
**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 1094 (COND. 6.1 - 6.3)
WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM SURVEY REPORT
(1 – 2 NOVEMBER 2022)**

**CAPECARE, URBAN AND COMMERCIAL NEW
DEVELOPMENT, AGED CARE NATURALISTE TERRACE,
DUNSBOROUGH, W.A.**

REPORT PREPARED FOR

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 1094 (CONDITIONS 6.1 - 6.3) WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM SURVEY REPORT (1 -2 NOV 2022)
Capecare, Urban and Commercial New Development, Aged Care
Naturaliste Terrace, Dunsborough, W.A.

Our Reference:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Armstrong Reserve is situated within the City of Busselton (City). It is located approximately 500 m north of the Dunsborough business centre and bounded by Armstrong Place to the south, Gifford Road to the east, residential housing to the north and Naturaliste Terrace to the west.

Ray Village Aged Services Incorporated trading as Capecare (Capecare) has developed a 1.28 ha portion of Armstrong Reserve, Naturaliste Terrace, Dunsborough (the development footprint), for the purpose of constructing and operating an aged care facility (*Capecare Dunsborough*), with the balance gazetted into three lots, specifically:

- City of Busselton retaining vesting of Reserve 25339 (Lots 3000 and 601) for the purpose of 'Landscape Protection'; and
- Water Corporation retaining vesting of Reserve 40445 (Lot 258) for the purpose of 'Drainage'.

Ministerial Statement 926, allowing the project to commence, was published on the 21 January 2013, and subsequently updated with Ministerial Statement 1094 in March 2019.

Condition 6.1 of Ministerial Statement 1094 requires the submission of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the remaining portion of Armstrong Reserve outside the Development Envelope to mitigate significant residual impacts of the proposal on a priority ecological community Dunsborough Swamp Forest.

Condition 6.2 of Ministerial Statement 1094 requires the EMP be prepared in consultation with the City and identifies specific aspects for inclusion and Condition 6.3 requires that Capecare implement the approved EMP.

The approved EMP (Endplan Environmental 2019) includes a number of commitments made by Capecare as part of the project approval as outlined in the EMP for Armstrong Reserve including but not limited to the conduct of twice annual surveys for the presence of *P. occidentalis* for **three** years following commencement of vegetation clearing.

This report presents the results of the monitoring survey of Armstrong Reserve (post clearing **year 2, survey 2**) conducted during the 1 - 2 November 2022 that comprised:

1. Daytime targeted search for evidence of WRPs (e.g., dreys, tree hollows, scats, individuals);
2. Nocturnal counts (two consecutive nights) to determine the distribution and abundance of Western Ringtail Possums (WRPs) within Armstrong Reserve; and
3. Preparation of a factual report (this report).

In relation to the survey findings:

- In addition to the 25 dreys/hollows reported during the initial (S1) survey conducted this year, three dreys or hollows that are possibly suitable for nesting were identified during the 1 November 2022 day-time survey that preceded the initial night-time spotlighting survey. These additional prospective nesting sites comprised a mixture of dreys and hollows;
- Twelve WRP's were recorded during the evening of 1 November 2022;
- Ten WRP's were recorded on the evening of 2 November 2022; and
- No Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula hypoleucus*) were observed.

Observed WRPs ranged from juveniles or small females to mature breeding males. Distribution patterns and numbers observed show broad similarities to equivalent survey data from the initial survey conducted in February this year in addition to that conducted previously (Terrestrial Ecosystems, unpublished 2021).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	II
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 Scope of Works	2
2. METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Field Survey Methodology	3
2.2 Survey Constraints	3
3. RESULTS	4
3.1 Vegetation Types	4
3.2 Weather Observations	4
3.3 Results	5
3.3.1 Drey Survey	5
3.3.2 Possum Survey Results	8
3.3.3 Other Observations	8
4. DISCUSSION	9
4.1 Summary of Previous Survey Findings	9
4.1.1 Surveys Conducted Prior to Capecare Development	9
4.1.2 Surveys Conducted Following Capecare Development	9
4.2 Survey Findings – November 2022	10
5. REFERENCES	11
FIGURES	
TABLES	
PLATES	
APPENDIX	

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Regional Location
Figure 2	Cadastre and Reserve Designations (in text)
Figure 3	Vegetation Mapping
Figure 4	November 2022 Survey Observed Drey and Possum Locations

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Survey Daily Weather, Cape Leeuwin
Table 2	Listing and Summary Description of Dreys and Nesting Hollows 1-2 November 2022
Table 3	Listing and Summary Description of WRP Observed 1-2 November 2022

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Large drey located at observation point D28
Plate 2	Stag located at observation point D04 prevalent in Marri Mixed Open Forest
Plate 3	Large hollow in Swamp Paperbark (observation point D26)
Plate 4	Extensive Quenda diggings in the central eastern portion of the Reserve

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Authorisation to Take or Disturb Threatened Species (TFA 2022-0007)
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The aged care facility, known as *Capecare Dunsborough*, is situated within the municipal boundary of the City of Busselton and is located approximately 500 m north of the business centre of Dunsborough and is bounded by Armstrong Place to the south, Gifford Road to the east, residential housing to the north and Naturaliste Terrace and the remaining vegetated portion of Armstrong Reserve to the west (**Figure 1**).

