

Preparation of a Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan

This information sheet provides guidance to inform the preparation of a Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan (WPRP) and the required supporting documents to limit the impact of development on local species and improved conservation outcomes. Implementation of the WPRP ensures that impacts to local fauna are appropriately managed to achieve clearance of conditions of Development and Subdivision approvals.

The City of Armadale (the City) is located across two distinctive landforms. The Swan Coastal Plain, a relatively flat and low lying terrain which supports many wetlands and seasonal damplands. The City's hills are comprised of the Darling Scarp and Darling Ranges which contain the majority of the City's bushland and natural reserves. The Canning River traverses the Darling Scarp and Darling Ranges and exits the City to the north at Kelmscott. The Wungong River transects the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the City and extends from the hills catchments on the City's southern boundary and drains westwards to the Swan Coastal Plain where it traverses to the north to join the Southern River tributary of the Canning River. Smaller water courses arising in the

Darling Scarp and Darling Ranges feed the main tributaries of the Wungong and Canning Rivers. These areas support the ecological processes and rich biological diversity containing high numbers of endemic species that are only found in the southwest of Western Australia, whilst being extremely vulnerable to threats. Land use change, habitat loss, climate change and invasive flora and fauna, among other factors provide increasing threat to these species.

Legislative Framework

WPRP's are often required as a condition of approval for developments approved by the City or State Government under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

Implementation of a WPRP requires a license to take or disturb fauna under the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.

Flora and fauna protection are subject to State and Federal legislation including:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;
- *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*;
- *Biosecurity of Agricultural Management Act 2007*.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;

The City requires that submitted WPRP appropriately protect and address environmental attributes in accordance with the above legislation.

Pre-lodgement

The City encourages applicants to liaise with its Officers prior to formal submission of a WPRP for approval to undertake site visits, lodgement of preliminary plans and technical reports for advice.

WPRP Requirements

This section outlines the requirements to be addressed within a WPRP. It should be noted that the following information sheet is a guide and more or less detail may be required depending on the site specific application.

Appendix A provides a checklist and reference to supporting documentation that may need consideration.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Scope

The location, size and scope of the proposed development must be detailed. A high resolution, photographic map detailing the study area and any areas of interest must be included.

1.2 Purpose of the Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan

Where applicable, reference must be made to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) Subdivision Approval number or the Development Approval number and the details of any attached conditions pertinent to fauna management.

1.3 Documentation of relevant federal, state, and local legislation

Federal, state and City legislation relevant to the FRMP must be listed.

2. Existing Environment

2.1 Fauna Habitat Type and Condition

An assessment of the fauna habitat types found within the study area based on desktop review and field survey. The extent, distribution and condition of the fauna habitat types must be identified.

High resolution, good-quality digital photographs must be taken of each habitat type. Enough photographs should be taken to ensure accurate representation of the habitat and capture any variation that exists or significant features.

The presence of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), or other threatened

or otherwise significant flora species, within or in proximity to the study area must also be detailed.

2.2 Potential Fauna species

A list of all the species likely to occur on the site based on a desktop review of available state databases and historical site survey. This is inclusive of introduced fauna species.

2.3 Conservation Significant species

A detailed evaluation of conservation significant fauna species must be completed based on the list of fauna species likely to occur within the study area. For each significant species, this should include discussion of the:

- conservation status or the other reasons for its significance;
- known distribution and habitat preference;
- likelihood of occurrence in the study area, accounting for local environment, age and location of records, ecological knowledge, and regional context; and
- any ecological traits or attributes relevant to the proposed works, such as vulnerabilities to specific impacts.

Individual records for each fauna species observed during pre-clearing field surveys, with an emphasis on significant fauna, including habitat, precise location, abundance, and detection method must be listed.

3. Fauna Impacts

A detailed evaluation of all the potential impacts that the proposed works may have the fauna likely to occur within the

study area. This may include but is not limited to, the following impacts:

- Loss of fauna habitat
- Habitat fragmentation
- Increased site access for feral predators
- Injury or mortality during the clearing process
- Displacement of fauna into adjacent areas

4. Management Actions and Implementation

4.1 Licenses

Detail the relevant licenses required to interact with fauna species must be provided.

Copies of these licenses are required to be sent to the City prior to any trapping commencing onsite.

4.2 Responsibilities

The personnel involved in the surveys must be listed and their roles, qualifications and experience must be outlined. If third parties contributed to the report or analysis, e.g. site surveys and expert advice for a fauna group, their details and roles must also be included.

4.3 Pre-clearing

Pre-clearing activities shall be performed by a qualified and experienced Zoologist.

Species-specific (or broader groups of similar fauna species) management measures must be detailed, which may include but is not limited to the following:

4.3.1 Trapping Programs

Where applicable, trapping programs must be detailed and include:

- The targeted fauna species or species’;
- Trapping methodology (timing, types of traps to be used, number of traps to be used, trap checking schedule etc.)
- Relocation methodology (release site).

