

**GUIDELINES FOR A
PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT REPORT-
Cultana Training Area Expansion, South Australia**

EPBC Reference: 2010/5316

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.2 Purpose of this Document

This document provides tailored guidelines for the Department of Defence in the drafting of a Public Environment Report (PER) for the proposed Cultana Training Area Expansion in South Australia (the study area). The contents of this document are based on the formal requirements set out in Section 97 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Schedule 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations).

1.3 General Content

The PER must be a stand-alone document. It must contain sufficient information about any relevant studies or investigations to avoid the need to search out previous or supplementary reports. The PER must be written so that any conclusions reached can be independently assessed.

The PER must enable interested stakeholders and the assessing agency to understand the consequences of the proposed action. Information provided in the PER must be objective, clear, succinct and, where appropriate, be supported by maps, plans, diagrams or other descriptive detail.

The PER must state the criteria adopted in assessing the relevant aspects of the proposal and its impacts - such as compliance with relevant legislation, policies and standards; community acceptance; and the maximisation of benefits and minimisation of risks.

The level of analysis and detail in the PER should reflect the level of significance attached to the expected potential impacts. Priority should be given to major issues associated with the proposal and matters of lesser concern should be dealt with only to the extent required to demonstrate that they have been considered. Any and all unknown variables or assumptions made in the assessment must be clearly stated and discussed. The extent to which the limitations, if any, of available information may influence the conclusions of the assessment must also be discussed.

1.4 Format and Style

The body of the PER is to be written in a clear and concise style that is easily understood by the general reader. Technical jargon should be avoided wherever possible. Cross-referencing should be used to avoid the unnecessary duplication of text.

The PER must include a detailed table of contents showing all headings, as well as a list of abbreviations and a glossary of terms.

Maps, diagrams and other illustrative material must be included in the PER. The PER must be produced on A4 size paper capable of being photocopied, with maps and diagrams of A4 or A3 size. The PER must also be made available on a CD-ROM and via the internet.

1.5 Information Sources

All information sources must be appropriately referenced using the Harvard standard. For information given in the PER, state:

- a) the source of the information;
- b) how recent the information is;
- c) how the reliability of the information was tested;
- d) what uncertainties (if any) are in the information; and
- e) peer reviews undertaken.

Detailed technical information, studies or investigations necessary to support the main body of text must be included as appendices to the PER. Any additional supporting documentation and studies, reports or literature not normally available to the public from which information has been extracted, must be made available at appropriate locations during the period of public display of the PER.

1.6 Appendices

Appendices that must accompany the PER include:

- a) a copy of these guidelines;
- b) a cross reference of the sections of the PER with the corresponding sections of the PER guidelines; and
- c) studies or reports that support the PER.

2 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

2.1 Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should be a brief outline of each chapter within the PER via text and dot point. The Executive Summary should be written as a stand-alone document, able to be reproduced on request for interested parties who may not wish to read the PER as a whole. The executive summary must be a concise outline of the matters discussed in the main body of the document, to allow the reader to quickly obtain a clear understanding of the proposal, its environmental implications and management objectives.

2.2 Introduction

The introduction of the PER should provide background to the project, including:

- a) the title of the action;
- b) the full name and postal address of the designated proponent;
- c) a clear outline of the objective of the action;

- d) the location of the action;
- e) the current status of the action;
- f) how the action relates to any other actions (of which the proponent should reasonably be aware) that have been, or are being, taken or that have been approved in the region affected by the action;
- g) provide a list of persons and agencies consulted during the preparation of the PER. This can include consultation undertaken for the purpose of Defence's original 'Environmental Impact Assessment' and 'Miscellaneous Lease for Defence Purposes and Indigenous Land Use Agreement';
- h) the names of, and qualifications and experience of the persons involved in preparing the PER, including sub-consultants and reviewers; and
- i) Department of Defence's environmental record, including details of Department of Defence's environmental policy and planning framework and details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, or State law for the protection of the environment against Department of Defence.

2.3 Background to the Development of the Action;

2.3.1 Project Justification and Need

This section must address the specific objectives and justify the need for the project, and must include:

- a) justification for the expansion of the present base;
- b) details of how the proposed action is consistent with the objectives of the EPBC Act and principles of ecologically sustainable development defined in Section 3A of the Act (refer Attachment 1); and
- c) discussion of how the proposal conforms to each principle of 'The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development', published by the Commonwealth Government in December 1992.