Ray Village Aged Services Incorporated trading as Capecare (Capecare) has developed a 1.28 ha portion of Armstrong Reserve, Naturaliste Terrace, Dunsborough (the development footprint),

The remaining vegetated portion of Armstrong Reserve has subsequently been gazetted into three separate Lots with City of Busselton retaining vesting of Reserve 25229 (Lots 3000 and 601) for the purpose of 'Landscape Protection' and the Water Corporation retaining vesting of Reserve 40445 (Lot 258) for the purpose of 'Drainage' (**Figure 2**).

Ministerial Statement 926, allowing the project to commence, was published on the 21 January 2013, and subsequently updated with Ministerial Statement 1094 in March 2019.

Condition 6.1 of Ministerial Statement 1094 requires the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the remaining portion of Armstrong Reserve outside the Development Envelope to mitigate significant residual impacts of the proposal on a priority ecological community Dunsborough Swamp Forest. Specific concerns relating to fauna included impacts on:

1. *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum); and
2. *Ctenotus ora* (Coastal Plains Skink)

Condition 6.2 of Ministerial Statement 1094 requires the EMP be prepared in consultation with the City and identifies specific aspects for inclusion and Condition 6.3 requires that the approved EMP be implemented by Capecare.

Bushland outside of the development envelope is to be retained and managed in accordance with the Armstrong Reserve Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (Endplan Environmental 2019). The EMP has been prepared in consultation with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) EIA Planning Branch, the City of Busselton and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The approved EMP (Endplan Environmental 2019) includes a number of commitments made by Capecare as part of the project approval as outlined in the EMP for Armstrong Reserve including but not limited to the conduct of twice annual surveys for the presence of *P. occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum – WRP) for three years following commencement of vegetation clearing.

This report presents the results of the second sampling event (post-clearing **year 2, survey 2**) of Armstrong Reserve consistent with approval requirements. The survey was conducted over the period 1 - 2 November 2022

¹ The Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is listed as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *WA Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

1.2 Objectives

To protect and conserve the Critically Endangered *P. occidentalis* by monitoring post-construction population status, specifically to determine within the limits of the survey the number and distribution of WRPs utilising Armstrong Reserve.

1.3 Scope of Works

The scope of work includes but is not limited to:

1. Daytime targeted search for evidence of WRPs (e.g., dreys, tree hollows, scats, individuals);
2. Nocturnal counts (two consecutive nights) to determine the distribution and abundance of WRPs within Armstrong Reserve; and
3. Preparation of a report (this report).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Field Survey Methodology

The adopted methodology closely follows the recommended procedures and requirements of the 'Development Planning Guidelines' for a preliminary survey of WRPs' (DEC 2009) and is informed by methodology previously applied by fauna specialists operating on-site. A copy of the approval to conduct the survey is presented in **Appendix 1**.

A pre-survey identification of dreys and potential hollows was undertaken prior to night surveying, and locations mapped for subsequent reference. The nesting habitat survey comprised a review of sites previously identified during the post-clearing **year 2, survey 2** (Endplan Environmental, 2022 unpublished report). Additional prospective sites identified during the identification of nesting habitats were added to the listing. Where known, the species of tree and tree height recorded for each observation. A photograph was taken of each drey or tree with a hollow, and each drey categorised.

The diurnal search involved a series of close spaced grid traverses (minimum 20m spacing) carried out on foot using a GPS enabled tablet and computer-based mapping programme (www.ozexplorer.com.au) for guidance and as a data recorder.

Nocturnal counts were undertaken on the 1 and 2 November 2022. The sampling procedure involved systematic searching of the entire Reserve by way of close spaced traverses and perimeter searches on foot, using a narrow-beamed halogen hand torches (Ikelite Super 8: www.ikelite.com/collections/pc-flashlights) to sight individual WRPs or their eye reflection. Torches were held at eye level and swept slowly side to side. Data and observations were recorded directly to the tablet.

2.2 Survey Constraints

The effectiveness of targeted WRP field surveys at Armstrong Reserve is impacted by topography, access, vegetation structure and composition. These factors, together with seasonal water within drainage features limits spotlighting along defined lines especially in central portions of the site. Western Ringtail Possum surveys in the area are further complicated by contiguous tree canopies crossing lot boundaries and with it the home range of animals that may influence continuity of records.

Spotlight surveys are of more limited use in dense vegetation that makes up the central portion of the Reserve as there is limited light penetration.

