

Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for Southern Cross Goldfields King Brown Project Area



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Executive Summary

Southern Cross Goldfields is seeking to develop a gold mining operation at its King Brown project area, which is approximately 125km north north-east of Southern Cross. The development of a new mine requires the clearing of about 7ha of native vegetation and the construction of mining infrastructure. The project area that was assessed was approximately 335ha.

The central section of the project area was mostly flat, tall, open Eucalypt woodland over an understorey of shrubs. On either side of the central flat area are two stony hills that are vegetated with shrubs and scattered small trees. Earlier mining activity was evident on the southern central section of the assessed area.

A preliminary search was undertaken for short range endemic (SRE) invertebrates. Two spiders and a scorpion were located. These specimens were vouchered with the Western Australian Museum. A report is anticipated early in 2011.

Mining developments nearby in similar habitat have provided sufficient fauna survey data for similar habitats to the proposed mine site, that an on-ground fauna survey is not required.

The project area, with the exception for a small section on the southern boundary, was assessed as good quality fauna habitat. Clearing native vegetation is likely to result in the loss of small vertebrate fauna on site that are unable to move away during the clearing process. The few larger animals, such as kangaroos, and most of the birds will move into adjacent areas once clearing commences. Shifting animals into adjacent areas will increase the pressure on resources in those areas and it is likely that there will be some disruption to the ecosystems in these areas for a period of time until a balance is restored.

There is a possibility that Crested Bellbirds (*Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis*) and Peregrine Falcons (*F. peregrinus*) may infrequently be found in the vicinity of the project area. It is more probable that the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) will be seen in the area during late spring and summer and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) all year around. These birds will move to adjacent areas once vegetation clearing commences. This might result in a period of instability in these assemblages until new territories are resolved for the sedentary species. There is a low possibility that the project area supports a very small number of Carpet Pythons (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) and Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*).

Clearing of about 7ha of vegetation in the project area is likely to have a low impact on the fauna assemblage in the bioregion. It is unlikely that any threatened fauna will be significantly impacted by the proposed vegetation clearing and construction of a mine. To minimise this impact the following recommendations are made:

- an induction program that includes a component on managing fauna to be mandatory for employment on the King Brown Project;
- where possible, access routes are to be aligned to existing roads, tracks and other barriers or follow the boundaries of broad-scale vegetation associations in the area;
- vehicle speed be limited to 80km/hr on mine roads;
- all areas disturbed during exploration or construction of the mine are rehabilitated immediately after they are no longer required;
- a rehabilitation plan is prepared for existing and proposed disturbance areas and is progressively implemented when the land is no longer required for mining operations;
- consideration be given to locating the proposed waste dumps against the stony hill to avoid the creation of a hill that may be difficult to rehabilitate in the flat central area;
- pets are not to be permitted on site; and
- a log of all on-site drill holes to be maintained detailing when they were capped, how and by whom.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd is seeking to develop a gold mining operation at its King Brown project area, which is approximately 125km north north-east of Southern Cross (Figure 1). The development of a new mine at King Brown will require the clearing of vegetation and construction of mining infrastructure. Southern Cross is in the Shire of Yilgarn and is approximately 370km east of Perth.

1.2 Project Objectives and Scope of Works

Terrestrial Ecosystems was commissioned by Southern Cross Goldfields Ltd to undertake a Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment to support a native vegetation clearing permit application. The purpose of this Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment was to provide information to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) to enable it to assess the potential impact of mining activity on the vertebrate fauna assemblage in the project area. The methodology broadly follows that described in the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Position Statement No. 3: Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection (EPA 2002), Guidance Statement No. 56: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (EPA 2004) and the EPA/Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Technical Guide – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA / DEC 2010).

A Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment involves undertaking a desktop review and brief site inspection. The objectives of this fauna risk assessment were to:

- provide an indication of the vertebrate fauna assemblage (reptile, small mammal and bird) on and in the vicinity of the project area so that potential impacts on the fauna and fauna assemblage might be adequately assessed;
- provide a preliminary indication of any short range endemic invertebrate fauna of interest to the DMP/DEC/EPA in the project area so that potential impacts on the fauna and fauna assemblage might be adequately assessed;
- identify the presence and/or potential risk of impact on species of conservation significance that are present or likely to be present in the project area;
- assess the impact and environmental risks associated with the proposed development on the fauna assemblage;
- determine if any additional surveys are required to assess the potential impact on fauna assemblages in the project area, in particular, impacts on species of conservation significance; and
- make recommendations that mitigate or minimise potential impacts on resident fauna.

To achieve these objectives, Terrestrial Ecosystems:

- reviewed Terrestrial Ecosystems' database [includes Western Australian Museum (WAM) and DEC records] to identify potential vertebrate fauna within the area;
- searched the DEC's NatureMap for the IBRA subregion for Threatened and Priority Species;
- searched the Commonwealth Governments database of fauna of national environmental significance to identify species potentially occurring within the area that are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act 1999)* or international migratory bird agreements (JAMBA/CAMBA);
- reviewed previous fauna surveys conducted in the region;
- undertook a one-day site investigation to identify available fauna habitat types and condition;
- undertook a preliminary site investigation for short range endemic invertebrates;
- undertook an assessment of the potential risks to the fauna associated with clearing additional areas of native vegetation;
- discussed the likelihood of *EPBC Act 1999* and Western Australian (WA) *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* listed species being present in the project area; and

- provided management recommendations to minimise potential impacts on the fauna in the project area.

This fauna assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) *Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection Position Statement No. 3* (EPA 2002).

2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND FAUNA SURVEY DATA

2.1 Survey Area

The King Brown project area is approximately 125km north north-west of Southern Cross. The area assessed was approximately 335ha and is shown in Figure 2. However, Southern Cross Goldfields only plan to develop a pit of approximately 2ha and waste dumps of 3.2ha (Figure 2). The whole area was assessed to cover possible future mine expansions within existing tenements.

Southern Cross Goldfields proposed King Brown mine is located in the Coolgardie (COO2 – Southern Cross) IBRA subregion.

2.2 Climate

Plate 1 shows the average mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures and rainfall for Southern Cross, the closest weather station. Temperatures are highest in December – February. Most rain comes in mid winter. Winter rain is the result of low pressure cells that move in an easterly direction from the south-west of the state, whereas, summer rain is often from thunderstorms that move in from either the west or the north-west.

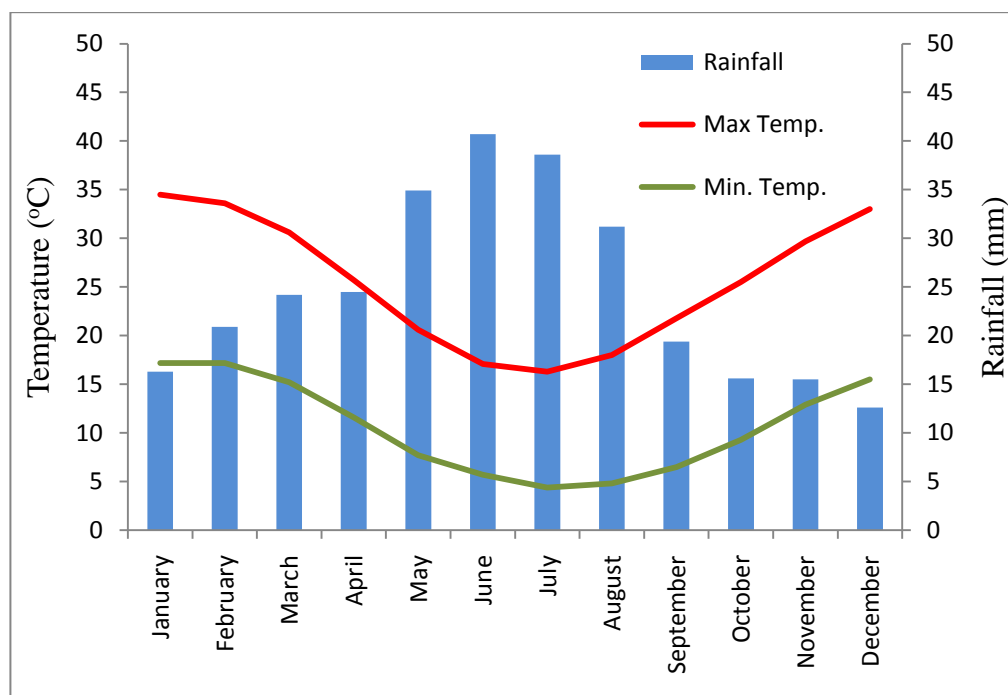


PLATE 1. MEAN MONTHLY MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL FOR SOUTHERN CROSS

2.3 Landforms and Vegetation

The Coolgardie IBRA Southern Cross subregion consists of gently undulating uplands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone (Cowan et al. 2002). The bioregion supports diverse Eucalypt woodlands (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *E. longicornis*) that are rich in endemics. The subregion contains many playa salt lakes that only contain water after a major rainfall event. Salt lakes are mostly surrounded by a shrubland of low samphire. Mallees (*Eucalypts leptopoda*, *E. platycorpyx*, *E. scyphocalyx*) are often found on the small rises and upland areas.

2.4 Land Use

The dominant land uses are cereal cropping, grazing, crown reserves and mining. Mining is evident in many areas around Southern Cross, with numerous small abandoned mines and open shafts dotting the Yilgarn landscape. Many of the larger trees in the bioregion were removed decades ago to support the mining and power generation industries and these trees have often not been replaced.

The project area has been subject to exploration activity. There are parallel exploration tracks and drilling holes across some of the site. There are obvious signs of earlier mining activity on the southern boundary of the area assessed.