2.3.2 Alternatives to the Project

The PER must explore, to the extent reasonably practicable, any feasible alternatives to the action, including:

- a) if relevant, the alternative of taking no action;
- b) a comparative description of the impacts of each alternative on the matters protected by the controlling provisions for the action; and
- c) sufficient detail to make clear why any alternative is preferred to another.

2.3.3 Consultation Undertaken

The PER must describe any consultation about the action, including:

- a) any consultation that has already taken place;
- b) proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the action;
- c) any documented response to, or result of, the consultation that has taken place; and
- d) identification of affected parties, including a statement mentioning any communities that may be affected and describing their views.

2.4 Other Approvals and Conditions

The PER must include information regarding other approvals and conditions relevant for this proposal including:

- a) details of any local or State government planning scheme, or plan or policy under any local or State government planning system that deals with the proposed action, including:
 - (i) what environmental assessment of the proposed action has been, or is being, carried out under the scheme, plan or policy;
 - (ii) how the scheme provides for the prevention, minimisation and management of any relevant impacts;
- b) a description of any approval that has been obtained from a State, Territory or Commonwealth agency or authority (other than an approval under the Act), including any conditions that apply to the action;
- c) a statement identifying any additional approval that is required; and
- d) a description of the monitoring, enforcement and review procedures that apply, or are proposed to apply, to the action.

2.5 Description of the Project

The description of the project should include a general description of the proposal as relevant to the assessment of impacts on the whole of the environment, and listed threatened species and ecological communities. This must include a description of the design, construction and operation of the proposal. Maps and figures should be used where appropriate. The project description should include:

- a) all the components of the action;
- b) description of operational infrastructure requirements for the study area over time, including typical facilities required and the process used for siting these facilities;
- c) description and indicative frequency of typical training scenarios likely to be conducted on the study area including indicative numbers of personnel, vehicles and aircraft involved in each of those scenarios;

- d) details of expected transport routes, methods and scale that will access the study area from adjacent area;
- e) details of the duration of actions and number of actions per year within the study area;
- f) description of training activities that involve use of live firing and munition;
- g) discuss training actions according to their expected impacts on the environmental values of the study area;
- h) map the expected location of training actions according to their impacts on the environmental values of the study area;
- i) discuss the overarching approach to managing training area degradation, including how the approach will evolve over time; and
- j) how the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts.

2.6 Environmental Values

The function of this section of the PER is to provide descriptions of the relevant environmental values relevant to the EPBC Act. This should include all values relevant to the whole of the environment, and listed threatened species and ecological communities. This will serve as a baseline against which impacts and management of the proposal and alternatives can be assessed. Areas of high conservation value in any locality that may be impacted by the proposal must be discussed.

2.6.1 Climate

Include a description of general climatic characteristics (seasonal temperatures, humidity, wind strength and direction, evaporation, ambient dust levels and rainfall) and the probability of extreme events occurring that may affect the proposal in terms of impacts on the environment and adjacent land uses.

2.6.2 Land Systems

Identify, describe and map the land systems including reoccurring patterns of topography, soils, vegetation and potential for erosion as well as other significant features that may influence the level of environmental impact of the proposed action.

Provide images developed using remote sensing technology to identify vegetation cover.

2.6.3 Surface Water and Hydrology

Identify and describe readily identifiable surface and groundwater drainage characteristics of the study area including:

- a) broad scale groundwater movement, depth and salinity characteristic;
- b) surface water characteristics (when relevant i.e. following rain events) including likely location, persistence, quality and fate of surface water flows;
- c) approximate number of rain events per year;

- d) characteristics and environmental values of receiving water and drainage systems outside of the study area; and
- e) present uses and users of surface water and groundwater (including environmental requirements) within and adjacent to the study area that may be impacted by the action should also be identified.

