2013</i></p>
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 <i>etc</i> 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>
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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 re-assessed by a departmental Flora Officer during autumn and 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 surveys 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 were realigned slightly outside the 20m surveyed area during 2013. These realignments were for environmental protection, visitor safety or visual impact reasons. Prior to the departmental approval of construction, each of these realignments have been surveyed by the departmental 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 completed a risk assessment on the alignments flora, fauna, dieback and heritage values. If the realignment was 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 was undertaken prior to construction. Five realignments were approved in 2013, as described in attached memo and email (Appendix 8) but no further realignments were required during the 2014 reporting period.

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 were being established just prior to construction, however this was not always possible especially where vegetation obscured the ground surface resulting in subsequent refinement of the trail alignment within the 20m wide corridor. The photo-monitoring points were progressively being marked with ground level survey pegs or discs attached to rock and trail marker pegs were installed within the view shed of each photo point.

During the reporting period all of the Mamang (western) Trail and Hakea (eastern) Trail monitoring points were established and trail marker posts installed.

The department has not been able to remain compliant with the intent of condition 7-4 with regards to the prescribed frequency of photo monitoring due to 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 and post construction operation. There are a number of reasons for non-compliance including the need for avoidance of trail entry during wet or extreme fire risk conditions.

The proposed monitoring program was highly ambitious without creating environmental or safety risks and having a full time dedicated monitoring officer. Photo monitoring was undertaken to an extent that it did not present an environmental risk and weekly monitoring has occurred during actual construction rather than over the construction period due to the impracticality and lack of need to monitor when construction was not occurring.

The requirement to undertake monthly monitoring after the completion of construction has not been achieved though each site has been captured at least once and in some cases twice or more. The physical changes to the walk trail and the reference sites is minimal to negligible due to slow rate of plant recovery over the 6 months since opening of the trail and the limited use that has occurred. As the walk trail is still relatively new the public knowledge and subsequent use of the walk trail has been low and therefore disturbance by visitor pressure has been minimal. Any issues with the trail surface due to environmental factors are being captured

through trail inspection and/or report from users. These are addressed through a maintenance program. No significant impact to vegetation have been reported during this reporting period

Six examples of the photographic monitoring points (sites M12, M14, M17, H7, H20 and H35) 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 from 2014 are included below as an indicator of the natural re-growth.

Monitoring Site M12



Pre-construction – approaching machine slasher just visible in distance (5 October 2012)



Post vegetation clearing – temporary reference peg in place (6 October 2012)



~ 8 months after clearing (12 June 2013)



~ 16 months after clearing (17 February 2014 - in 2013/2014 reporting period with new permanent reference marker)



~19 months after clearing 6 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period

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)



~19 months after clearing 6 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period (regrowth can be seen occurring on the trail path)

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)



~19 months after clearing 4 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period

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)



~19 months after clearing 6 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period

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)



~19 months after clearing 6 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period

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)



~19 months after clearing 5 June 2014 – in 2014/2015 reporting period

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 previous reporting period and implementation commenced prior to operation of the trail, so their compliance status is 'compliant'.

The originally proposed walk trail alignment was interpreted for dieback via helicopter by a departmental interpreter Peter Blankendaal in July 2011 to provide a baseline map of the trail, required for the Dieback Management Plan, which was 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. The western walk trail alignment was re-surveyed on foot by a departmental Interpreter 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).

Further interpretation was planned to occur during 2014. However due to low rainfall and drought conditions causing plant deaths over the 2013-14 period, dieback survey has been postponed due to these events obscuring the ability to detect disease expression amongst drought effects. Survey is planned to occur in late summer / autumn 2015.

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 staged the assessment of the potential impacts of the trail alignment on threatened and significant flora through to the completion of the walk trail construction. No further re-alignments were required during this reporting period and final stage of construction.

The department finalised the implementation of the flora and vegetation monitoring reference sites (conditions 7-3 and 7-4, Section 4.5).