2.5 Previous Biological Surveys in the Region

The frogs, reptiles, mammals and birds in the Southern Cross IBRA subregion have been previously surveyed. Surveys in the vicinity of the project area which have been reviewed as part of this assessment include:

- Bamford Consulting Ecologists and Metcalf, B. (2005) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project: Fauna Studies*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- Bamford et al. (2006) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project Report on the 2004/2005 Fauna Surveys*. Unpublished reports for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- Bungalbin Fraser (data provided privately to Terrestrial Ecosystems)
- Burbidge A.A., Fuller, P.J. and McKenzie, N.L. (1995) Vertebrate fauna. In: The Biological Survey of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, Part 12 Barlee-Menzies Study Area. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*, Supplement 49, 208-245.
- Dell J and How RA (1985) Vertebrate fauna. In: The Biological Survey of the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia Part 3; Jackson - Kalgoorlie. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*; Supplement No 23, 39-66.
- Dickman, C.R., Henry-Hall, N.J., Lloyd, H. and Romanow, K.A. (1991) A survey of the terrestrial vertebrate fauna of Mount Walton, western goldfields, Western Australia. *Western Australian Naturalist*, 18, 200-206.
- Ecologia Environmental (2003) *Koolyanobbing Expansion Project - Transport Corridor Fauna Assessment Survey*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- Ecologia Environmental Consultants (2001) *Koolyanobbing Expansion Project - Fauna Assessment Survey*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd.
- Lyons MN and Chapman A (1997) *A Biological Survey of the Helena and Aurora Range; Eastern Goldfields Western Australia*. Unpublished report for Environment Australia; Canberra.
- Metcalf, B and Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2007) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project Fauna Monitoring 2004 / 2006*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- Metcalf, B and Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2008) *Windarling/Mt Jackson Project*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2008a) *Interim Report on the first field survey of the Carina Prospect, Yilgarn Iron Ore Project*. Unpublished report for Polaris Metals NL, Perth.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2008b) *Interim report on the first field survey of the Chamaeleon Prospect, Yilgarn Iron Ore Project*. Unpublished report for Polaris Metals NL, Perth.
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2009) *A Fauna Survey of the Carina Prospects; Yilgarn Iron Ore Project*. Unpublished report for Polaris Metals NL, Perth.

The Windarling - Mt Jackson project area is to the north and south of the King Brown project area, the Barlee-Menzies and Jackson-Kalgoorlie survey data collected by the WAM, are to the north and the east, the Koolyanobbing fauna survey data are to the north and south-east and the Carina and Chamaeleon fauna survey data are to the east of the project area. The location of survey sites associated with these fauna surveys are shown in Plate 2.

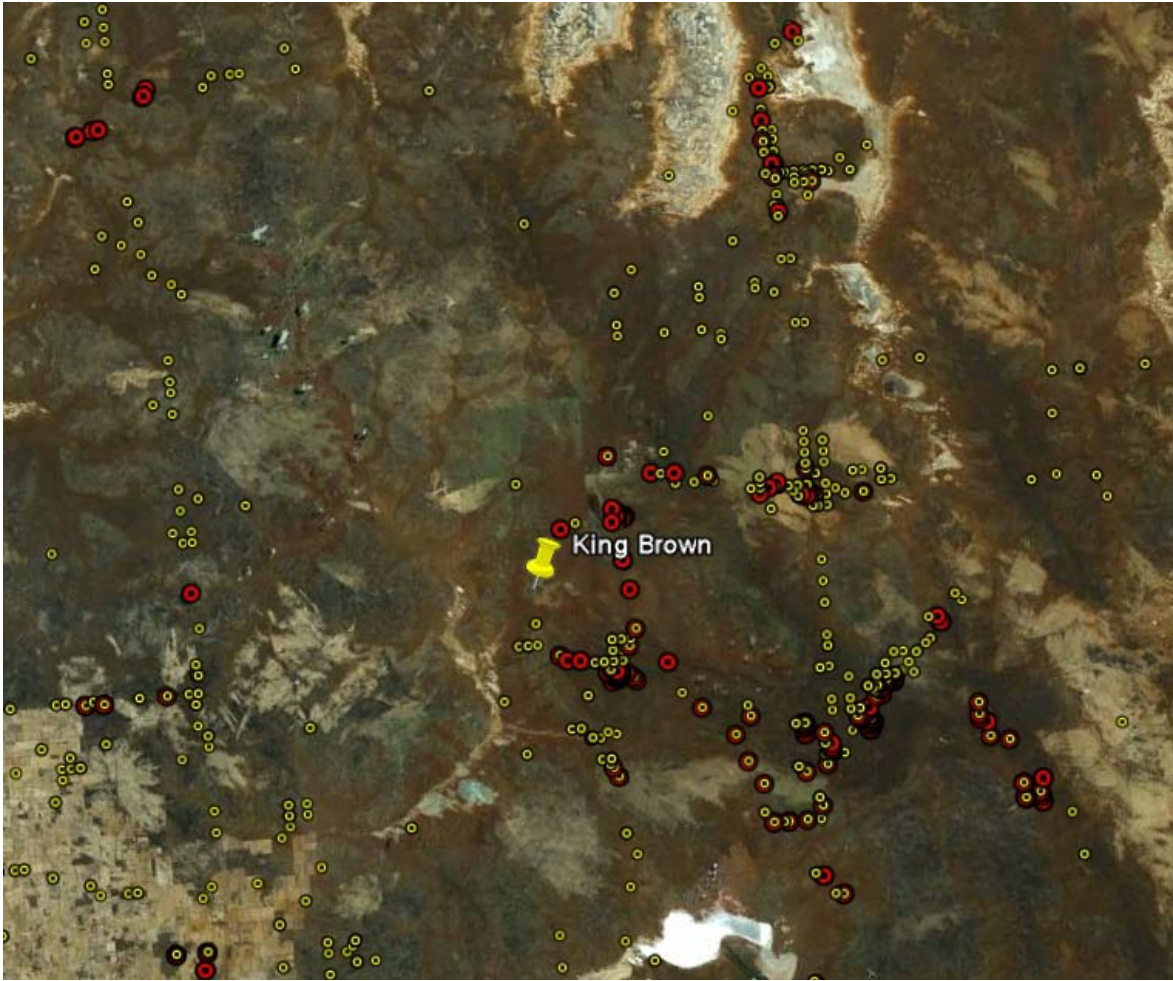


PLATE 2. TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS' FAUNA DATABASE SEARCH AREA

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The assessment methodology adopted is aligned with the EPA's Guidance Statement No. 56 (EPA 2004), Position Statement No. 3 (EPA 2002) and the recently released Technical Guide on terrestrial fauna assessments (EPA/DEC 2010). A review of Guidance Statement No. 56 showed that based on the available information and proposed level of disturbance, a Level 1 fauna risk assessment was adequate. A Level 1 assessment includes a desktop assessment and a site inspection of the project area.

3.1 Database Searches

A search of Terrestrial Ecosystems Fauna Survey database was undertaken to develop a list of bird, reptile, mammal and amphibians that have been recorded in the vicinity of the project area (Plate 2). Large database search areas are necessary for this region as limited data are often available for the specific habitat types.

A search of the DEC's Threatened Fauna database was undertaken via accessing information in NatureMap. A search of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) *EPBC Act 1999* online database was also undertaken and was centred on the project area to identify species of national conservation interest.

Other more general texts were also used to provide supplementary information on vertebrates in the bioregion, including Tyler *et al.* (2000) for frogs; Storr *et al.* (1983, 1990, 1999, 2002) and Thompson and Thompson (2006) for reptiles; Johnstone and Storr (1998, 2004) for birds; and Van Dyck and Strahan (2008) for mammals.

Collectively these sources of information were used to create lists of species expected to utilise the project area and broader bioregion. It should be noted that these lists will include species that have been recorded in the general region but are possibly vagrants and they will not generally be found in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat (e.g. water birds). Vagrants can be recorded almost anywhere. Many of the bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species have specific habitat requirements that may be present in the general area but not in the specific survey area. Also, the ecology of many of these species is often not well understood and it can sometimes be difficult to indicate those species whose specific habitat requirements are not present in the survey area. As a consequence many species will be included in the lists produced from database searches but will not be present in the actual project area.

3.2 Site Assessment

A field assessment was undertaken on 18 December 2010. Conditions were suitable for the assessment as the weather was fine, although it was mostly overcast. All habitat types in the project area were visited. The risk of impacting on conservation significant fauna has been determined based on the presence of suitable habitat types, taking into account its condition, vegetation structure, soil types, time since fire, landform, and the biological and ecological knowledge for each species.

3.3 Short Range Endemic Searches

A meeting with Dr Mark Harvey from the Western Australian Museum (WAM) indicated that short range endemic (SRE) invertebrates of interest in the Goldfields area included mygalomorph spiders, scorpions, terrestrial snails, millipedes and pseudoscorpions. During the site visit, time was allocated to search different habitats and areas for these SRE invertebrates. This was a preliminary search of the project area.

3.4 Vouchering Specimens

Spiders and a scorpion were vouchered with the Western Australian Museum.

3.5 Survey and Reporting Staff

The field assessment was undertaken by Dr Graham Thompson and Dr Tony Pusey and the report was written by Dr G. Thompson. Dr Scott Thompson reviewed to report. The lead scientist for this assessment has appropriate post-graduate qualifications and numerous years of relevant field experience and is therefore appropriately trained and experienced for this task.

3.6 Limitations

This terrestrial fauna assessment of the survey area is based on a site visit, information contained in the Commonwealth Government database and other published and unpublished fauna survey data for the bioregion. It is acknowledged that multiple surveys conducted in different seasons, repeated over several years are necessary to fully appreciate the fauna assemblage in the project area; however, in this circumstance it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' opinion that adequate data were available to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the terrestrial vertebrate fauna.

The *Guidance for Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56* (EPA 2004) suggested that fauna surveys may be limited by many variables. Limitations associated with each of these variables are assessed in Table 1.