2.6.4 Species and Communities

Identify all conservation significant species and communities that are known within the region. Conservation significant species and communities should include those of national, state and local significance. This section must include the following information:

- a) baseline information on habitat and the likelihood that the species could occur within the project area;
- b) maps showing the approximate location of known populations and potential habitat; and
- c) for the species and communities identified as most likely to be impacted by the proposal, provide details of habitat elements required for their ongoing survival, movement corridors, regional status, and provide a detailed discussion of known threats.

Species Surveys

Adequate and detailed surveys are required to provide baseline information to further refine information described above and to provide a baseline for monitoring. This section should provide:

- a) provide justification of survey methods used;
- b) describe the expertise of staff undertaking surveys;
- c) describe the survey effort per unit area; and
- d) describe why certain areas required more detailed survey effort than other areas.

Threatened and conservation significant plants to be addressed in the PER must include, but not be limited to;

- (i) Corunna Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleri*);
- (ii) Greencomb Spider-orchard (*Caladenia tensa*);
- (iii) Beaded Glasswort (*Tecticornia flabelliformis*);
- (iv) Dagger-leaf Wattle (*Acacia rhigiophylla*);
- (v) Annual Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*);
- (vi) Corunna Daisy (*Brachyscome muelleri*);
- (vii) Cushion Centrolepis (*Centrolepis cephaloformis cephaloformis*);

- (viii) Yellow-flower Sour-bush (*Choretrum glomeratum* var. *chrysanthum*);
- (ix) Large – fruit Crassula (*Crassula exserta*);
- (x) Waterwort (*Elatine gratioloides*);
- (xi) Australian Broomrape (*Orobanche cernua* var. *australiana*);
- (xii) Sandlewood (*Santalum spicatum*);
- (xiii) *Velleia cynopotamica*;
- (xiv) Garweed (*Zostera mucronata*);
- (xv) Elegant Wattle (*Acacia victoriae*); and
- (xvi) Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*).

Threatened and conservation significant fauna to be addressed in the PER must include, but not be limited to;

- (i) Slender-billed Thornbill (western subspecies)(*Acanthiza iredalei iredalei*);
- (ii) Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- (iii) Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*);
- (iv) Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*);
- (v) Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*);
- (vi) Major Mitchells’s Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*);
- (vii) Chestnut Quail-thrush (*Cinclosala castanotus*);
- (viii) Eastern Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*);
- (ix) White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*);
- (x) Naretha Bluebonnet (*Northiela haematogaster*);
- (xi) Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*);
- (xii) Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*);
- (xiii) Baillon’s Crake (*Porzana pusilla*);
- (xiv) Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*); and
- (xv) Blue-breasted Fairy-wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*).

2.6.5 Exotic Fauna

Identify, describe and map to the extent possible the abundance and distribution of exotic fauna known to cause threatening processes, that occur on the study area. This should also include areas adjacent to the study area where the information is available.

2.6.6 Weeds

- a) identify, describe and map weed species that are or may be present within the study area.
- b) identify weed species in land adjacent to the study area that have the potential to spread to the study area, including those in the existing Cultana training area.

2.6.7 Heritage

- Identify, describe and map places of natural, historical and contemporary value.
- Describe how indigenous heritage values will be identified and their significance determined. This section should also describe the consultation with indigenous groups that has taken place or is planned noting that sensitive information may not be released in the PER.

2.6.8 Fire Management

Describe and map the relevance and potential impact of fire to the different vegetative communities identified across the study area.

2.6.9 Noise and Vibration

Describe any known noise and vibration associated with the study area and adjacent land uses.

2.6.10 Present Land Uses

Identify, map and describe all existing land uses within and adjacent to the study area, and identify and describe potential future land uses within the study area following the end of Defence's lease with the South Australian Government, including but not limited to:

- a) mining and other resource interests;
- b) pastoral activities;
- c) public roads and access;
- d) recreation activities and tourism;
- e) education and university interests; and
- f) Infrastructure, including liquid fuels and water pipelines, railways, electricity (including renewable energy options) and telecommunications infrastructure.

2.6.11 Social Economic Environment

Identify and describe the socio economic environment of the study area and adjacent areas including but not limited to local townships, population statistics and employment data.

2.6.12 Dust and Air Pollution

Identify and describe any known dust and air pollution issues that presently occur in the study area including but not limited to those associated with agriculture, mining or other activities.

2.6.13 Waste and Hazardous Substances

Identify, map and describe any known occurrence of waste and other hazardous substances within the study area.