During the period of this survey, significant areas of the central portion of the site was inundated, with drainage flow continuing. Results of the good growing conditions were evidenced by large quantities of vegetative (leaf) material within overstorey species, especially Coastal Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*)

Despite these limitations, it is believed adequate searching was undertaken to assess the WRP within the Reserve.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Vegetation Types

A detailed description of flora and vegetation within Armstrong Reserve is provided in specialist surveys conducted in Spring 2005, 2006 and 2007 (Coffey Environment 2008) and 2009 (Ecoscape 2010) and will not be repeated here. Knowledge of vegetation types is important in that the ability to detect WRP's as their relative abundance within the Reserve is likely to vary between the different vegetation communities. Habitat loss and fragmentation is known as a threatening process for the maintenance of WRP populations.

In summary, the Reserve contains the following three distinct vegetation types²:

1. **CcAfMxOF** - *Corymbia calophylla*, *Agonis flexuosa* and mixed species Open Forest to Low Woodland occasionally over *Jacksonia furcellata* Tall Open Shrubland occasionally over *Acacia divergens*, *Acacia pulchella* and *Daviesia divaricata* Open Heath over *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Hibbertia hypericoides* and mixed species Open Low Heath to Low Shrubland over mixed Open Herbland and mixed Open to Very Open Sedgeland on dryland soils in a thin strip along the northern boundary as well as in the south-west corner of the site.
2. **AfCcErBILOF** - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *Eucalyptus rudis* and *Banksia littoralis* Low Open Forest to Open Woodland over *Hakea varia*, *Jacksonia furcellata* and *Viminaria juncea* Tall Open Shrubland over Mixed Open Shrubland over *Hibbertia hypericoides* and *Xanthorrhoea* spp. Low Open Shrubland over *Mesomalaena tetragona* and mixed species Sedgeland over *Caesia micrantha* and *Conostylis aculeata* Very Open Herbland occurring at the transition from dryland to wetland soils in a thin strip near the northern boundary as well as in the south-east corner of the site.
3. **MrErAfLOF** - *Melaleuca raphiophylla*, *Eucalyptus rudis*, *Agonis flexuosa* Low Open Forest or Woodland over *Viminaria juncea*, *Hakea varia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Xanthorrhoea preissii* Low Open Shrubland to Low Open Heath over *Lepidosperma squamatum*, *Cyathochaeta avenacea*, *Tetraria capillaris* and mixed species Sedgeland on waterlogged (dampland) soils in the centre of the site extending from Naturaliste Terrace to Gifford Road.

The location of each vegetation type is shown on **Figure 3**.

As noted in the initial pre-clearing WRP survey and relocation report (Onshore Environmental 2019), and experienced in this monitoring event, the ease of detection of WRP within the Reserve is likely to vary between the different vegetation communities with more dense vegetation making detection more difficult (e.g., in the low-lying *Melaleuca raphiophylla* Low Open Forest).

3.2 Weather Observations

Annual rainfall measured at Cape Naturalist was slightly above average to end October 2022. The Dunsborough area experienced below average to mean maximum and minimum temperatures during October, with rainfall close to the October average. Key measurements during the survey period are summarised in **Table 1**.

² Vegetation types are identified in Offshore Environmental (2019).

TABLE 1: SURVEY DAILY WEATHER, CAPE LEEUWIN (BOM - 009519)

	Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Evap	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am					3 pm						
			Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP
			°C	°C				mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	g th	km/h	hPa	°C	%	g th	km/h	hPa
Oct	30	Su	6.6	16.0	5.4			S	89	15:42	12.5	71		S	30	1016.5	14.6	67		S	46	1016.3
	31	Mo	9.1	18.4	3.4			SSW	50	12:41	14.7	60		S	26	1025.9	16.9	54		SSW	28	1025.1
Nov	1	Tu	10.3	19.7	0			SE	46	22:30	14.8	74		SSE	20	1027.5	18.2	66		SSW	24	1024.5
	2	We	9.5	21.8	0			ESE	39	07:08	17.0	68		ESE	26	1025.5	20.8	58		SW	19	1022.9
	3	Th	12.5	26.3	0			E	43	02:52	17.8	72		E	30	1018.6	26.3	41		NE	17	1014.8
	4	Fr	14.5	21.1	0.2			SW	43	10:56	15.1	89		SW	26	1017.4	19.3	54		SSW	26	1017.8
	5	Sa	10.8	22.1	0.2			S	57	15:08	17.5	63		E	20	1022.3	20.1	57		SSW	39	1018.4

Source: BOM <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/wa/archive/202202.summary>
 (accessed 22 Nov 2022)

Conditions during the survey reflect cool to moderate nights followed by warm days, with generally strong winds reflecting a summer pattern. While threatening, no rainfall was recorded during the survey period.

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Drey Survey

Twenty-five WRP dreys or trees / stags with hollows that could be used as a diurnal retreat were identified during the S1 (27-28 February 2022) previously reported. In relation to the review of these sites and additional observations made during this survey:

- Stag identified at D04 has collapsed and is no longer viable; and
- An additional two dreys and a single tree with possibly viable hollows were identified (D26-28 inclusive).