TABLE 1. FAUNA SURVEY LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

Possible limitations	Constraint (yes/no); significant, moderate or negligible	Comment
Competency and experience of the consultant carrying out the survey	No	The scientists who prepared the report and conducted the field assessment are familiar with terrestrial fauna in the region and terrestrial fauna risk assessments.
Scope	No	All aspects of the scope of works have been addressed.
Proportion of fauna identified, recorded and/or collected	No	Not applicable.
Accuracy of previous survey work	Yes, negligible	Terrestrial Ecosystems' has reported fauna survey data recorded by various authors, but is not in a position to vouch for the accuracy of this information. It is acknowledged that the taxonomy of Western Australian vertebrates is continually being revised and the nomenclature of some of the species listed in the appendices may have changed since publication by the authors.
Sources of information	Yes, negligible	Vertebrate fauna information was available from an on-line database and unpublished and published reports of surveys conducted in the bioregion in a variety of habitat types. Many of these surveys employed a low level of trapping effort which significantly impacts on the capacity of these data to represent the fauna assemblages in the areas surveyed.
Proportion of the task achieved	No	All tasks completed.
Timing/weather/season/ cycle	No	Weather was fine and the timing of the assessment was appropriate for the task.
Disturbances which affected results of the survey	Yes, negligible	The project area has been partially degraded by earlier exploration activity. This disturbance has been factored into the assessment.
Intensity of survey effort	No	The intensity of the on-ground assessment was proportional to the potential scale of impact and knowledge of fauna and fauna assemblages in the area.
Completeness	No	All areas were adequately investigated.
Resources	No	Adequate resources were available.
Remoteness and/or access problems	No	Access was not a problem.
Availability of contextual information on the region	No	Terrestrial Ecosystems fauna database, <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> database and other surveys in the broader region were available. NatureMap had no conservation significant species recorded for the Southern Cross IBRA subregion which is clearly an error.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Fauna Habitats

Plates 3a-h provide a visual indication of the varying fauna habitat types found in the project area. The central section of the project area was mostly flat (Plates 3c-f) and vegetated with a tall open Eucalypt woodland over an understorey of shrubs. On either side of the central flat area are two stony hills that are vegetated with shrubs and scattered small trees (Plates 4g-h). Some sections in the central flat area around the base of large trees and shrubs contained a ground cover of leaf litter (Plates 3e-f), in other sections the ground was mostly bare. Earlier mining activity was evident on the southern central section (Plates 3a-b). This area contained a mining shaft, low waste dumps and access tracks. Grid lines and drill holes were evident in other sections of the assessed area.

The stony hill in the eastern section of the assessed area runs from the north-west to the south-east and is approximately 2.5km long and 0.5km wide. The stony hill on the western side of the assessed area is approximately 1.0km by 0.6km. These are the only stony small hills in the immediate vicinity, but other similar hills are evident within a 50km radius. The flat, open Eucalypt woodland is relatively abundant in the adjacent areas. South and south-east of the eastern stony hill is a salt lake that was dry during the visit. This is surrounded by low samphire vegetation. The proposed vegetation clearing for mining activity will not impact on this salt lake.

4.2 Short Range Endemic Invertebrates

A preliminary search was undertaken for SRE invertebrates. Two spiders and a scorpion were located. One spider was in a burrow (Plate 4a), another was under leaf litter and the scorpion was dug from a hole in the ground that looked too large to have been dug by the scorpion. These specimens were vouchered with the WAM. A report is anticipated early in 2011.

4.3 Fauna Habitat Quality

The small section of habitat showing signs of prior mining activity on the southern boundary is mostly devoid of vegetation and of little ecological value. Most of the remaining area was in good condition and is likely to support an undisturbed natural fauna assemblage. The exploration grid lines appear to have had a minimal impact on the habitat from a fauna perspective.

4.4 Fauna Habitat Value

The relatively flat undisturbed areas of 'good fauna habitat' in the King Brown project area are plentiful in adjacent areas. The stony hills vegetated with shrubs and small trees are also present outside the King Brown project area. As a consequence, the King Brown project area is not a high value fauna habitat, however, as much of this type of habitat to the west has been cleared for farming over the last century, further loss should be minimised.

4.5 Bioregional Vertebrate Fauna

Appendix A provides a summary of the fauna survey data that are available in the vicinity of the project area and in the Southern Cross IBRA subregion. Although there are differences in the reptile, mammal and avian assemblages at each survey site reported in Appendix A; overall there is a relatively high level of similarity when the data are aggregated for each survey. It is not anticipated that fauna found in the King Brown project area would be significantly different to similar habitat in adjacent areas.



Plate 3a – Area disturbed by mining activity



Plate 3b - Area disturbed by mining activity



Plate 3c - Eucalypt woodlands over an understorey of chenopods



Plate 3d - Eucalypt woodlands over an understorey of chenopods



Plate 3e – Eucalypt woodlands over an understorey of chenopods



Plate 3f - Eucalypt woodlands over an understorey of chenopods



Plate 3g – Stony top of a small rise on the eastern section vegetated with shrubs



Plate 3h – Stony top of a small rise on the western section vegetated with shrubs

PLATE 3 FAUNA HABITAT TYPES WITHIN PROJECT AREA.



Plate 4a Spider burrow



Plate 4b Spider burrow habitat

PLATE 4 SPIDER BURROWS.

4.6 Significant Fauna Species Recorded From or Predicted to Occur in the Project Area

4.6.1 Significant Fauna Species recorded from or predicted to occur in the King Brown Project Area

Conservation significant fauna are protected by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*, and this list includes species covered by international treaties such as the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Western Australia (WA) *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. The WA *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* provides for the publishing of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice* that lists species under multiple categories. In addition, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) maintains a list of fauna that require monitoring under five priorities based on the current knowledge of their distribution, abundance and threatening processes. The *EPBC Act 1999* and *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* imply legislative requirements for the management of anthropogenic impacts to minimise the effects of disturbances on species and their habitats. Priority species have no statutory protection, other than the DEC wishes to monitor potential impacts on these species. Environmental consultants and proponents of developments are encouraged to avoid and minimise impacts on these species. Definitions of the significant fauna under the *WA Wildlife Conservation Act* are provided in Appendix B.

The fauna species listed in Table 2 have special conservation status under State and/or Commonwealth government legislation. Each species has either been previously recorded or has been listed as having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project area.

Five threatened species of fauna and two migratory species of birds identified under the *EPBC Act 1999* potentially occur in the project area. There are eight Schedule species listed under the *WA Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and seven priority species listed on the DEC's Priority Fauna List that potentially occur in the project area. The following is an assessment of the likelihood of each of the species listed in Table 2 being found in the project area.

TABLE 2. SPECIES THAT ARE POTENTIALLY FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT AREA AND THAT ARE LISTED AS BEING OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE UNDER STATE OR COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION OR WITH DEC.

Species	Status under the Wildlife Conservation Act / DEC	Status under the EPBC Act	Comment on potential impact on conservation significant species
<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Schedule 1	Endangered	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because they can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences and there are many suitable tree hollows in adjacent areas if individuals were nesting in the project area.
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> Malleefowl	Schedule 1	Vulnerable	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the area.
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i> Chuditch	Schedule 1	Vulnerable	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the area.
<i>Acanthiza iredalei iredalei</i> Slender-billed Thornbill (western)		Vulnerable	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Merops ornatus</i> Rainbow Bee-eater		Migratory	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Apus pacificus</i> Fork-tailed Swift		Migratory	It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i> (Mallee) Western Rosella	Schedule 1		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences and there are many suitable tree hollows in adjacent areas if individuals were nesting in the project area.
<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i> Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Schedule 4		Seen in the general area, no suitable nesting hollows observed, but the area was not searched for hollows. Clearing vegetation outside the breeding periods will not significantly impact on this species because they can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> Peregrine Falcon	Schedule 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Morelia spilota imbricata</i> Carpet Python	Schedule 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the area.
<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> Woma (southwestern)	Schedule 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the area.
<i>Calamanthus cauta whillocki</i> Shy Heathwren	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis</i> Crested Bellbird	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i> Bush Stone-curlew	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Nyctophilus (timoriensis) sp. 1</i> Greater Long-eared Bat	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it can easily move to adjacent undisturbed areas once clearing commences.
<i>Charadrius rubricollis rubricollis</i> Hooded Plover (western subspecies)	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the general area due to a lack of suitable habitat.
<i>Calamanthus campestris montananellus</i> Rufous Fieldwren	Priority 4		It is unlikely that vegetation clearing or the construction of the pit will significantly impact on this species because it is unlikely to be in the general area due to a lack of suitable habitat.

4.6.2 Potential Impact on Species of Conservation Significance

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*) – Schedule 1 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Endangered under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

Carnaby's Cockatoo is found in the south-west of Australia from Kalbarri through to Ravensthorpe. It has a preference for feeding on the seeds of *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Hakea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea*, *Pinus* and *Allocasuarina* spp.. It is nomadic often moving toward the coast after breeding. It breeds in tree hollows that are 2.5–12m above the ground and has an entrance of 23-30cm with a depth of 1-2.5m. Nesting mostly occurs in smooth-barked trees (e.g. Salmon Gum, Wandoo, Red Morrell). Loss of habitat, in particular, feeding areas near breeding sites is considered to be a major threat to this species.

The King Brown project area is outside the eastern fringe of their normal geographic distribution (Johnstone and Storr 1998), but Davies (1966) reported Carnaby's Cockatoo as far east as Norseman, but this was a rare occurrence and given the recently reported reduction in the population, it is unlikely to be regularly seen this far east.

No evidence was found in the project area of the characteristic chewed nuts or flowers which would indicate Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo have foraged in the area. Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment is that they are probably infrequent visitors to the area, and clearing of the vegetation in the project area is unlikely to significantly impact on this species.

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) - Schedule 1 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Vulnerable under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

Malleefowl are large, ground-dwelling birds that rarely fly unless alarmed or are perching for the night. Historically, Malleefowl have been found in mallee regions of southern Australia from approximately the 26th parallel of latitude southwards. Recently their range has contracted due to fox predation and land clearance. Their abundance in the Goldfields is low and they are sparsely distributed, favouring those areas that are more densely vegetated. Malleefowl build distinctive nests that comprise a large mound of soil/rock covering a central core of leaf litter. These nest mounds range in diameter but can span more than five metres and may be up to one metre high. Malleefowl are generally monogamous and, once breeding commences, they pair for life. The presence of nest mounds provides an indication of the presence of Malleefowl in the area.