3 RELEVANT LIKELY IMPACTS

The function of this section of the PER is to assess the relevant impacts of the proposal addressing all the identified environmental values, land uses and socio economic values. This section must include:

- a) a description of the relevant impacts of the action;
- b) a detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely short term and long term relevant impacts;
- c) analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts;
- d) any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts (reliability of forecasts and predictions, confidence limits and margins of error should be indicated);
- e) risk assessment should be conducted and documented to address potential unknown, unpredictable or irreversible impacts; and
- f) cumulative impacts.

3.1 General Sources of Impacts

Describe the expected impacts of different activities that are likely to be undertaken in a typical training scenario likely to be conducted within the study area.

3.2 Land Systems

Identify and describe the direct and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the topography, vegetation and soils of the study area, including but not limited to:

- a) erosion, disaggregation, sedimentation and compaction of soils;
- b) loss or damage of native vegetation;
- c) introduction or spread of weeds; and
- d) other modifications to the physical landscape.

Identify, describe and map parts of the study area that are at most risk of soil erosion, compaction, vegetation loss or change and weed invasion.

3.3 Surface Water and Hydrology

Identify and describe any direct and cumulative impacts of the action on the surface water and hydrological characteristics within and adjacent to the study area including but not limited to:

- a) health of the habitat of species and communities;
- b) potential impacts of pollution from vehicles, machinery, human waste, live fire and use of munition;
- c) movement and quality of surface and ground water; and

3.4 Conservation Significant Species and Communities

Likely impacts on conservation significant species and communities identified in 2.6.4 must be assessed in detail, and should include but not be limited to:

- a) an assessment of the loss of known and potential habitat for conservation significant species, including the mapping of threatened flora, fauna and communities;
- b) for each of the identified conservation significant species provide a discussion of how the action may directly affect the species in the vicinity of the proposal;
- c) a discussion of cumulative and indirect impacts upon conservation significant species and when potential impacts are in addition to impacts of other existing or planned activities; and
- d) mapping that identifies potential impacts in relation to potential habitat for conservation significant species and communities.

3.5 Exotic Fauna

Identify and describe the potential impacts of the proposed action on exotic fauna within the study area including:

- a) describe potential indirect impacts from any changes in pest species abundance; and
- b) potential impacts on weed abundance following the removal of livestock or control of pest animals.

3.6 Weeds

Identify and describe the impacts of the proposed action on weed species within and adjacent to the study area including:

- a) potential for weed species to be transported from outside the study area including the existing Cultana Training Area;
- b) potential for weeds within the study area to be spread to other areas within the study area; and
- c) potential impacts of military activities on native vegetation cover and how this might accommodate the growth or spread of weed species.

3.7 Heritage

Identify and describe all possible direct and cumulative impacts that could occur to areas and sites with heritage value including:

- a) the impacts of the proposed action on Indigenous values including the continuing practice of traditional beliefs, access to sites;
- b) provide evidence of an understanding of potential impacts to Indigenous heritage values through appropriate consultation;
- c) natural heritage; and
- d) other historical and contemporary heritage values.

3.8 Fire Management

Identify and describe the possible risk and impacts that could result from fire as a result of the proposed action including:

- a) identify and describe the fire risk associated with certain activities;
- b) identify and describe the potential direct and indirect impacts to environmental values of the study area, including species and habitat;
- c) identify and describe the potential impacts of fire and smoke on adjacent land uses; and
- d) describe any planned fire management for the study area.

3.9 Noise and Vibration

Identify and describe the expected impacts of noise and vibration from machinery, vehicles, aircrafts, and the use of live fire and munition within and adjacent to the study area including:

- a) impacts of noise and vibration on people and communities;
- b) impacts of noise and vibrations on native fauna within the study area;
- c) impacts of vibration on heritage sites; and
- d) mapping of expected intensity and location of significant noise and vibration impacts.

3.10 Present and Future Land Uses

Identify and describe the potential impacts of the proposed action on present and future land uses within and adjacent to the study area including:

- a) impacts of unexploded ordnances (UXO) on future activities within the study area;
- b) impacts on public roads and access;
- c) impacts on present and future mining interests including access and transport infrastructure (mining activities can include extractive operations, mineral, petroleum and geothermal exploration and development);
- d) impacts to tourism, education and university activities and interests; and
- e) impacts on infrastructure and access by infrastructure owners for inspection, maintenance and renewal purposes.