Western Ringtail Possum dreys or trees / stags with hollows that may function as diurnal retreats during this sampling event are summarised in **Table 2** and indicated in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 2: LISTING AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF DREYS AND NESTING HOLLOWES 1-2 NOVEMBER 2022

Obs. No.	Location ³		Description
	E	N	
D01	324273	6279333	Drey, good condition. 8 m AGL
D02	324266	6279339	Drey in <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) at 10m AGL
D03	324221	6279374	Hollow Marri 10mAGL
D04	324245	6279408	Stag Hollow Marri 5mAGL. Stag partially collapsed (S2 survey, Nov 2022) and no longer viable
D05	324218	6279448	Hollow on Marri 7mAGL
D06	324112	6279403	Drey in <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> (Swamp Paperbark) at 9mAGL
D07	324099	6279395	Drey in <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (Peppermint) at 10mAGL
D08	324063	6279372	Drey in Swamp Paperbark 4mAGL
D09	324047	6279391	Hollow in standing Marri trunk
D10	324186	6279478	Hollows in Marri trunk (stag)

³ All locations are in Zone 50 GDA94

Obs. No.	Location ³		Description
	E	N	
D11	324249	6279351	Hollow in Marri 10mAGL
D12	324025	6279440	Drey in Peppermint 10mAGL
D13	324115	6279463	Possum box in Peppermint 4mAGL. Full of bees.
D14	324100	6279489	Drey in Peppermint 12mAGL
D15	324137	6279494	Drey in Peppermint 14mAGL
D16	324238	6279450	Drey in Marri 10mAGL
D17	324243	6279408	Hollow in Marri 10mAGL
D18	324281	6279375	Hollow in Marri 5mAGL
D19	324305	6279333	Hollow in Marri 5mAGL
D20	324094	6279390	Hollow in Swamp Paperbark 1.5mAGL
D21	324043	6279400	Drey in Swamp Paperbark (6m AGL)
D22	324234	6279367	Drey Peppermint (4m AGL)
D23	324265	6279382	Drey in Swamp Paperbark (7m AGL)
D24	324191	6279459	Drey in Swamp Paperbark (6m AGL)
D25	324071	6279393	Drey in Swamp Paperbark (4m AGL)
D26	324157	6279435	Hollow in Swamp Paperbark (4m AGL)
D27	324210	6279460	Drey in Peppermint (6 m AGL)
D28	324161	6279500	Drey in Marri (xx m AGL)

Examples of dreys, dead hollows (stags) and living hollow WRP bearing tree digital photographs taken during the diurnal survey are presented in **Plates 1 - 3** respectively.

PLATE 1: Large drey located at observation point D28





PLATE 2: Stag located at observation point D04 prevalent in Marri Mixed Open Forest

PLATE 3: Large Hollow in Swamp Paperbark (observation point D26)



PLATE 4: Extensive Quenda diggings in the central eastern portion of the Reserve (S1 survey)



3.3.2 Possum Survey Results

A total of 22 WRPs were observed over the sampling event, with twelve (P01 – P12) during the night of 1 November 2022 and 10 (P13 – P22) on 2 November 2022 (refer to **Table 3** and **Figure 4**).

TABLE 3: LISTING AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF WRP OBSERVED, 1-2 NOVEMBER 2022

Obs. No.	Location ⁴		Description
	E	N	
P01-P02	324230	6279326	2 small WRP, adjacent, 8m elevation in marri. veg in Cape Care fringing reserve. calm, cool, clear night
P03	324251	6279354	Mature WRP in Marri at 8m
P04	324221	6279384	WRP in transitional Marri at 8m
P05	324235	6279428	WRP in multi-stemmed Agonis moving. Drey above and 5 m to N
P06	324117	6279416	WRP in multi-stemmed form, Agonis at 5m. Small.
P07	324101	6279420	WRP in Melaleuca N of drainage channel. Elevation 6 m
P08	324048	6279414	WRP in Agonis, at approximately 7m
P09	324070	6279443	Mature WRP in large Agonis at 8m.
P10	324101	6279468	WRP in thick multi-stemmed Agonis at 7m
P11	324126	6279503	WRP in thick Agonis at 7m
P12	324026	6279386	WRP in multi-stemmed Agonis at 5m
P13	324241	6279388	WRP in Agonis at approx. 6m. May have been initially feeding
P14	324227	6279407	WRP in Melaleuca at approximately 5m. Mature male?
P15	324198	6279438	
P16	324137	6279449	Small / juvenile WRP in spindly Agonis at approximately 6 m
P17	324154	6279476	WRP in multi-stemmed dense Agonis at approx. 5m
P18	324097	6279419	WRP in Melaleuca at 6m. Initially moving
P19	324027	6279412	WRP in tall marri at 10m
P20	324207	6279473	WRP in dense multi-stemmed Agonis at 5m
P21-P22	324144	6279411	2 WRP's in modest Agonis in reserve bordering Cape Care. Adjacent (about 5m separation)

3.3.3 Other Observations

As evidenced by abundant diggings on bunds within seasonally inundated areas in the central eastern portion of the Reserve, abundant populations of Quenda (*Isodon fusciventer*) are present. Dense understorey provides foraging opportunities and protection from predators (see **Plate 4** previous page).