The available habitat across the majority of the project area was unsuitable for Malleefowl, as there was generally insufficient understorey to provide the necessary protection for this species. There are records of Malleefowl and Malleefowl mounds in the general vicinity of the King Brown project area (Dell and How 1985, Ecologia Environmental Consultants 2001, Ninnox Wildlife Consulting 2008b); however, many of these records are old mounds as Malleefowl are now only found in scattered populations in the Goldfields, most in densely vegetated areas. It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) – Schedule 1 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Vulnerable under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

The Chuditch is the largest carnivorous marsupial in Western Australia (WA). It is usually active from dusk to dawn. Formally known from over 70% of Australia, the Chuditch now has a patchy distribution throughout the Jarrah forest and mixed Karri/Marri/Jarrah forest of south-west WA and other isolated areas. Chuditch are solitary animals for most of their life and den in hollow logs, burrows, culverts, etc and have also been recorded in tree hollows and rock cavities. Chuditch are opportunistic feeders, and forage primarily on the ground at night. Their diet can include other mammals, birds, lizards, bird and reptile eggs but the majority is a mixture of large invertebrates (e.g. spiders, scorpions and crickets).

The Terrestrial Ecosystems fauna survey database records a Chuditch being sighted south-west of the King Brown project area, but a lack of recent records indicates that they are either in very low abundance or extinct in the region. This area has not been adequately surveyed for Chuditch, so it is potentially in the

general area. However, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Slender-billed Thornbill (*Acanthiza iredalei iredalei*) – Vulnerable species under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

The Slender-billed Thornbill has a preference for chenopod shrubland in close association with samphire flats. Johnstone and Storr's (2004) distribution maps for this species indicate that it is unlikely to occur in this area. The preferred habitat for this species is very different to that found in the project area, although there is a large samphire flat surrounding a salt lake to the south and south-east of the project area that may be utilised by the Slender-billed Thornbill. It is therefore Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have any significant impact on this species.

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) - Migratory under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

The Fork-tailed Swift breeds in north-east and mid-east Asia and winters in Australia and New Guinea. It arrives in the Kimberley in late September and in central and southern WA in November and leaves in late April. The Fork-tailed Swift may be an infrequent visitor to the area although it has not been recorded in previous surveys.

Given that the proposed land clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the general area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) - Migratory under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

The Rainbow Bee-eater is widespread during late spring and summer in the southern section of WA, particularly in sandy areas that have access to water. This species was recorded in numerous fauna surveys in the vicinity of the project area (Appendix A).

Given that the proposed land clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the general area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species. This species will readily move to other areas if it is disturbed.

Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) - Schedule 4 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

The Carpet Python is a large snake found across the south-west of WA, north to Geraldton and Yalgoo, and east of Kalgoorlie, Fraser Range and Eyre. It inhabits forest, heath or wetland areas and shelters in hollow logs or in branches of large trees. It feeds on a variety of vertebrates including small mammals and reptiles. Carpet Python assemblages are generally found in low numbers and are dispersed across a relatively large area; except during the breeding season when aggregations have been recorded.

There are no records in Terrestrial Ecosystems fauna survey database of Carpet Pythons being seen/caught in the vicinity of the King Brown project area. However, if they are present, then its numbers are likely to be very low, and the probability of them being impacted by the project is very low. Given that the proposed land clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the general area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Shy Heathwren (*Calamanthus cautus whitlocki*) – Priority 4 with DEC.

The Shy Heathwren is a small ground species that is found in the semi-arid interior of WA, including much of the southern wheatbelt. Its habitat includes shrubland in the understorey of Eucalypt woodland, often on sandy soils. Johnstone and Storr (2004) recorded it as locally moderately common or common, but generally scarce or uncommon and patchily distributed, and reported that King Brown project area is within its geographic distribution. It was recorded in a couple of other fauna surveys in the vicinity of the project area.

Given that the proposed land clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species. If it is in the area then it will move once vegetation clearing commences.

Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) – Schedule 1 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Vulnerable under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

The mallee form of the Western Rosella is found mostly in Eucalypt and Casuarina woodland and shrublands, especially Wandoo, Flooded Gums and Salmon Gums. This species was sighted by McKenzie and Rolfe during the Boorabin-Southern Cross biological survey (1995), but it was not seen in any of the other fauna surveys around the King Brown project area (Appendix A). Johnstone and Storr (1998) indicated that the King Brown project area is north of its known distribution.

Given that the proposed clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) – Schedule 4 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo's geographic distribution includes some of the semi-arid and arid zones of Australia. It has a disjunct geographic distribution in WA with a population in the semi-arid area east of Geraldton to include Lake Moore and Lake Barlee, which includes the King Brown project area. Major Mitchell's Cockatoo is most often seen high in the branches of Salmon Gums (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and other large eucalypts, in heavily timbered creek-lines or roadside verges in various parts of the WA wheatbelt. Major Mitchell's Cockatoo breeds in the hollows of large eucalypts. It is scarce throughout most of WA and the primary cause for its decline is land clearing for agriculture and subsequent fragmentation of remaining habitat. A flock of 20 birds and another pair were recorded on the road between Southern Cross and the King Brown project area. It is therefore probable that they would visit the project area on occasions.

The most significant potential impact on this species would be the removal of trees that contained nests with eggs or chicks. Clearing of trees outside of the breeding period (August – October) will minimise the potential impact on this species. It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed vegetation clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species as there is plenty of similar habitat in adjacent areas, and this can be further reduced by removing trees outside the August to October period.

Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis*) – Priority 4 with DEC.

Johnstone and Storr (2004) reported the geographic distribution for the Crested Bellbird to include the greater part of WA. Its preferred habitat is scrub and thickets (but not near edges). In the south-west of WA it is found mostly in wooded areas, including open Banksia scrub and heathland. It has been recorded in other fauna surveys in the bioregion (Appendix A).

It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing of vegetation in a section of the project area is unlikely to have any significant impact on this species. If the Crested Bellbird is in the area then it will move to more suitable habitat in adjacent areas and will not be significantly impacted on by small scale vegetation clearing.

Hooded Plover (*Charadrius rubricollis*) – Priority 4 species with DEC.

This species frequents the margins and shallows of salt lakes, and also along coastal beaches, where it forages for invertebrates. It is found along the southern coast and salt lakes north to Port Gregory, Three Springs, Mt Gibson, Lake Brown, Lake Barlee, Lake Cowan and Eyre. It is an uncommon to common resident on the southern sea beaches from Cape Naturaliste east to Eyre. It probably breeds in the samphire habitat along the boundary of some of the salt lakes in the bioregion.

The proposed clearing is not in habitat frequented by this species. It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed vegetation clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – Schedule 4 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

The Peregrine Falcon is uncommon, although widespread throughout much of Australia excluding the extremely dry areas and has a wide and patchy distribution. It favours hilly or mountainous country and open woodlands and may be an occasional visitor to the project area. Nesting sites include ledges along cliffs, granite outcrops and quarries, hollow trees near wetlands and old nests of other large bird species. There is no evidence to suggest any change in status in the last 50 years. Peregrine Falcons have been recorded during other fauna surveys in the bioregion (Appendix A), so they are in the area.

It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed vegetation clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species as there is plenty of similar habitat in adjacent areas.

Central Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus (timorensis) sp.*) – Priority 4 with DEC.

This species is probably the species referred to by Churchill (2008) as the Central Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus sp. 1*). This species is distributed across the southern and central wheatbelt, southern part of the Great Victoria Desert and the Nullarbor coast. The King Brown project area is on the north-western boundary of its known distribution. It roosts in tree cavities, foliage and under loose bark.

Given that the proposed vegetation clearing represents a very small fraction of similar habitat in the general area, it is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing of vegetation in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Woma (southern form: *Aspidites ramsayi*) – Schedule 4 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

This python was once common in a crescent shaped distribution from Shark Bay through the wheatbelt to Kitchener. The Western Australian Museum has records of them being caught in the vicinity of the Great Eastern Highway from around Southern Cross and east toward Coolgardie. It is now only found in one small population east of the wheatbelt, around Shark Bay and east of Kalgoorlie. It is mostly found in sand plain habitat which is not present in the project area. There are no records of the Woma Python in the vicinity of the King Brown project area.

Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment is that the Woma is highly unlikely to be found in the project area as it has not been recorded this far north of Southern Cross.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus ashbyi*) - Priority 4 with DEC.

Johnstone and Storr (2004) reported the geographic distribution to include most of WA south of the Tropic of Capricorn. It prefers arid and semi-arid areas, on the edges of thickets and scrub, including Mulga, Wattle and Acacia. It was seen during the biological survey of the Boorabbin – Southern Cross project area (McKenzie and Rolfe 1995). It is therefore in the general area.

It is Terrestrial Ecosystems' assessment that the proposed clearing of vegetation in the project area is unlikely to have any significant impact on this species. If the White-browed Babbler is in the project area, then it will move to adjacent areas once vegetation clearing commences.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Adequacy of Available Vertebrate Fauna Data

The EPA *Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection*: Position Statement No. 3 (EPA 2002), *Guidance Statement for Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia No. 56* (EPA 2004) and the *Technical Guide – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA / DEC 2010) are the three relevant documents to assess the adequacy of the available information and reporting for vertebrate fauna surveys in Western Australia. They indicate that for small scale developments with a low potential for a significant impact on the environment, a Level 1 fauna risk assessment of the terrestrial fauna is adequate.

No fauna trapping surveys have been undertaken for the Southern Cross Goldfields' King Brown project area. However, nearby mining developments in similar habitat [e.g. Windarling/Mt Jackson Project (Bamford and Metcalf 2005, Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2006, Metcalf and Bamford 2007, Metcalf and Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2008), Koolyanobbing Expansion Project (2001, Ecologia Environment Consultants 2003), Carina Prospect (Ninox Wildlife Consulting 2008a)] and a DEC survey of the Helena and Aurora Range (Lyons and Chapman 1997) provided sufficient fauna survey data for similar habitats to the proposed mine site, that fauna trapping survey was not required. It is highly unlikely that the project area contains a vertebrate fauna assemblage that is significantly different to those areas. These survey data are therefore considered adequate as the basis for an informed assessment of the potential impacts on the fauna assemblage in the project area.

5.2 Biodiversity Values

The EPA Position Statement No. 3 indicates an ecological assessment of a site must consider its biodiversity value at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, and its ecological functional value at the ecosystem level (EPA 2002).

From a fauna perspective, much of the vegetation in the project area could be described as in good condition; however, there are some areas that have been degraded by exploration and earlier mining activity. All vertebrate species potentially present in the project area are wide-ranging and have been recorded in various other surveys in the bioregion (Appendix A).