5. PROPONENT DECLARATION

I, ROYAL SHARP, DIRECTOR, NIS (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: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 5/2/15

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; 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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M3.2	Time Limit of Authorisation	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.	Provide written evidence to the CEO.	Compliance Assessment Report	CEO		Overall	Annually	C
884:M4.1	Compliance Reporting	The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the CEO.	Preparation of a Compliance Assessment Plan and an Audit Table in compliance with the requirements of the OEPA.	Approved Compliance Assessment Plan and Audit Table (this document).	CEO		Pre-construction	Compliance Assessment Plan prior to implementation of proposal.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M4.2	Compliance Reporting	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. The compliance assessment plan shall indicate: 1. the frequency of compliance reporting; 2. the approach and timing of compliance assessments; 3. the retention of compliance assessments; 4. the method of reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken;	Provide CEO with Compliance Assessment Plan in accordance with requirements of OEPA.	Approved Compliance Assessment Plan and Audit Table (this document).	CEO		Pre-construction	Prior to implementation of proposal.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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 Parks and Wildlife 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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M4.6	Compliance Reporting	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	Provide CEO with Compliance Assessment Report in accordance with Compliance Assessment Plan.	Compliance Assessment Report. Endorsement by Parks and Wildlife Director General (or delegate) of the Compliance Assessment Report. Copies of the Compliance Assessment Report available on Parks and Wildlife website (www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/frnp) and sent to the Department of Parks and Wildlife Library and PIMB (OEPA).	CEO	Endorsement by Director General of Parks and Wildlife	Overall	The first Compliance Assessment Report submitted by 22 March 2013, then annually by 22 March..	C

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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. 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	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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M7.2	Flora and Vegetation	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.	Alignment of the walk trails will be designed to avoid significant flora and vegetation where practicable. The alignment and an assessment of potential impacts on threatened and priority flora species and communities submitted to the CEO.	Assessment of potential impacts on threatened and priority flora species and communities reports submitted to the CEO. Walk Trails EMP.	CEO		Pre-construction	Prior to construction.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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. Following construction, photographic monitoring at each reference site to be undertaken monthly for six months post construction, then annually for duration of proposal.	Monitoring records, maps and photographs. Compliance Assessment Report.	CEO	Photo point monitoring has occurred but not at the frequency stipulated in the monitoring protocol. The frequency in hindsight is neither practical nor meaningful as a means to monitor potential impacts on vegetation. Nonetheless monitoring has occurred and a baseline photographic record established.	Construction	Ongoing.	C

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M8.1	Dieback Risk Assessment	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. The primary objective of the Dieback Risk Assessment is to identify appropriate Phytophthora dieback disease risk management strategies for the operation of the proposal.	Dieback Risk Assessment and disease management strategies for the operation of the proposal. Submit Dieback Risk Assessment report to the CEO.	Dieback Risk Assessment.	CEO		Operational	Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M8.2	Dieback Risk Assessment	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.	Engage Independent Specialist to review the Dieback Risk Assessment. Submit Independent Specialist's report to the CEO within 20 business days of receipt.	Consultant's assessment report on the Dieback Risk Assessment.	CEO	Independent Specialist.	Operational	Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M9.1	Dieback Management Plan	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</i> dieback disease is not introduced into uninfected areas of the Fitzgerald River National Park during the ongoing management of the proposal.	Preparation of a Dieback Management Plan in accordance with stated objectives. Submit Dieback Management Plan to CEO.	Dieback Management Plan.	CEO		Operational	Prior to commencement of walk trail operation.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M9.2	Dieback Management Plan	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	Preparation of Dieback Management Plan in accordance with stated criteria.	Dieback Management Plan.	CEO		Operational	Prior to commencement of coastal walk trail operation.	CLD

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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.	C
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.	C

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
884:M9.5	Dieback Management Plan	The proponent shall make the Dieback Management Plan required by Conditions 9-1 publicly available.	<p>Within 14 days of submission to the OEPA, the document will be posted on the Parks and Wildlife website for the life of the project.</p> <p>Within 14 days from the date of making documents publicly available, the website address/link at which they can be located shall be provided to the Proposal Implementation Monitoring Branch (PIMB).</p>	<p>Document available on Parks and Wildlife website (http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parks/parks-for-people).</p> <p>Copy of document to Parks and Wildlife Library and PIMB (OEPA).</p>	CEO		Operational	Following completion of Dieback Management Plan.	C

Audit Code	Subject	Action	How	Evidence	Satisfy	Advice	Phase	When	Status
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. Staged assessments of impacts on threatened and priority flora species as required for Condition 7-2.	Flora and vegetation surveys reports. Assessment of potential impacts on threatened and priority flora species and communities reports submitted to the CEO.	CEO		Overall	Ongoing	C