⁴ All locations are in Zone 50 GDA94

4. DISCUSSION

Western Ringtail Possums are typically found in Coastal Peppermint (*A. flexuosa*)/Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) forests on the Swan Coastal Plain within the area Bunbury to Augusta (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2017), particularly where they exhibit limited anthropogenic disturbance and have low indices of fragmentation.

4.1 Summary of Previous Survey Findings

4.1.1 Surveys Conducted Prior to Capecare Development

The area surveyed prior to construction of the Capecare development commencing was approximately 4.22 ha, being the entire lot between Naturaliste Terrace to Gifford Road known collectively as Armstrong Reserve.

A WRP survey of Armstrong Reserve (ATA Environmental 2006) based on nocturnal spotlighting for WRP and diurnal searches for dreys recorded 21 possible dreys and 11 tree hollows and 19 possums on 5 October 2005 and 21 possums on 7 October 2005.

In 2011, Ecoscape (2012) conducted a WRP survey of Armstrong Reserve and used five transects surveyed over four consecutive nights. A total of nine Western Ringtail Possums were observed.

Onshore Environmental (2019) conducted a pre-clearing Targeted WRP Survey during 23 and 24 October 2019 and followed a similar methodology to that reported here. A total of 11 dreys and two suitable hollows were recorded within the Reserve during daytime searches, with totals of 17 and 21 WRPs recorded within the Reserve during the associated two nights of nocturnal searches.

4.1.2 Surveys Conducted Following Capecare Development

Clearing of the Capecare development envelope comprising 1.28 ha occurred over the period 28 October - 2 November 2019.

Following commencement of the project, WRP surveys were conducted on the balance of land, being City Reserve 252299 (Lots 3000 and 601) for the purpose of 'Landscape Protection'; and Water Corporation retaining the vesting of Reserve 40445 (Lot 258), an area of 2.84 Ha.

A Spring (November) survey of WRP and dreys within Armstrong Reserve was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020). Seven dreys and 14 WRP observations were recorded during the two-night survey. The weather on the first night was rainy and on the second night heavy cloud was experienced.

An Autumn (March) survey of WRP and dreys within Armstrong Reserve was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2021). Seven WRP observations were recorded on each of the survey nights, and 16 dreys observed during the diurnal search.

A further late summer (end February) survey of WRP using a similar method was conducted by Endplan Environmental (2022). During this survey, 20 WRP in total were observed, with nine during the evening of 27 February 2022 and eleven on 28 February 2022.

4.2 Survey Findings – November 2022

Approval to conduct the survey was obtained from the DBCA (refer to **Appendix 1**) was sought and a Spring WRP survey conducted that comprised:

1. Daytime targeted search for evidence of WRPs (e.g., dreys, tree hollows, scats, individuals);
2. Nocturnal counts (two consecutive nights) to determine the distribution and abundance of WRPs within Armstrong Reserve

undertaken at Armstrong Reserve (Reserves 25229 and 40445) adjoining the Capecare facility.

It is considered the effectiveness of targeted WRP field surveys at Armstrong Reserve is impacted by water and drainage, topography, access; vegetation structure and composition. In particular the presence of standing water in addition to enhanced density of vegetation, both influenced by average rainfall, has required deviation from established transect lines.

Notwithstanding it is believed that good perimeter access and a relatively small search area supports the outcome as adequately reflecting population status within the survey area.

In relation to the survey findings:

- Two additional dreys and a further hollow possibly suitable for nesting were identified in addition to the 25 identified during the previous February 2022 survey. These comprised a mixture of dreys, hollows and stags;
- Twelve WRPs were recorded during the evening of 1 November 2022; and
- Ten WRPs were recorded on 2 November 2022.

Observed WRPs ranged juveniles or small females to mature possible breeding males. Lower representation was noted in the seasonally inundated central portion of the site comprising mixed species Sedgeland on waterlogged (dampland) soils in the centre of the site extending from Naturaliste Terrace to Gifford Road. This may have been due to difficulty of access resulting from significant inundation.

The November 2022 WRP survey confirms that remnant vegetation undertaken within Reserves 25339 and 40445 adjoining *Capecare Dunsborough* remain in good condition and continues to support a stable and, within the limits of the work conducted, healthy population of WRP.

The number of WRPs observed during early November represents the minimum number of WRPs that were utilising the 2.94 ha survey area during this survey conducted following completion of construction of the aged care facility.