5.2.1 Ecological Functional Value at the Ecosystem Level

A small section of the project area on the southern boundary has been disturbed by earlier mining activity. Southern Cross Goldfields proposed mining operations is small (~ 2ha), as is the proposed waste dumps (~3.2ha). Given similar fauna habitat is present in adjacent areas, the ecological functional value of the proposed disturbance areas are not of high ecological functional value.

5.2.2 Condition of Fauna Habitat and Extent of Habitat Degradation

The area is largely undisturbed except for an old mine on the southern boundary of the assessed area and low impact exploration activity in the central area. The majority of the project area is in reasonably good condition and the fauna assemblage is likely to be similar to those in adjacent areas that have been undisturbed.

5.2.3 Ecological Linkages

The project area does not provide important ecological linkage or fauna movement corridor. There is a single track that bisects the project area, but it is narrow and unlikely to provide a barrier that would inhibit the movement of fauna within the general area.

5.2.4 Size and Scale of the Proposed Disturbance and Potential Impacts

The project area is about 335ha, but Southern Cross Goldfields is only intending to disturb an area of about 7ha. An effective rehabilitation program of disturbed areas, once they are no longer required, is likely to provide habitat of similar quality to that which currently exists. It may be preferable to locate the proposed waste dumps against the stony hill rather than create a new hill in a flat landscape.

5.2.5 Abundance and Distribution of Similar Habitat in the Adjacent Areas and the Bioregion

The project area represents a small fraction of similar habitat in the bioregion and in adjacent areas. Stony hills are the least abundant feature present in the adjacent areas, but the fauna present in this habitat is unlikely to be of conservation significance and it is not proposed that the hills are mined. Clearing sections of the remaining vegetation is unlikely to result in a significant loss of important fauna habitat.

5.2.6 Ecological Functional Value of the Site

A small section on the southern boundary is highly disturbed. The rest of the project area was assessed as good quality fauna habitat. The proposed King Brown mine site is east of the wheatbelt, but is likely to support many of the vertebrate fauna species that were in the wheatbelt before it was cleared for agriculture. Any additional clearing of this type of habitat should be minimised.

The small size of the project area and the availability of similar habitat in adjacent areas indicated that clearing of a small section of native vegetation is unlikely to have a significant impact on the ecological functional value of this type of fauna habitat when considered in a bioregional context.

5.2.7 Maintenance of Threatened Ecological Communities

No threatened ecological communities were identified in the King Brown project area or immediate surrounds.

5.3 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development on the Vertebrate Fauna in the King Brown Project Area

Clearing of vegetation will potentially affect vertebrate fauna in a number of ways, including:

- Death/injury of fauna during clearing, grading and impacts with vehicles;
- Loss of habitat;
- Fragmentation of habitat;
- Increase in feral fauna around the mining development; and
- Disturbance of fauna in nearby areas from light, noise and dust.

Although some short term impacts on fauna are anticipated, the clearing of vegetation is considered unlikely to result in significant long term impacts on fauna habitat and fauna assemblages. The overall impact on fauna species and species of conservation significance will be minimal provided the recommended management procedures are implemented and adhered to.

The most significant environmental impact arising from the proposed mining activity will be the clearing of native vegetation and consequent loss and alteration of fauna habitat. Besides the initial deaths of fauna during the clearing process there will also be an ongoing indirect impact, largely consisting of the loss and degradation of foraging and shelter sites for fauna in neighbouring areas. Habitat degradation may also occur through factors associated with the exploration and mining processes (e.g. noise, vibration, dust, etc) or the increased level of human activity (e.g. feral animals, fires, etc.).

5.3.1 Direct Impacts

Clearing vegetation and activities associated with the mining development will result in the loss of small fauna that retreat to burrows, such as reptiles and mammals. Nocturnal species are unlikely to be active when most of the land clearing and construction work is taking place which may result in these individuals being adversely impacted when they attempt to escape. This loss of vegetation is unlikely to have a significant impact when considered in a bioregional context.

Clearing of vegetation can have an equally significant or greater impact due to 'edge effects'. Edge effects can lead to the disruption of ecological processes such as predation and dispersal, animal movements and can change assemblage structure. The consequence is that the impact area will extend beyond the area cleared. Given the small scale of the proposed disturbance, edge effects are likely to be small.

5.3.2 Secondary Impacts

Increased human activity is often associated with an altered fire regime, increased dust or fauna deaths on access tracks, which lead to a degradation of natural ecosystems. Fire has been identified as one of the threatening processes for some conservation significant species as a number of small mammal and bird species rely on long unburnt vegetation. Provided that fire management strategies are implemented, fires are unlikely to be a significant threat to native fauna species in the vicinity of the project area.

5.3.3 Potential Impacts on Ecosystem Function

Clearing native vegetation is likely to result in the loss of small vertebrate fauna on site that are unable to move away during the clearing process. The few larger animals, such as kangaroos, and most of the birds will move into adjacent areas once clearing commences. Shifting animals into adjacent areas will increase the pressure on resources in those areas and it is likely that there will be some disruption to the ecosystems in these areas for a period of time until a balance is restored. Impacts associated with clearing vegetation in the project area in a landscape or bioregional context on the vertebrate fauna are likely to be low as the proposed disturbance area is very small relative to the quantity of similar habitat in the bioregion.

5.3.4 Potential Impacts on Conservation Significant Species and Ecosystems

Clearing of native vegetation in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on conservation significant fauna. There is a possibility that Crested Bellbirds (*Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis*), Western Rosellas (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may infrequently be found in the vicinity of the project area. It is more probable that the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) will be seen in the area during spring and summer and the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) throughout the year. These birds will move to adjacent areas once vegetation clearing commences. This might result in a period of instability in these assemblages until new territories are resolved for the sedentary species. There is a low possibility that the project area supports a very small number of Carpet Pythons (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) and Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*).

5.3.5 Mining Voids

Steep sided mining voids that are partially filled with water can attract and trap large animals such as kangaroos and emus. Physically limiting access to these areas, supplemented by effective strategies to deal with animal entrapment should such occur, would adequately obviate this risk.

5.3.6 Habitat Fragmentation

In addition to clearing for mine pits, waste dumps and the associated infrastructure, linear clearing for haul roads, power lines or conveyors often associated with mining developments have the potential to fragment habitat. This can result in the isolating fauna in pockets of vegetation, making them more vulnerable to impacts of fire and local extinction because of low population numbers. This impact can be minimised by co-locating infrastructure, by utilising existing infrastructure corridors (e.g. existing tracks), planning the

clearing of vegetation to facilitate the movement of species out of the disturbance areas into suitable adjacent habitat and maintaining as much connectivity between undisturbed areas as possible.

Southern Cross Goldfields plan to truck the ore mined off-site for processing. For this to occur, a haul road will need to be developed, as existing roads/tracks are unsuitable for this purpose. It is preferable that the proposed haul road should be developed based on existing tracks or located along the boundary of vegetation assemblages to minimise the potential to fragment fauna habitat types.

5.3.7 Road Fauna Deaths

Roads and tracks inevitably bisect home ranges for numerous individuals. An increase in road fauna deaths is likely to occur with increased vehicle traffic; in particular impacting on kangaroos and nocturnal birds. This can be minimised by limiting speeds and education of staff.

5.3.8 Feral Fauna

An increase in human activity is often associated with an increase in the abundance of feral species such as the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*). This increase may be due to a decline in habitat health, increased road kills and poor waste disposal practices.

The house mouse and cat were recorded in other fauna surveys in the general area. The cat is a particularly damaging predator on native fauna and any increase in their numbers could have a detrimental effect on local native fauna (Kinnear 1993, Bamford 1995); hence it is important to ensure that populations of the feral predators, such as cats remain under control.

Minimising road kills, removing carcasses and good rubbish management practices around areas of exploration activity and the mine sites will assist in reducing these problems.

5.3.9 Dust

Dust generated from blasting, cleared areas, waste dumps and vehicle traffic can potentially degrade surrounding vegetation, reducing its ability to absorb sunlight and influencing photosynthetic rates. Degradation of these areas may potentially render habitat unsuitable for fauna. Dust suppression and management programs are an essential component of minimising mining impacts on fauna in areas adjacent to the mine.

5.3.10 Uncapped Drill Holes

An ongoing potential risk to terrestrial fauna is the presence of uncapped drill holes within the project area. Small animals, particularly lizards and mammals, can become trapped in the drill holes and eventually die. Therefore drill holes that are open for periods of months or years can be particularly detrimental to small animal populations (Malnic 1997).

5.3.11 Noise, Lighting and Vibration

Noise, light spill and vibration associated with mining activity can impact on nearby resident fauna. The noise and vibrations associated with blasting and drilling may force some animals to move from the area. Continuous operations mean that much of the site will be lit at night. Artificial lighting can attract species that forage nocturnally on invertebrates that are attracted to the light and force other species to move away from the area. Both of these outcomes may alter the local fauna assemblages.

Clearing of vegetation will potentially affect vertebrate fauna in a number of ways, including:

- Death/injury of fauna during clearing, grading and impacts with vehicles;
- Loss of habitat;
- Fragmentation of habitat;

- Increase in feral fauna around the mining development; and
- Disturbance of fauna in nearby areas from light, noise and dust.

Although some short term impacts on fauna are anticipated, the clearing of vegetation is considered unlikely to result in significant long term impacts on fauna habitat and fauna assemblages. The overall impact on fauna species and species of conservation significance will be minimal provided the recommended management procedures are implemented and adhered to.

The most significant environmental impact arising from the proposed mining activity will be the clearing of native vegetation and consequent loss and alteration of fauna habitat. Besides the initial deaths of fauna during the clearing process there will also be an ongoing indirect impact, largely consisting of the loss and degradation of foraging and shelter sites for fauna in neighbouring areas. Habitat degradation may also occur through factors associated with the exploration and mining processes (e.g. noise, vibration, dust, etc) or the increased level of human activity (e.g. feral animals, fires, etc.).

5.4 Risk Assessment

Fauna surveys to support ecological impact assessments (EcIAs) are part of the environmental risk assessment undertaken to consider what potential impacts a development might have on the biodiversity of a particular area and region. Potential impacts on fauna from the proposed development are identified and briefly described above. Tables 3-5 summaries of the risk assessment associated with clearing additional native vegetation in the project area.

