

Guideline

Wildlife management

Developing a species management program

This document has been developed by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) and describes the minimum requirements for the development of a species management program to meet the requirements of an 'approved species management program' under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006.

Introduction

In Queensland, community concern for the conservation of native animals has led to the adoption of legislation designed to protect native wildlife including its breeding places. Accordingly where a planned activity would impact on the breeding place of a native animal a planning process is required to avert or mitigate the impact.

The Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 prohibits tampering with a native animal breeding place except under specific conditions which include the activity being part of an approved species management program (SMP).

The purpose of an SMP is to:

- Assess the threats to native animal breeding places resulting from a planned activity.
- Incorporate management actions that will avoid or minimise both the immediate and the long term impact of the activity on the species population and its habitat.
- Set monitoring and reporting requirements that demonstrate the management actions in the SMP are effectively implemented and produce the intended results.

This document provides guidance on how to develop an SMP and the minimum information requirements that it should contain.

General information

For any activity that will impact on breeding places of extinct in the wild, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened or least concern animals, a Species Management Program (SMP) for that species will be required. Animal breeding places include obvious structures such as bird nests and tree hollows, as well as more cryptic places such as frog or reptile habitat where breeding takes place.

If a group of animals will be affected in a similar manner and mitigation measures will be the same for all the species in the group i.e. frogs or skinks, then a single SMP can be written for the group.

Where activities involving the tampering with animal breeding places are consistently undertaken by an entity as part of its business, a longer term SMP may be approved, to allow tampering at multiple sites over time.

Special considerations apply to the disturbance of koala habitat in south east Queensland. See the South East Queensland Koala Conservation State Planning Regulatory Provision, the State Planning Policy 2/10: Koala Conservation in South East Queensland and the Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006. Contact EHP for further advice.

Where activities are expected, after appropriate site assessment, to only impact on the breeding places of least concern animals (with the exception of special least concern and colonial breeding animals), EHP may elect to approve a standard SMP for the activity. Standard, or generic, SMPs may be developed by EHP and offered to clients where EHP considers it appropriate. Clients may elect to accept the standard SMP, or develop their own for approval.

Definitions:

approved species management program - a program about managing the population and habitat of the species of animal that is approved by the chief executive.

animal means any member of the animal kingdom (other than human), (whether alive or dead), and includes—

(a) any—

(i) amphibian; or

(ii) bird; or

(iii) coral; or

(iv) fish; or

(v) invertebrate; or

(vi) mammal; or

(vii) reptile; and

(b) the whole or any part of—

(i) the progeny, larvae, pupae, eggs or genetic or reproductive material of an animal; and

- (ii) the carcass or another part of an animal.

animal breeding place - a bower, burrow, cave, hollow, nest or other thing that is commonly used by the animal to incubate or rear the animal's offspring.

protected animal means an animal that is prescribed under this Act as threatened, rare, near threatened or least concern wildlife, but does not include a processed product that—

- (a) is made or derived from a protected animal; and
- (b) is declared under a regulation or conservation plan for the protected animal to be a processed product that is not included in this definition.

special least concern animal means the following—

- (a) the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*);
- (b) the echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*);
- (c) the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*);
- (d) a least concern bird to which any of the following apply—
 - (i) the agreement called 'Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment' and signed at Tokyo on 6 February 1974;
 - (ii) the agreement called 'Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment' and signed at Canberra on 20 October 1986;
 - (iii) the convention called 'Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals' and signed at Bonn on 23 June 1979.2

suitably qualified and experienced means—

A person with formal qualifications and/or experience in fauna identification and life ecology and environmental management. A person is considered to be suitably qualified and experienced if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- An ecological consultant with experience in conducting fauna surveys;
- A person who possesses a degree in natural science or similar with experience in conducting fauna surveys;
- A person who is a spotter-catcher under a rehabilitation permit issued under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;

- A person who can demonstrate significant experience in the removal of trees and spotting for wildlife to ensure they are not harmed during vegetation clearing.

tamper with an animal breeding place means damage, destroy, mark, move or dig up the breeding place.

In order to demonstrate that tampering could not have been reasonably avoided the following best practice management must be followed and documented.

SMP requirements

Refer table below.