5. REFERENCES

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FIGURES

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 1094 (COND. 6.1 - 6.3) WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM SURVEY REPORT, (1 – 2 NOVEMBER 2022)

**CAPECARE, URBAN AND COMMERCIAL NEW DEVELOPMENT, AGED CARE
NATURALISTE TERRACE, DUNSBOROUGH, W.A.**





CADASTRAL SOURCE: Landgate, June 2022.
 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SOURCE: NearMap, flown February 2022.

EndPlan
 Environmental

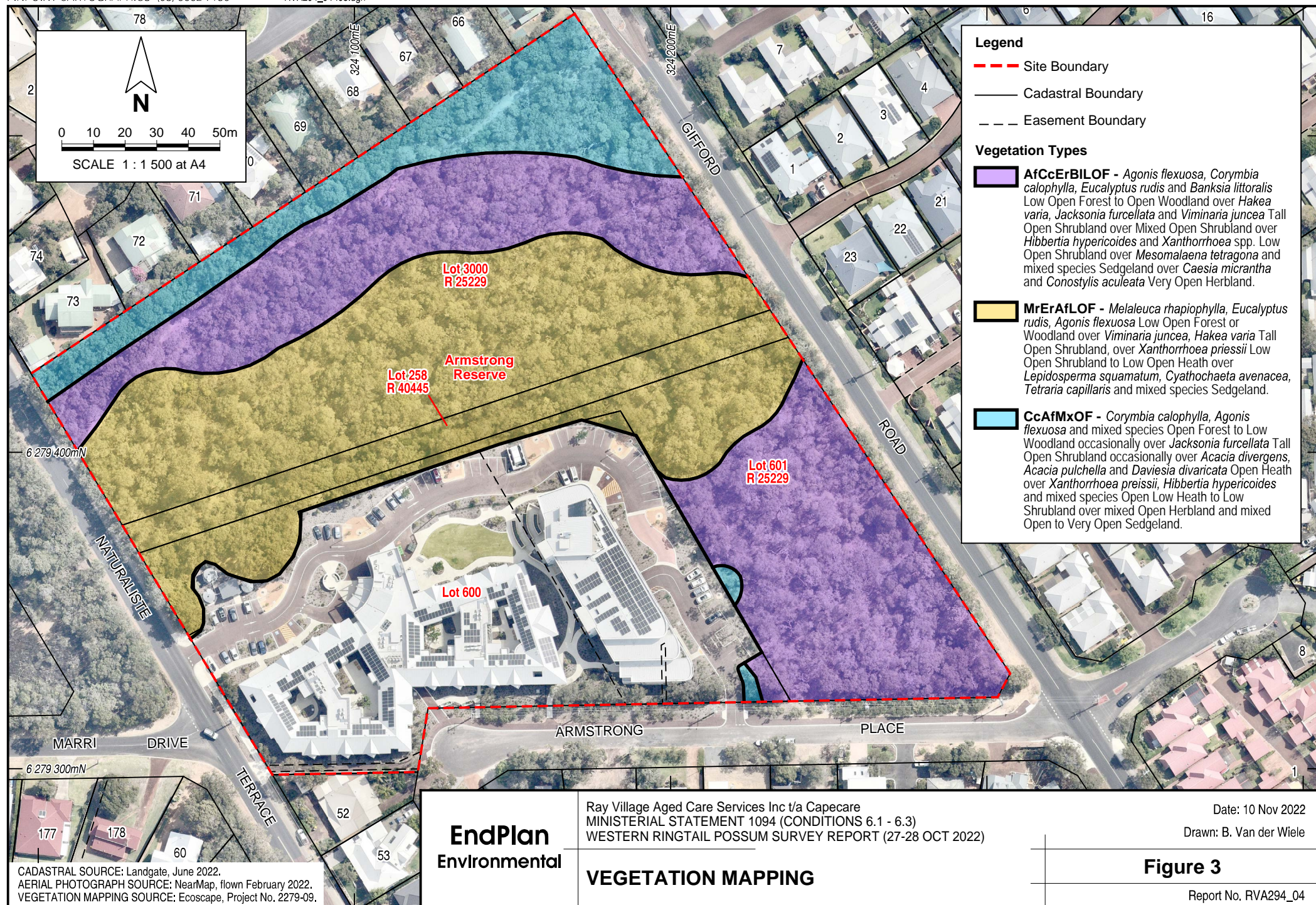
Ray Village Aged Care Services Inc t/a Capecare
 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 1094 (CONDITIONS 6.1 - 6.3)
 WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM SURVEY REPORT (27-28 OCT 2022)