Results from this assessment indicate that the risks of significantly impacting on native fauna, fauna assemblages and fauna habitat are low when placed in a regional context, and if the recommended management strategies are implemented, the risks will be further reduced.

TABLE 3. FAUNA IMPACT RISK ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTORS

Any risk assessment is a product of the likelihood of an impact occurring and the consequences of that impact. Likelihood and consequences are categorised and described below. The assessed risk level (likelihood x consequences) is then calculated as the overall risk for the development. This is followed by an assessment of the acceptability of the risk associated with each of the impacts. Disturbances and vegetation clearing have an impact on the fauna at multiple scales – site, local, landscape and regional. Each of these is considered in the risk assessment. This assessment should be considered in the context of the summary in Table 5.

Likelihood		
Level	Description	Criteria
A	Rare	The environmental event may occur or one or more conservation significant species may be present in exceptional circumstances.
B	Unlikely	The environmental event could occur or one or more conservation significant species could be present at sometime.
C	Moderate	The environmental event should occur or one or more conservation significant species should be present at sometime.
D	Likely	The environmental event will probably occur or one or more conservation significant species will be present in most circumstances.
E	Almost certain	The environmental event is expected to occur or one or more conservation significant species is expected to be present in most circumstances.
Consequences		
Level	Description	Criteria
1	Insignificant	Insignificant impact on fauna of conservation significance or regional biodiversity, and the loss of individuals will be insignificant in the context of the availability of similar fauna or fauna assemblages in the area.
2	Minor	Impact on fauna localised and no significant impact on species of conservation significance in the project area. Loss of species at the local scale.
3	Moderate	An appreciable loss of fauna in a regional context or a limited impact on species of conservation significance in the project area.
4	Major	Significant impact on conservation significant fauna or their habitat in the project area and/or regional biodiversity and/or a significant loss in the biodiversity at the landscape scale.
5	Catastrophic	Loss of species at the regional scale and/or a significant loss of species categorised as ‘vulnerable’ or ‘endangered’ under the <i>EPBC Act (1999)</i> at a regional scale.
Acceptability of Risk		
Level of risk	Management Action Required	
Low	No action required.	
Moderate	Avoid if possible, routine management with internal audit and review of monitoring results annually.	
High	Externally approved management plan to reduce risks, monitor major risks annually with external audit and review of management plan outcomes annually. Will require a referral to the Commonwealth under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> .	
Extreme,	Unacceptable, project should be redesigned or not proceed.	

TABLE 4. LEVELS OF ACCEPTABLE RISK

		Likelihood				
		Rare or very low (A)	Unlikely or low (B)	Moderate (C)	Likely (D)	Almost certain (E)
Consequences	Insignificant (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Minor (2)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Moderate (3)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Major (4)	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
	Catastrophic (5)	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme

TABLE 5. A RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF GROUND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITY ON FAUNA

		Before Management				With Management		
Factor	Potential Impact	Inherent Risk			Risk Controls / Management	Residual Risk		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Significance		Likelihood	Consequence	Significance
Inadequate fauna survey data.	Unknown loss of fauna, fauna of conservation significance, fauna assemblage(s) in the project area.	B	2	Low	Refer to section 5.1			
Inadequate knowledge of potential impacts.	Unknown or poorly assessed impact(s) on the fauna assemblage and conservation significant species.	B	2	Low	Refer to section 5.3			
Inadequate bioregional data for contextual purposes.	Incomplete analysis of data and appreciation of impacts on biodiversity values in a regional context.	B	2	Low	Refer to section 5.2			
Removal of habitat – site scale.	Almost complete loss of terrestrial fauna in cleared areas, severe impact on local fauna assemblage.	E	2	Moderate	Minimise the extent of clearing and avoid leaving isolated remnants.	E	1	Low
Significant reduction of habitats – local scale.	Loss of fauna and fauna habitat and impacts on the local fauna assemblage (excluding conservation significant species).	B	2	Low				
Significant reduction of habitats – landscape scale.	Loss of fauna and fauna habitat and impacts on fauna in a landscape context (excluding conservation significant species).	B	1	Low				
Significant reduction of habitats – regional scale.	Loss of fauna and fauna habitat and impacts on fauna in a bioregional context (excluding conservation significant species).	B	1	Low				
Impact on resident conservation significant terrestrial species.	Death of conservation significant species.	B	1	Low				
Impact on Malleefowl	Death of Malleefowl	A	3	Low				
Impact on Major Mitchell’s Cockatoos	Death of Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo chicks or eggs	B	2	Low	Clearing outside the breeding season (August –October)	A	2	Low
Resident avian species.	Loss of conservation significant species.	B	3	Low				
Migratory avian species.	Loss of conservation significant species.	B	1	Low				
Habitat fragmentation.	Isolation of fauna assemblages.	C	2	Low	Avoid creation of isolated vegetation remnants by retaining movement corridors to adjacent vegetation areas.			

5.5 Native Vegetation Clearing Principles

The *Environmental Protection Act (1986)* outlines 10 principles (Table 6) that are to be used in the assessment of native vegetation clearing permit applications which are also applicable for other assessments and approvals. Native vegetation should not be cleared if any of the following principles are comprised.

TABLE 6: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT USING THE NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Principle	Response
It comprises a high level of biological diversity.	Clearing vegetation will not compromise a high level of biodiversity.
It comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	Clearing the vegetation will not result in the loss of significant habitat for indigenous fauna.
It includes, or is necessary for the continued existence or, rare flora.	N/A
It comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	The area does not contain a threatened ecological community.
It is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	The area is not a remnant.
It is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	The area does not contain a wetland.
The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	N/A
The clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	Clearing of vegetation is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of the bioregion.
The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	N/A
The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.	N/A

5.6 A Summary of the Fauna Risk Assessment

Clearing of approximately 7ha of vegetation in the project area is likely to have a low impact on the vertebrate fauna assemblage in the bioregion. It is unlikely that any threatened fauna will be significantly impacted by the proposed vegetation clearing.

5.7 Management Issues and Recommendations

The EPA objective for terrestrial fauna is to maintain its abundance, species diversity and geographic distribution of terrestrial fauna and protect specially protected (Threatened) fauna consistent with the provisions of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. If management procedures proposed below are adopted the potential impact on terrestrial fauna and the effect on the conservation status of specially protected and significant species will be minimised.

5.7.1 Induction and Awareness

All contractors and people involved in exploration, construction or operation of the mine should be made aware of Southern Cross Goldfields' policy to protect fauna and minimise disturbance effects. Protection of fauna should be a publicly stated policy and incorporated into all staff induction programs.

Recommendation 1: An induction program that includes a component on managing fauna to be mandatory for employment on the Battler Project.

5.7.2 Haul Roads

Ore mined in the project area will be transported by road to an off-site processing plant. Heavy vehicles used to transport this ore will mean that haul road(s) will be required. It is strongly recommended that where feasible, existing roads/tracks be upgraded to avoid increasing vegetation clearing, and if new roads are to be constructed then they are located on the boundaries of vegetation assemblages to minimise the potential to create isolated fauna communities.

Construction and operation of a mine will result in increased traffic in an area that currently would see very few vehicles, and a consequential increase the number of fauna killed on roads and tracks. To minimise the impact of road fauna deaths on large animals (such as kangaroos and emus) and ground dwelling fauna (such as reptiles, frogs and mammals) it is important to ensure that low speeds are maintained along all internal roads. A maximum speed limit of 80 km/h is recommended. Signage should be erected to indicate appropriate travelling speeds and should also indicate the possible presence of wildlife crossing roads. These problems are particularly acute at night when kangaroos are actively foraging.

Recommendation 2: Where possible, access routes are to be aligned to existing roads, tracks and other barriers or follow the boundaries of broad-scale vegetation associations in the area.

Recommendation 3: Speed limits to be implemented and enforced on-site (travel speeds to be determined based on the quality and condition of the roads, to a maximum of 80km/h).

5.7.3 Minimise the Areas to be Cleared and Habitat Fragmentation

Clearing vegetation impacts much of the local terrestrial fauna and destroys fauna habitat. The areas to be cleared should therefore be minimised. Locating the waste dumps near the mining pit would reduce the size of the disturbance footprint.

Recommendation 4: All areas disturbed during exploration or construction of the mine are to be rehabilitated immediately after they are no longer required.

Recommendation 5: A rehabilitation plan is prepared for existing and proposed disturbance areas and is progressively implemented when the land is no longer required for mining operations.

Recommendation 6: Consideration is given to locating the proposed waste dumps against the stony hill to avoid the creation of a hill that may be difficult to rehabilitate in the flat central area.

5.7.4 Control of Feral and Pest Species

The populations of feral fauna located within the project area have the potential to increase as a result of the proposed development. In particular, populations of house mice and feral cats tend to increase near areas of human habitation and activity. Implementation of the Fauna Management Plan should address this issue, which will describe the appropriate remedial action to be taken.

Recommendation 7: Pets are not to be permitted on site.

5.7.5 Uncapped Drill Holes

Uncapped drill holes can pose a serious threat to small animals, including ground dwelling reptiles, frogs and small mammals. Disused mining pits and open mine shafts can also entrap larger animals. A log of all on-site drill holes should be maintained detailing when they were capped, how and by whom.

All drill holes should be temporarily capped on completion of drilling and permanently capped as soon as possible after exploration activities have ceased. Concrete caps may be used but often cause damage to the plastic piping particularly as the plastic degrades after years of exposure to the environment. They can also be dislodged by cattle. Solid plastic caps are therefore a better temporary solution. Infilling of disused drill holes is the best long-term solution.

Recommendation 8: A log of all on-site drill holes to be maintained detailing when they were capped, how and by whom.