3.11 Socio Economic Environment

Identify and describe the potential impacts of the proposed action on the present and future socio economic environment including impacts on employment of surrounding area if proposal goes ahead, impacts on employment following decommissioning of the study area in the future, and positive and negative social impacts on surrounding towns.

3.12 Dust and Air Pollution

Identify and describe the expected impacts of dust and air pollution within the study area and on adjacent areas, including:

- a) impacts of dust on human health and surrounding land uses;
- b) discuss greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and whether or not the changed land use will increase GHG emissions; and
- c) impacts of dust on flora and fauna within and adjacent to the study area.

3.13 Waste and Hazardous Substances

Identify and describe any expected impacts of all waste and hazardous substances within and adjacent to the study area, including but not limited to:

- a) humans waste;
- b) oils and other forms of pollution which may result from vehicles and machinery; and
- c) pollution remaining following the use of live firing, and munition.

4 IMPACTS AVOIDANCE, MITIGATION MEASURES AND OFFSETS

The purpose of this section is to provide a detailed description of how the proposed action will avoid impacts to areas that have been identified as requiring total exclusion through the use of 'NO GO' areas and associated buffers.

4.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally sensitive areas include areas identified as having conservation significant species and communities. Describe the use and effectiveness of 'NO GO' areas as a way to avoid impacts on environmentally sensitive areas including:

- a) identify and map areas of environmental sensitivity that could be zoned as 'NO GO' areas;
- b) map buffers to be placed around areas of environmental significance;
- c) describe the effectiveness of buffer distances used; and
- d) describe measures used to educate and enforce the total exclusion of activities from 'NO GO' areas and associated buffers.

4.2 Heritage

Measures to avoid impact to areas identified as having heritage value should include;

- a) identify and map areas that have heritage value that will be 'NO GO' areas;
- b) map buffers to be placed around areas of Indigenous heritage value; and
- c) describe measures used to educate and enforce the total exclusion of activities from 'NO GO' areas and associated buffers.

4.3 Soils

Discuss the possibilities of using ‘NO GO’ areas to protect areas with fragile soils that require total exclusion from training activities.

4.4 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The purpose of this section is to provide a detailed description of proposed mitigation measures and offsets, and must include:

- a) a consolidated list of mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent, minimise or compensate for the relevant impacts of the action, including mitigation measures proposed to be taken by the state government, local government and the proponent;
- b) a detailed description of the mitigation measures;
- c) any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures;
- d) the estimated annual cost of the mitigation measures where they can be reasonably known or calculated, and how Defence plans to fund these measures;
- e) an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs and their frequencies for the relevant impacts of the action, including provisions for independent environmental auditing;
- f) identification of any knowledge gaps that exist, the risks attached to these gaps and how they will be managed; and
- g) evidence that the proposed mitigation measures and offsets will be effective including the results of studies that have been used to test and demonstrate the techniques proposed, or if no such evidence exists, further information or more detailed argument must be provided. This information must include but not be limited to:

Value	Mitigation measures
Land Systems	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures to protect soil and vegetation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of ‘erosion and sediment control plan’• methods to manage high impact areas such as systematic rest, rotation, rehabilitation processes and sacrificial techniques• discuss the parameters that will be used to measure soil and vegetation damage• discussion of response trigger values for rehabilitation <p>describe long term monitoring to assess changes in soil and vegetation condition and coverage over time.</p>
Surface Water	Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to protect surface water

and Hydrology	<p>and hydrological values including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration of water management considerations into relevant environmental management documentation • discuss the validity of measuring the health of surface and ground water • describe any long-term monitoring considered relevant to demonstrating no adverse impacts of Defence activities on water health over time.
Conservation significant Species and Communities	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to protect and manage conservation significant species and communities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the parameters that will be used to measure impacts to conservation significant species and their known habitats • evidence of long term monitoring of species to measure occurrence, abundance and habitat condition over time • description of how conservation significant species and habitat important for their survival will be protected from any actions that will occur within the study area
Exotic Fauna	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to manage exotic fauna, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methods used to manage and control exotic fauna • monitoring regime
Weeds	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to manage weeds, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initial management of weeds that may need to be more intense following the initial removal of livestock from the study area • ongoing measures that will be used to control weeds and to avoid their spread within the study area • measures that will be taken to avoid the transport and introduction of weeds into the study area
Heritage	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to manage impacts to</p>