4.3.2 Active foraging

Where applicable, detail must be provided on pre-clearing active foraging to search for reptiles, amphibians, or other fauna, and the management measures for any captured fauna must be outlined.

4.3.3 Bird nests and tree hollows

Where applicable, detail must be provided on pre-clearing site inspections for bird nests and tree hollows. Management and relocation measures for any identified active bird nests or tree hollows, including but not limited to, management of both protected and unprotected species. Black Cockatoo chicks found in nests must be outlined.

4.3.4 Feral animals

The protocol for the capture of any introduced fauna must be detailed, noting that the City supports captured feral animals, excluding cats, being humanely euthanized by a suitably qualified Zoologist.

All captured cats, feral or not, are to be delivered to the City’s Animal Management Facility for processing by the City.

4.3.5 Domestic animals

All captured domestic animals (namely domestic cats and dogs) must be delivered to the City’s Animal Management Facility immediately upon capture. This must be detailed in the report.

4.3.6 Kangaroos

The protocol for encountering kangaroos in the study area must be detailed. The City acknowledges that the relocation of kangaroos is seldom successful and is therefore supportive of alternative solutions, subject to prior approval.

4.3.7 Beehives

Detail must be provided on pre-clearing site inspections for active beehives within the study area. Management measures for any identified beehives must be outlined.

4.4 During Clearing

A comprehensive Management Plan designed to identify, relocate, and prevent harm to the native fauna remaining in the study area during vegetation clearing. Species specific (or broader groups of similar fauna species) management plans may be necessary.

Adaptive management measures for dealing with unexpected fauna as well as measures for dealing with injured fauna within the study area must be addressed.

A qualified and experienced Zoologist must be present on-site throughout the vegetation clearing process.

4.5 Animal Welfare

Welfare of fauna, both native and feral species, is a primary concern prior to and

during clearing. Consideration for animal welfare must be addressed throughout the management plan and may include discussion on, but is not limited to:

- Animal injury
- Checking and emptying traps at appropriate times of the day and at adequate frequencies
- Ensuring captured animals have adequate access to food
- Ensuring appropriate thermal trap conditions
- Ant management for traps
- Biosecurity
- Planning for unexpected changes in weather

5. Compliance Management

5.1 Qualifications and Training

A qualified and experienced Zoologist must be responsible for implementation of the WPRP. The training of other staff involved in inspections, surveys, or vegetation clearing, may be necessary. Training and qualifications of key personnel must be addressed in detail and discuss how training will minimise the potential to injure native fauna.

5.2 Reporting

The City must be advised that any pre-clearing actions have been undertaken prior to commencement of site works.

A letter summarising all fauna relocation actions undertaken, including the activities undertaken, the dates when the fauna relocation program was in operation, the number of each species relocated, the relocation locations, and the number of each species killed or injured, shall be provided to the City within 30 days of the

conclusion of the vegetation clearing program.

6. Supporting Information

The following information is to be attached to the WPRP:

- Relevant license/s to take, relocate, and/or euthanize fauna;
- A map showing the overall clearing footprint, inclusive of the following detail:
 - A tree survey including all trees >100 millimetres diameter at breast height (DBH), with all potential Black Cockatoo breeding trees to be indicated (>500 metre DBH); and
 - A map showing which of the abovementioned trees are to be retained, removed or potential for retention subject to further investigation. All other documents prepared in support of the subdivision or site plan are expected to be consistent with this map.

7. References

- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) (2021). Explore the Biodiversity Hotspots. Available at <https://www.cepf.net/node/1996>
- The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) (2021). Western Australia's unique biodiversity. Available at <https://wabsi.org.au/our-work/wasunique-biodiversity>

This document has been adapted from the City of Rockingham's Fauna Relocation Management Plan Information Sheet.

Appendix A – Supporting Documentation Checklist

Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan	
Information Required	Supporting legislation or guidelines
<i>Site Context</i>	
Purpose of the Wildlife Protection Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAPC Subdivision Approval No. (if applicable) Development Approval No. (if applicable)
Documentation of relevant federal, state, and local legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> <i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018</i> <i>Biosecurity of Agricultural Management Act 2007</i> <i>State Planning Policy 2.8 Bushland Policies for the Perth Metropolitan Region</i>
<i>Existing Environment</i>	
Fauna Habitat Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Guidance - Terrestrial vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Protection Authority (2020) Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Protection Authority (2016)
Potential Fauna Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Detecting Mammals (or Reptiles, Bats, Birds, Frogs) Listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act (1999) Technical Guidance - Terrestrial vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Protection Authority (2020) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020) EPBC Act Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (2012)
Conservation Significant Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 Priority fauna list (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2021)
<i>Management Actions and Implementation</i>	
Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
Pre-clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Guidance - Terrestrial vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Protection Authority (2020) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020) EPBC Act Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (2012)
During clearing	
Adaptive Management	
Animal Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Welfare Act 2002 The Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. National Health and Medical Research Council (2013) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020) Technical Guidance - Terrestrial vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Protection Authority (2020)