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TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Drawn: G. Thompson Date: 22 Dec 2010

Southern Cross
 FAUNA ASSESSMENT
 KING BROWN

REGIONAL LOCATION

Figure 1

Job: 2010-032



N

0 100 200 300 400 500m

SCALE 1 : 12 500 at A4 (MGA)

Legend

--- Site Boundary

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Southern Cross
FAUNA ASSESSMENT
KING BROWN

SITE MAP

Figure 2

Job: 2010-032

Appendix A
Vertebrate Fauna Recorded in Biological
Surveys in the Region
Vertebrate Fauna Assessment – King Brown Project

Family	Species	Common Name	Survey																																		
			Opportunistic	Site 1	Site 10	Site 11	Site 12	Site 13	Site 14	Site 15	Site 16	Site 17	Site 18	Site 19	Site 2	Site 20	Site 21	Site 22	Site 23	Site 24	Site 25	Site 26	Site 27	Site 28	Site 29	Site 3	Site 30	Site 31	Site 32	Site 33	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Site 9	
Tachyglossidae	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Short-beaked Echidna	3				1																														
Muridae	<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse	6	1	2		3	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	1	10	4	1	2	7	1	6	14	3	8	3	2	5	5	5	9	1	9	1	1		
	<i>Notomys</i> sp.	Great Hopping Mouse																																			
	<i>Pseudomys hermannsburgensis</i>	Sandy Inland Mouse	2															1				1															
Reptiles																																					
Agamidae	<i>Ctenophorus cristatus</i>									1								1			3	1													1		
	<i>Ctenophorus reticulatus</i>					3															1	1					1										
	<i>Moloch horridus</i>																		1																		
	<i>Pogona minor</i>		2					1			1			1						1																	
	<i>Tympanocryptis cephalus</i>																									1											
Carphodactylidae	<i>Nephrurus milii</i>					2							2		1	1																6	1				
Diplodactylidae	<i>Crenadactylus ocellatus</i>												1	5		1																					
	<i>Diplodactylus granariensis</i>		1		1			1											1																		
	<i>Diplodactylus pulcher</i>		1		2					1												4		2	1	1	1	1	3		1						
	<i>Diplodactylus vittata</i>																																				
	<i>Lucasium maini</i>														1			1	2	1																	
	<i>Oedura reticulata</i>		1							1			5		1			2								1										1	
	<i>Strophurus assimilis</i>																																				
Elapidae	<i>Furina ornata</i>																																				
	<i>Parasuta monachus</i>																																				
	<i>Pseudechis australis</i>																		1			1															
	<i>Pseudonaja affinis</i>																		1																		
	<i>Simoselaps bertholdi</i>																																				
Gekkonidae	<i>Gehyra variegata</i>		1	2	3		1	5		1	1		3	5				4	3	1	1	6		1	1	1	5	3									
	<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>		1	3	8	5	9	8				1	3		1	6		1	2				6		1	1	1					1		9			
	<i>Rhynchoedura ornata</i>		1							1																											
Pygopodidae	<i>Delma australis</i>			1	1					1				1								1															
	<i>Delma butleri</i>																																				
	<i>Pygopus lepidopus</i>																																				
Scincidae	<i>Cryptoblepharus buechananii</i>			2	2																																
	<i>Ctenotus atlas</i>																																				
	<i>Ctenotus mimetes</i>		1																																		
	<i>Ctenotus uber</i>		1		1	1				1											2	1	1	3	1	1	6	3	2	1					2		
	<i>Cyclodomorphus melanops</i>									1		3			1						1																
	<i>Egernia depressa</i>			1	2		2																			1	1										
	<i>Egernia formosa</i>																																				
	<i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i>																																				
	<i>Hemiergis initialis</i>		1				5					1		1																			1	6	1	1	
	<i>Lerista gerrardii</i>																																				
	<i>Lerista macropisthopus</i>		1	3			2							5																							
	<i>Lerista</i> sp.		1	7	1								1	2				1	2		1		3		2	3	1		2	1	1			1	3		
	<i>Liopholis inornata</i>											1																									
	<i>Menetia greyii</i>			1	1		1									1								3				1	4	1		1					
	<i>Morethia butleri</i>			4			2															1	1		1	1	1				5				1		
	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>																																				
Typhlopidae	<i>Ramphotyphlops australis</i>						1			1				1																							
	<i>Ramphotyphlops bituberculatus</i>																							1													
Varanidae	<i>Varanus caudolineatus</i>					1																															
	<i>Varanus giganteus</i>		1				1								1																			1	3		
	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>		1																																		
	<i>Varanus tristis</i>												1																								

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X = presence only

APPENDIX A(5). SUMMARY OF FAUNA SURVEY DATA IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT AREA

Family	Species	Common Name	Surveys														
			A	B			C			D			E				
			Mt Walton	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1		
Birds																	
Accipitridae	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite						1									
Podargidae	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Tawny Frogmouth					3										
Meropidae	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater		X			1			2							
Caprimulgidae	<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>	Spotted Nightjar			1												
Falconidae	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	1														
Acanthizidae	<i>Pyrrholaemus brunneus</i>	Redthroat			X	1					3						
	<i>Smicromis brevirostris</i>	Weebill	X	1	5		2	1	3		6						
	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	Yellow-rumped Thornbill							3								
	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	Inland Thornbill	2	8	2	6				3		7					
	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface															
	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	8	8	1	0	6	6	8								
Artamidae	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	Grey Butcherbird		X	1						1						
	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>	Pied Butcherbird		X	X												
	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>	Grey Currawong	X	X	X												
Campephagidae	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike			X						4						
Eupetidae	<i>Cinclosoma castanotum</i>	Chestnut Quail-thrush	5	2													
Hirundinidae	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	Tree Martin								3							
Maluridae	<i>Malurus splendens</i>	Splendid Fairy-wren	2	2		7						5					
Meliphagidae	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	Singing Honeyeater	X					1			1						
	<i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>	White-eared Honeyeater		1		6	2	1									
	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater								1							
	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater						2		1	2						
	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red Wattlebird								2							
	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	Brown Honeyeater	X			5											
	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater				3											
Nectariniidae	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	Mistletoebird	X	1			2										
Neosittidae	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella									5						
Pachycephalidae	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	Golden Whistler	2	X		2											
	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	Rufous Whistler	X	X	X			2	1	1	1						
	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	X	X	X	2	9	1	3	2							
	<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	Crested Bellbird	X	X	X												
Pardalotidae	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Striated Pardalote		1			4			2							
Petroicidae	<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>	Jacky Winter				1				1							
	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	Red-capped Robin			1	1	1	1			1						
	<i>Eopsaltria griseogularis</i>	Western Yellow Robin				2											
Pomatostomidae	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	White-browed Babbler	5		X												
Rhipiduridae	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>	Grey Fantail							2								
	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willie Wagtail								2							
Cacatuidae	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	Galah					1										
Psittacidae	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	Purple-crowned Lorikeet		1	X					6							
	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>	Regent Parrot								1							
	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	Australian Ringneck		1			1			9	3						
Mammals																	
Felidae	<i>Felis catus</i>	House Cat	1														
Dasyuridae	<i>Sminthopsis dolichura</i>	Little Long-tailed Dunnart	1	2		2	1	1	5	6	4	1	3	1			
	<i>Sminthopsis hirtipes</i>	Hairy-footed Dunnart	1														
Burramyidae	<i>Cercartetus concinnus</i>	Southwestern Pygmy Possum								1		1					
Macropodidae	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	Western Grey Kangaroo	3														
Tachyglossidae	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Short-beaked Echidna	1														
Muridae	<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse	2			2	1	2	5		2	1					

Family	Species	Common Name	Surveys														
			A	B			C			D			E				
			Mt Walton	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1	MJ1	MJ2	WD1		
	<i>Pseudomys albocinereus</i>	Ash-grey Mouse	9														
Reptiles																	
Agamidae	<i>Ctenophorus cristatus</i>		1														
	<i>Ctenophorus fordi</i>		9														
	<i>Ctenophorus reticulatus</i>		2		3	3					1	2		3			
	<i>Ctenophorus scutulatus</i>		3	2	2		1				1			3			
	<i>Moloch horridus</i>		1														
	<i>Pogona minor</i>		2		5		2	1	2	5	1			1	1		
Carphodactylidae	<i>Nephrurus milii</i>			3			1										
	<i>Nephrurus stellatus</i>		2	6													
Diplodactylidae	<i>Diplodactylus granariensis</i>		1	3	5		1	4							2		
	<i>Diplodactylus pulcher</i>			3	6	1	0	2	3	4		1	1		1		
	<i>Lucasium maini</i>		1									2			1		
	<i>Lucasium stenodactylus</i>				4			1									
	<i>Oedura reticulata</i>				1												
	<i>Strophurus assimilis</i>		1														
Elapidae	<i>Brachyuropsis semifasciata</i>											1					
	<i>Pseudonaja mengdeni</i>		1														
	<i>Pseudonaja modesta</i>														1		
	<i>Simoselaps bertholdi</i>				1												
Gekkonidae	<i>Gehyra variegata</i>			4	6	5	1	0	6	3		1					
	<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>			1		1		1	2					1			
Pygopodidae	<i>Delma australis</i>						1										
	<i>Delma fraseri</i>			1													
	<i>Pygopus lepidopodus</i>							1									
Scincidae	<i>Cryptoblepharus buchananii</i>				4												
	<i>Ctenotus mimetes</i>					6			1								
	<i>Ctenotus schomburgkii</i>		1	3	2			2	1		2			2			
	<i>Ctenotus uber</i>			5	8	8	2	2	2		2			1	4		
	<i>Egernia depressa</i>					2			2						1		
	<i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i>											1					
	<i>Lerista macropisthopus</i>		1	1	3	2			1					1			
	<i>Lerista muelleri</i>				2			4				1	1	1			
	<i>Liopholis inornata</i>		3											1			
	<i>Menetia greyii</i>		3		1			1		2							
	<i>Morethia butleri</i>				2			1									
	<i>Morethia obscura</i>		1														
	<i>Tiliqua occipitalis</i>		2														
Typhlopidae	<i>Ramphotyphlops australis</i>		1	1				1									
Varanidae	<i>Varanus caudolineatus</i>					5			3								
	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>		2		1												
	<i>Varanus tristis</i>		1														

- A Dickman, C.R., Henry-Hall, N.J., Lloyd, H. and Romanow, K.A. (1991) A survey of the terrestrial vertebrate fauna of Mount Walton, western goldfields, Western Australia. *Western Australian Naturalist*, 18, 200-206.
- B Bamford Consulting Ecologists and Metcalf, B. (2005) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project: Fauna Studies*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- C Bamford et al. (2006) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project Report on the 2004/2005 Fauna Surveys*. Unpublished reports for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- D Metcalf, B and Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2007) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project Fauna Monitoring 2004 / 2006*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- E Metcalf, B and Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2008) *Portman Iron Ore Windarling/Mt Jackson Project Fauna Monitoring 2004 - 2007*. Unpublished report for Portman Iron Ore Ltd, Perth.
- X = Presence only.