	<p>areas and sites of heritage value, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the use of ‘NO GO’ areas for sites of Indigenous heritage value • evidence that access arrangements are to the satisfaction of relevant Indigenous groups • describe how impacts to areas of heritage value will be minimised or avoided • describe the suitability of activities in areas with natural and historical heritage value
Fire Management	<p>Supply evidence of mitigation measures that will be used to manage fire within the study area including the use of a ‘fire management plan’.</p> <p>The ‘fire management plan’ needs to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire suppression and risk • the use of fire as a tool to manage biodiversity
Present and Future Land Uses	<p>Supply evidence of how present and future land uses within the study area will be managed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access and use of existing mining activities • discuss the possibility of mining activities being able to continue operating during proposed action • evidence of how UXO will be managed while the Defence lease is active and following decommissioning of the study area. • public roads and other access matters • access by infrastructure owners to carry out inspections, maintenance and renewal • access by other users, such as University research facilities and recreational users
Socio Economic Environment	<p>Describe measures to be implemented to manage impacts on people and communities.</p>
Noise and	<p>Discuss all measures in place to mitigate the impacts of noise and vibrations within</p>

Vibration	<p>and adjacent to the study area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of the types of major exercises likely to involve significant aircraft movements including the frequency, intensity and duration of those exercises • measures to minimise impacts to ground fauna and birds within and adjacent to the study area • measures in place to avoid significant noise and vibration impacts to adjacent land users and communities • consultation to be undertaken with adjacent land users and communities, and measures in place to deal with complaints
Dust and Air Pollution	Describe mitigation measures that will be used to manage the impacts of dust and air pollution.
Waste and Hazardous Substances	<p>Describe mitigation measures that will be used to manage the impacts of all waste and hazardous substances, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measures to reduce the chance of waste and hazardous substances from being released into the natural environment • plans in place to deal with the release of waste and hazardous substances, should they occur • identify how waste and hazardous substances will be stored within the study area

4.5 Rehabilitation and Reinstatement

This section should identify the procedure that Defence would implement to undertake rehabilitation and reinstatement of the study area on completion of the 100 year lease from the State.

4.6 Awareness, Responsibility and Enforcement of Environmental Management

This section should identify all matters related to the education and enforcement of mitigation measures that are in place to protect the environmental values of the study area, including:

- a) who is responsible for informing defence personnel on the location of 'NO GO' areas and other areas with limited access.
- b) who is responsible for implementing and enforcing mitigation measures including adherence to 'NO GO' areas and other restricted locations.
- c) relationship between Defence environmental officers and other defence staff.

- d) training and awareness programs to educate all persons entering the study area on their responsibilities to avoid negative environmental impacts
- e) use of an overarching plan that will identify all procedure and responsibilities

4.7 Monitoring and Reporting

This section of the PER must:

- a) outline the environmental impacts to be monitored and frequency of monitoring;
- b) identify species of high conservation significance that could potentially be monitored that are most likely to be affected by the proposal.
- c) what indicators could be used to identify the ecological health of the study area, including:
 - a. vegetation cover/health
 - b. water quality
 - c. soil condition
 - d. indicator species occurrence and abundance
- d) identify any baseline monitoring that may be required before the proposal is commenced;
- e) identify the parameters that could potentially to be monitored, and their response trigger values and response activities, along with procedural and compliance audit programs and reporting requirements and arrangements to be implemented;
- f) outline the procedure in which the Environment Minister would receive information regarding environmental monitoring and management, including unexpected events that would require his attention; and
- g) identify options of reporting the state of the environment of the study area over time, and placing data on website for public access.

Information on potential monitoring programs should include details of measures for:

- h) detecting and documenting differences between predicted and actual impacts;
- i) identifying non-predicted impacts and for implementing appropriate reporting and remedial procedures;
- j) applying contingency arrangements; and
- k) reviewing the effectiveness of monitoring and management arrangements.