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Item	Information required	Notes
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Scope

1. Applicant	Provide applicant's legal name, ACN/ABN if applicable, registered address, contact details.	
2. Organisational Summary	Provide a summary of the applicant organisation, including its objectives and scope of activities.	
3. Activity	Outline the activities that will occur for which this approval is required, including, if applicable, the authority by which the activities are undertaken.	Authorities may include licences, permits etc. granted under other regulations.
4. Applicable species	Describe the species or classes of wildlife to which the program applies.	Particular considerations apply to koalas in SEQ. Early consultation with EHP is recommended for these species.

Terms

1. Term of Approval	State for what period you wish the SMP to remain valid.	The term must be relevant to the activity being undertaken and allow for a periodic review of the program. Maximum term is 3 years.
2. Approved parties	List the parties that are to be approved to operate under the program.	e.g. contractors, agents, subsidiaries

Impacts

1. Impacts	Describe how the activity may impact on animal breeding places, including how particular species of concern may be	<ul style="list-style-type: none">temporary disturbance
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<i>Item</i>	<i>Information required</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	impacted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • destruction of breeding structure • destruction of breeding habitat • impacts on local or regional population of the species • impacts on the State wide population of the species
2. Assessment	Outline the methods of assessment and analysis and research undertaken to evaluate the potential impacts of activities on animal breeding places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIS • WildNet records • museum records • essential habitat mapping • pre-clearing site survey

Management

1. Management Actions	Outline the proposed actions to be taken to manage the impacts of activities on animal breeding places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoidance (through design phase) • avoidance (during clearing) • avoidance (adaptive management) • retention of 'habitat' trees • consideration of seasonal factors • sequential clearing • rehabilitation of habitat • replacement/translocation of breeding structure • include in off-setting plan (where otherwise required) • dealing with injured wildlife, dependent young, eggs
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Item	Information required	Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spotter-catchers• staff training/procedures• measures to avoid impacts on other wildlife
2. Responsibilities	Identify who in the organisation is responsible for ensuring that each action is carried out in accordance with the program.	
3. Qualified persons	Identify areas of the program that will require specialist or qualified people to undertake activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• experienced fauna surveyors• licensed spotter-catchers• licensed wildlife carers• veterinarian
4. Contingency planning	Outline a process to be followed in the event of unexpected impacts on other protected wildlife.	

Monitoring

1. Establishing pre-clearing condition	Detail how baseline data was/will be collected to allow assessment of success of SMP.	
2. Post-clearing monitoring	Detail proposed monitoring to evaluate success of management strategies. Specify the period over which monitoring is to occur.	

Reporting

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<i>Item</i>	<i>Information required</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1. Reporting	Outline the proposed reporting regime that will allow EHP to evaluate impacts on species and success or otherwise of management strategies.	

Miscellaneous

1. Legislative framework	Detail any legislation relevant to the operation of the SMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State and Commonwealth nature conservation legislation• legislation relating to the operation of the applicant's business relevant to the SMP
2. Definitions/Glossary	Descriptions of meanings within the document	
3. Contact details	Provide contact details, including at a local/regional level if applicable. EHP will provide relevant contact details for EHP officers.	
4. References	List references used in development of SMP, including consultation with experts.	

MALLOUHI Jodie

From: Environment <Environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2015 4:09 PM
To: DLO EHP
Subject: FW: Land Clearing letter - CC copy for Minister Miles [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Hunt to Lynham.pdf

From: Prislán, Heidi [<mailto:Heidi.Prislán@environment.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2015 2:38 PM
To: Martin Carr
Subject: Land Clearing letter - CC copy for Minister Miles [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon Martin

Please find attached a letter from Minister Hunt to Minister Lyneham, requesting that Minister Miles receive a copy.

Hard copy will follow in the post.

Kind regards Heidi

Heidi Prislán
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP | Minister for the Environment
Ph: 02 6277 7920 | [sch4p4\(6\) Perso](#)
Heidi.Prislán@environment.gov.au | Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

07 MAY 2015

PDR: MC15-018171

The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development, Natural Resources, and Mines
GPO Box 15216
BRISBANE QLD 4002

Dear Minister

I have had the following matters raised with me regarding land clearing on five projects:

- s.73 [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Kingvale & Olive Vale-Fairview Stations (Laura region)
- s.73 [REDACTED]

As land clearing is a matter for state governments, and this is a state process, I would be grateful if you could indicate whether the state accepts the current proposal or, if not, whether any action is proposed.