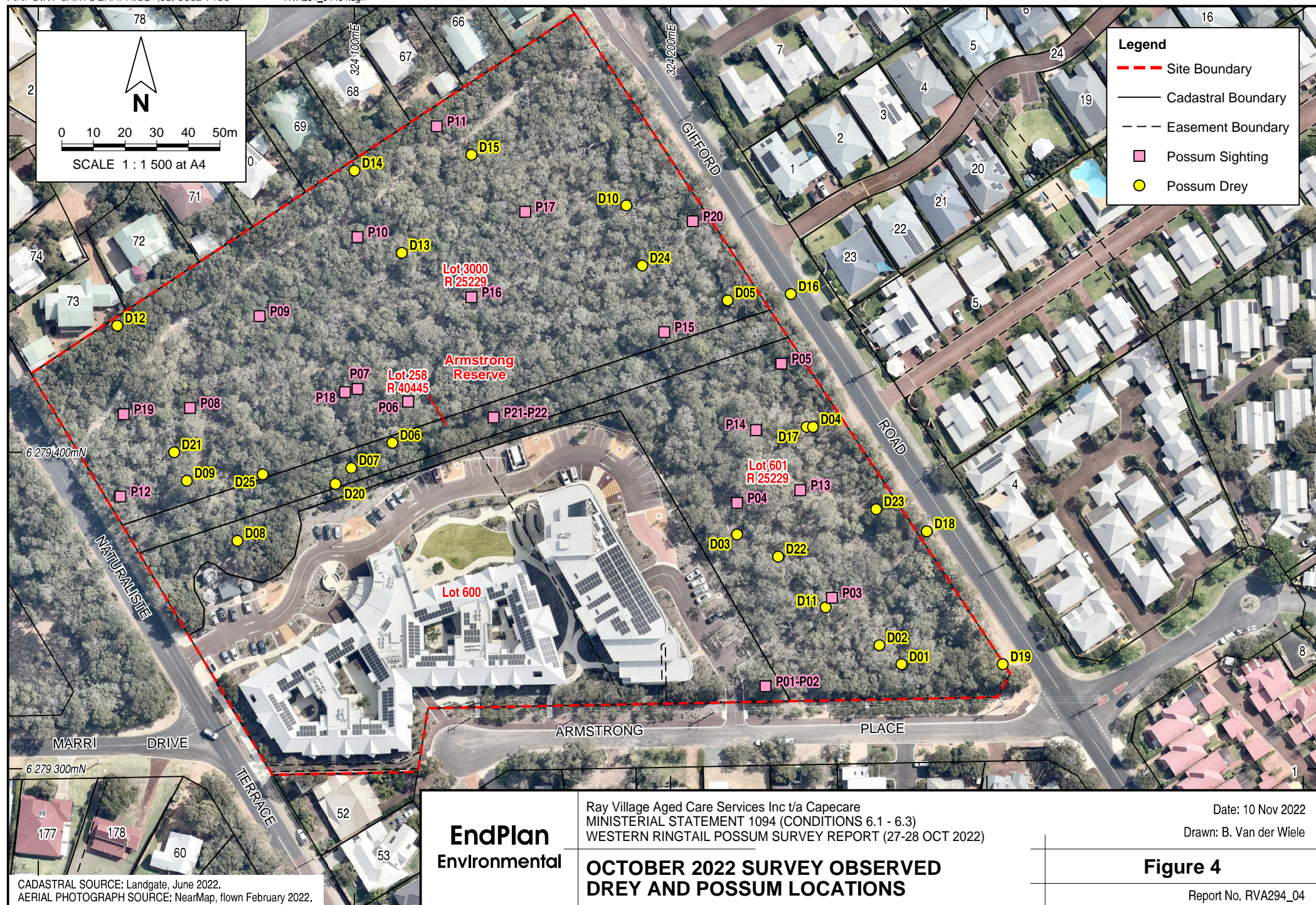
Date: 10 Nov 2022
 Drawn: B. Van der Wiele

CADASTRE AND RESERVE DESIGNATIONS

Figure 2

Report No. RVA294_04





APPENDIX

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 1094 (COND. 6.1 - 6.3) WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM SURVEY REPORT, (1 – 2 NOVEMBER 2022)

**CAPECARE, URBAN AND COMMERCIAL NEW DEVELOPMENT, AGED CARE
NATURALISTE TERRACE, DUNSBOROUGH, W.A.**

APPENDIX 1

COPY AUTHORISATION TO TAKE OR DISTURB THREATENED SPECIES (TFA 2022-0007)

**CAPECARE, URBAN AND COMMERCIAL NEW DEVELOPMENT, AGED CARE
NATURALISTE TERRACE, DUNSBOROUGH, W.A.**



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

AUTHORISATION TO TAKE OR DISTURB THREATENED SPECIES

Section 40 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

AUTHORISATION DETAILS

Authorisation type: Fauna

Authorisation number: TFA 2022-0007

Authorisation duration: From date signed by Minister's delegate, below, until 28 February 2023.

AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Bernadette van der Wiele
EndPlan Environmental
7 Bushland Close
Dunsborough WA 6281

AREA TO WHICH THIS AUTHORISATION APPLIES

Armstrong Reserve (R25229 and R40445), Dunsborough (Blackwood District).