Information on possible responsive actions should also include details of measures to:

- l) identify responsive actions to correct and reverse any species declines for species identified in 4.7(b);
- m) identify thresholds in terms of conservation significant species population declines and the timing of the implementation of responsive actions.

ATTACHMENT 1

Schedule 4 Matters to be addressed by draft public environment report and environmental impact statement (regulation 5.04)

1 General information

- 1.01 The background of the action including:
- (a) the title of the action;
 - (b) the full name and postal address of the designated proponent;
 - (c) a clear outline of the objective of the action;
 - (d) the location of the action;
 - (e) the background to the development of the action;
 - (f) how the action relates to any other actions (of which the proponent should reasonably be aware) that have been, or are being, taken or that have been approved in the region affected by the action;
 - (g) the current status of the action;
 - (h) the consequences of not proceeding with the action.

2 Description

- 2.01 A description of the action, including:
- (a) all the components of the action;
 - (b) the precise location of any works to be undertaken, structures to be built or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts;
 - (c) how the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts;
 - (d) relevant impacts of the action;
 - (e) proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action;
 - (f) any other requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the proposed action;
 - (g) to the extent reasonably practicable, any feasible alternatives to the action, including:
 - (i) if relevant, the alternative of taking no action;
 - (ii) a comparative description of the impacts of each alternative on the matters protected by the controlling provisions for the action;
 - (iii) sufficient detail to make clear why any alternative is preferred to another;
 - (h) any consultation about the action, including:
 - (i) any consultation that has already taken place;
 - (ii) proposed consultation about relevant impacts of the action;
 - (iii) if there has been consultation about the proposed action — any documented response to, or result of, the consultation;

- (i) identification of affected parties, including a statement mentioning any communities that may be affected and describing their views.

3 Relevant impacts

3.01 Information given under paragraph 2.01 (d) must include:

- (a) a description of the relevant impacts of the action;
- (b) a detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely short term and long term relevant impacts;
- (c) a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;
- (d) analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts;
- (e) any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

4 Proposed safeguards and mitigation measures

4.01 Information given under paragraph 2.01 (e) must include:

- (a) a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of, the mitigation measures;
- (b) any statutory or policy basis for the mitigation measures;
- (c) the cost of the mitigation measures;
- (d) an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;
- (e) the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program;
- (f) a consolidated list of mitigation measures proposed to be undertaken to prevent, minimise or compensate for the relevant impacts of the action, including mitigation measures proposed to be taken by State governments, local governments or the proponent.

5 Other approvals and conditions

5.01 Information given under paragraph 2.01 (f) must include:

- (a) details of any local or State government planning scheme, or plan or policy under any local or State government planning system that deals with the proposed action, including:
 - (i) what environmental assessment of the proposed action has been, or is being, carried out under the scheme, plan or policy;
 - (ii) how the scheme provides for the prevention, minimisation and management of any relevant impacts;
- (b) a description of any approval that has been obtained from a State, Territory or Commonwealth agency or authority (other than an approval under the Act), including any conditions that apply to the action;
- (c) a statement identifying any additional approval that is required;
- (d) a description of the monitoring, enforcement and review procedures that apply, or are proposed to apply, to the action.

6 Environmental record of person proposing to take the action

- 6.01 Details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against:
- (a) the person proposing to take the action; and
 - (b) for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application.
- 6.02 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation — details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

7 Information sources

- 7.01 For information given in a draft public environment report or environmental impact statement, the draft must state:
- (a) the source of the information; and
 - (b) how recent the information is; and
 - (c) how the reliability of the information was tested; and
 - (d) what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

The objects and principles of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Sections 3 and 3A)

Section 3. Objects of the Act

The objects of the Act are:

- (a) to provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- (b) to promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- (c) to promote the conservation of biodiversity;
- (ca) to provide for the protection and conservation of heritage;
- (d) to promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- (e) to assist in the co-operative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- (f) to recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity;
- (g) to promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge.

Section 3A. Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development

The following principles are principles of ecologically sustainable development:

- (a) decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations;
- (b) if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- (c) the principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- (d) the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making;
- (e) improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.