In addition, I have also asked my Department to indicate whether any matters of national environmental significance arise and whether there are any breaches of the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

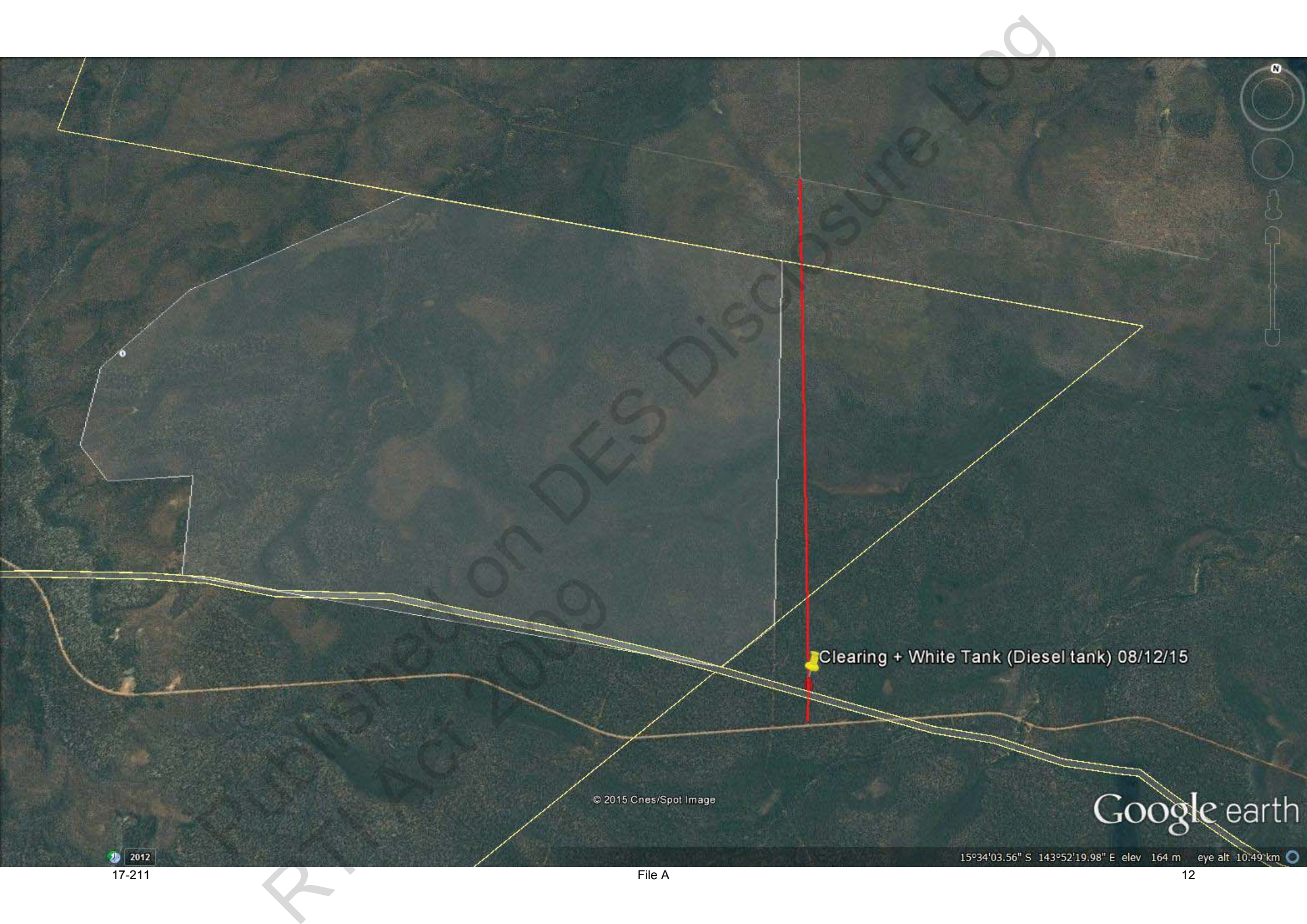
I would be grateful for a reply as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

cc. Minister Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, GPO Box 2454 BRISBANE QLD, 4001





Clearing + White Tank (Diesel tank) 08/12/15

© 2015 Cnes/Spot Image

Google earth

2012
17-211

15°34'03.56" S 143°52'19.98" E elev 164 m eye alt 10.49 km

File A

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