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Purpose of taking/disturbance:

Monitor western ringtail possums within Armstrong Reserve in accordance with Ministerial Statement 1094 (conditions 6.1 and 6.2) and the associated Environmental Management Plan to identify any long-term effects from the Ray Village Aged Services (Capecare) development.

Threatened species authorised to be taken/disturbed (including conservation status):

Western ringtail possum, *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Critically Endangered)

Quantity of threatened species authorised to be taken/disturbed:

Any number of individual animals of the above listed threatened fauna species may be disturbed during the monitoring program.

Authorised taking/disturbance methodology:

Disturb western ringtail possums during spotlighting surveys using a hand-held halogen torch with a narrow beam. Transects will be walked during surveys.

ADDITIONAL AUTHORISED PERSONS

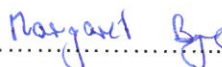
Additional personnel who are suitably qualified and experienced in the authorised activities working under the direction of the authorisation holder.

CONDITIONS

1. The written authorisation of the person in possession or occupation of the land accessed and upon which threatened fauna is taken or disturbed must:
 - a) state location details (including lot or location number, street/road, suburb and local government authority);
 - b) state land owner or occupier name, and contact phone number;
 - c) specify the time period that the authorisation is valid for;
 - d) be signed and dated; and
 - e) be attached to this Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species at all times.
2. This Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species, and any other written authorisation or lawful authority which authorises the take or disturbance of fauna on specified locations for the authorised activities must be carried at all times while conducting authorised activities and be produced on demand by a wildlife officer.
3. Additional authorised persons who are not suitably qualified and experienced in the authorised activities, and field assistants assisting with the authorised activities, must be working under direct supervision of experienced and competent named authorised persons.
4. Any inadvertently captured species of non-target threatened fauna or non-threatened fauna (threatened fauna as defined in *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* Section 19) is to be released immediately at the point of capture. Details of such fauna must be included in the fauna taking/disturbance return as required under this authorisation.
5. The authorisation holder, unless specified in the authorised activities, must not:
 - a) release any threatened fauna in any area where it does not naturally occur;
 - b) transfer threatened fauna to any other person or authority (other than the Western Australian Museum) unless the fauna is injured or abandoned fauna (condition 6); or
 - c) dispose of the remains of threatened fauna in any manner likely to confuse the natural or present-day distribution of the species.
6. All threatened fauna injuries, unexpected deaths, unplanned euthanasia, and abandoned young or eggs, must be reported by the authorisation holder to the DBCA Wildlife Protection Branch, Wildlife Licensing Section (wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au) to notify of the incident and for advice on treatment or disposal. All deceased threatened fauna must be offered to the Western Australian Museum.
7. The authorisation holder must create, compile and maintain records and information as required in a DBCA approved "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" of all fauna taking/disturbance activities as they occur.
8. A DBCA approved "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" must be completed in full (including nil taking/disturbance details) and submitted to DBCA Wildlife Licensing Section (wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au) prior to the end of the authorisation duration and, if the authorisation duration is greater than 12 months, prior to the end of each annual period of the authorisation (from the date signed by the Minister's delegate) (refer to "Additional Information" section below). Where a licence to take or disturb fauna is issued in conjunction with this Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species, a combined "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" may be completed and submitted.
9. A written report detailing the undertaken authorised activities, outcome, unintended incidents, injuries and mortalities of threatened fauna, implemented monitoring, mitigation and management, and explaining the records and information as required in a DBCA approved "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" must be submitted, in addition to a "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" to DBCA Wildlife Licensing Section (wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Before undertaking the Authorised Activity, permission must be obtained from: (a) the owner or occupier of private land; or (b) the Department or Authority controlling Crown land, on which the Threatened Fauna occur. This includes obtaining the written endorsement from Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) if the authorised activity is proposed for land managed by DBCA.
2. This Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species does not constitute lawful authority issued under regulations 4 and 8 of the *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002*. Contact the applicable Department District Officer for further information.
3. The approved DBCA "Return of Fauna Taken/Disturbed" template can be obtained from DBCA Wildlife Licensing Section (wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au).
4. Any interaction involving nationally listed threatened fauna that may be harmful to the fauna and/or invasive may require approval from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/permits>). Interaction with such species is controlled by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.
5. It is the responsibility of the authorisation holder to ensure that they comply with the requirements of all applicable legislation.
6. An Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species does not constitute an animal ethics approval or a licence to use animals for scientific purposes as required under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, *Animal Welfare (Scientific Purposes) Regulations 2003*. Enquiries relating to the Animal Welfare Act scientific purposes licence and animal ethics committee approvals are to be directed to the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare>).



Dr Margaret Byrne

Executive Director of Biodiversity and Conservation Science

AS DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER

DATE: 18 / 2 / 2022

EndPlan Environmental is an Associate Member of the



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