Appendix B
Definitions of Significant Fauna under the
WA Wildlife Conservation Act 1950
Vertebrate Fauna Assessment – King Brown Project

APPENDIX B
DEFINITIONS OF SIGNIFICANT FAUNA UNDER THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION ACT 1950

In Western Australia, all native fauna species are protected under the Western Australian *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-1979*. Fauna species that are considered rare, threatened with extinction or have a high conservation value are specially protected under the Act. In addition, some species of fauna are covered under the 1991 ANZECC convention, while certain birds are listed under the Japan and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and the China and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA).

Classification of rare and endangered fauna under the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2010* recognises four schedules of taxa. These are:

Schedule 1 – fauna which are rare or likely to become extinct and are declared to be fauna in need of special protection;

Schedule 2 – fauna which are presumed to be extinct and are declared to be fauna in need of special protection;

Schedule 3 – birds which are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction which are declared to be fauna in need of special protection; and

Schedule 4 – fauna that are in need of special protection, for reasons other than mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

In addition to the above classifications, DEC also classifies fauna under five different Priority codes:

Priority one – *Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands*. Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

Priority two – *Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands, or taxa with several, poorly known populations not on conservation lands*. Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat from habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

Priority three – *Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands*. Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

Priority four – *Taxa in need of monitoring*. Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed or for which sufficient knowledge is available and which are not considered currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands. Taxa which are declining significantly but are not yet threatened.

Priority five – *Taxa in need of monitoring*. Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Appendix C
Results of the *EPBC Act* Protected
Matters Search
Vertebrate Fauna Assessment – King Brown Project



EPBC Act Protected Matters Report: Coordinates

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

You may wish to print this report for reference before moving to other pages or websites.

Information about the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/assessmentsapprovals/index.html>

Report created: 26/12/10 17:58:46



[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

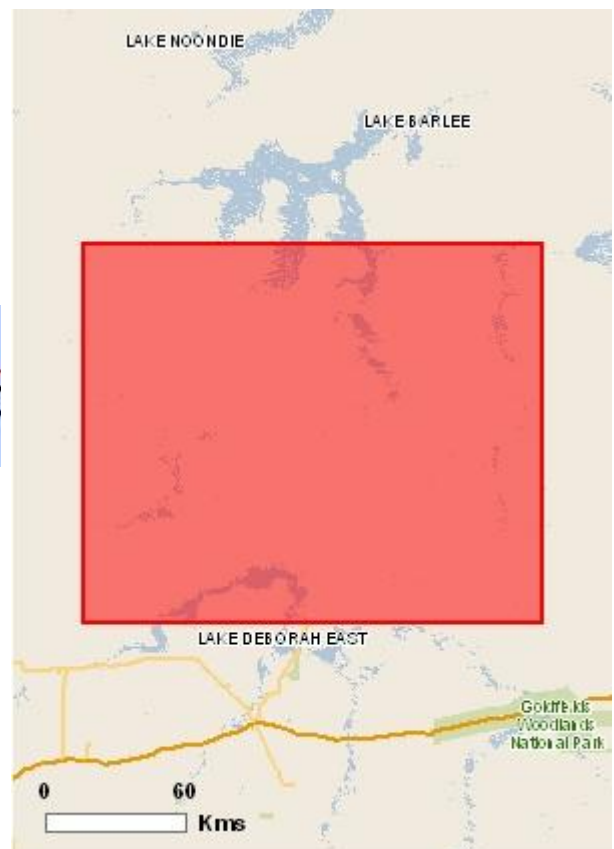
[Matters of NES](#)

[Other matters protected by the EPBC Act](#)

[Extra Information](#)

[Caveat](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)



This map may contain data which are
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Australia), ©PSMA 2010

[Coordinates](#)

Buffer: 1Km

Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the Administrative Guidelines on Significance - see <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/assessmentsapprovals/guidelines/index.html>.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Significance (Ramsar Wetlands):	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Areas:	None
Threatened Ecological Communities:	None
Threatened Species:	16
Migratory Species:	7

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place and the heritage values of a place on the Register of the National Estate. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/index.html>

Please note that the current dataset on Commonwealth land is not complete. Further information on Commonwealth land would need to be obtained from relevant sources including Commonwealth agencies, local agencies, and land tenure maps.

A permit may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species. Information on EPBC Act permit requirements and application forms can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/permits/index.html>.

Commonwealth Lands:	1
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	4

Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves:	None

Report Summary for Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

Place on the RNE:	3
State and Territory Reserves:	6
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Invasive Species:	8
Nationally Important Wetlands:	1

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Threatened Species [[Resource Information](#)]

Name	Status	Type of Presence
BIRDS		
Acanthiza iredalei iredalei Slender-billed Thornbill (western) [25967]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Leipoa ocellata Malleefowl [934]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
PLANTS		
Acacia lobulata Chiddarcooping Wattle [55567]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Acacia sciophanes Wundowlin Wattle, Ghost Wattle [17877]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Boronia adamsiana Barbalin Boronia [16935]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Eremophila virens Campion Eremophila, Green-flowered Emu bush [21433]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Eremophila viscida Varnish Bush [2394]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Gastrolobium graniticum Granite Poison [14872]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Leucopogon spectabilis Ironstone Beard-heath [83012]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area

[Myriophyllum lapidicola](#)

Chiddarcooping myriophyllum [55940] Endangered Species or species habitat known to occur within area

[Pityrodia axillaris](#)

Native Foxglove, Woolly Foxglove [17376] Critically Endangered Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Ricinocarpos brevis](#)

[82879] Endangered Species or species habitat known to occur within area

[Roycea pycnophylloides](#)

Saltmat [21161] Endangered Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Tetratheca aphylla](#)

Bungalbin Tetratheca [2915] Vulnerable Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

[Tetratheca harperi](#)

Jackson Tetratheca [6251] Vulnerable Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

[Tetratheca paynterae](#)

Paynter's Tetratheca [66451] Endangered Species or species habitat known to occur within area

Migratory Species **[Resource Information]**

Name Status Type of Presence

Migratory Marine Birds

[Apus pacificus](#)

Fork-tailed Swift [678] Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Ardea alba](#)

Great Egret, White Egret [59541] Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Ardea ibis](#)

Cattle Egret [59542] Species or species habitat may occur within area

Migratory Terrestrial Species

[Leipoa ocellata](#)

Malleefowl [934] Vulnerable Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

[Merops ornatus](#)

Rainbow Bee-eater [670] Species or species habitat may occur within area

Migratory Wetlands Species

[Ardea alba](#)

Great Egret, White Egret [59541] Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Ardea ibis](#)

Cattle Egret [59542] Species or species habitat may occur within area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Lands **[Resource Information]**

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

Commonwealth Land -

Listed Marine Species [Resource Information]

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Apus pacificus		
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Ardea alba		
Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Ardea ibis		
Cattle Egret [59542]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Merops ornatus		
Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area

Extra Information

Places on the RNE [Resource Information]

Note that not all Indigenous sites may be listed.

Name	Status
Natural	
Lake Barlee WA	Indicative Place
Mount Manning Nature Reserve WA	Registered
Walyahmoning Rock Nature Reserve WA	Registered

State and Territory Reserves [Resource Information]

Baladjie Lake, WA
Unnamed WA36918, WA
Walyahmoning, WA
Unnamed WA48470, WA
Mount Manning Range, WA
Unnamed WA44446, WA

Invasive Species [Resource Information]

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resources Audit, 2001.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Mammals		
Capra hircus		
Goat [2]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Felis catus		
Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Oryctolagus cuniculus		
Rabbit, European Rabbit [128]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Vulpes vulpes		
Red Fox, Fox [18]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Plants

[Asparagus asparagoides](#)

Bridal Creeper, Bridal Veil
Creeper, Smilax, Florist's
Smilax, Smilax Asparagus
[22473]

Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Carrichtera annua](#)

Ward's Weed [9511]

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

[Cenchrus ciliaris](#)

Buffel-grass, Black Buffel-grass
[20213]

Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Chrysanthemoides monilifera](#)

Bitou Bush, Boneseed [18983]

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Nationally Important Wetlands

[Resource Information]

[Lake Barlee, WA](#)

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World Heritage and Register of National Estate properties, Wetlands of International Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

For species where the distributions are well known, maps are digitised from sources such as recovery plans and detailed habitat studies. Where appropriate, core breeding, foraging and roosting areas are indicated under 'type of presence'. For species whose distributions are less well known, point locations are collated from government wildlife authorities, museums, and non-government organisations; bioclimatic distribution models are generated and these validated by experts. In some cases, the distribution maps are based solely on expert knowledge.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites;
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent.

Such breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Coordinates

118.66667
 -29.38333,120.43333
 -29.38333,120.43333
 -30.83333,118.66667
 -30.83333,118.66667 -29.38333

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- [-Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, New South Wales](#)
- [-Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria](#)
- [-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [-Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [-Parks and Wildlife Service NT, NT Dept of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts](#)
- [-Environmental and Resource Management, Queensland](#)
- [-Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia](#)
- [-Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water](#)
- [-Birds Australia](#)
- [-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [-Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- Natural history museums of Australia
- [-Museum Victoria](#)
- [-Australian Museum](#)
- [-SA Museum](#)
- [-Queensland Museum](#)
- [-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [-Queensland Herbarium](#)
- [-National Herbarium of NSW](#)
- [-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria](#)
- [-Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
- [-State Herbarium of South Australia](#)
- [-Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
- [-Western Australian Herbarium](#)
- [-Australian National Herbarium, Atherton and Canberra](#)
- [-University of New England](#)
- [-Ocean Biogeographic Information System](#)
- [-Australian Government, Department of Defence](#)
- [-State Forests of NSW](#)
- Other groups and individuals

Environment Australia is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

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