



## **Appendix B DCCEEW Referral Decision and Request for Information**



## designated proponent – controlled action

### Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct – Enabling Infrastructure, near Woodstock, Queensland (EPBC 2022/09383)

This decision is made under section 75 and section 87 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

#### Proposed action

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**designated proponent** Townsville City Council

ABN: 447 4199 2072

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**proposed action** The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct – Enabling Infrastructure project consists of construction and operation of a water pipeline, development and use of new roads within gazetted reserves, and expansion or alteration of existing roads, to enable future developments within the Precinct. It also includes onsite laydown areas within the project footprint.

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#### Referral decision: controlled action

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**status of proposed action** The proposed action is a controlled action.

The project will require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

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**relevant controlling provisions** Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)

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#### Assessment approach decision

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**assessment approach** The project will be assessed by preliminary documentation

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#### Person authorised to make decision

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**name and position** Mark Say  
Acting Branch Head  
Environment Assessments Queensland and Sea Dumping Branch

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**signature**

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**date of decision** 22 December 2022

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**Request for Further Information**  
**Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct Enabling Infrastructure, near Woodstock Qld (2022/09383)**

On 23 December 2022, a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Water determined the above project is a controlled action due to likely significant impacts on the following matters protected under Part 3 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act):

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)

The delegate also determined that the proposed action will be assessed by preliminary documentation. Preliminary documentation for the proposal will include:

- The information contained in the original referral;
- The further information you provide on the impacts of the action and the strategies you propose to avoid, mitigate and offset those impacts (as described below); and
- Any other relevant information on the matters protected by the EPBC Act.

The preliminary documentation should be sufficient to allow the Minister (or delegate) to make an informed decision on whether to approve, under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, the taking of the action for the purposes of each controlling provision above.

The preliminary documentation must address the matters set out below and follow the content, style and formatting requirements set out in [Appendix A](#).

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Information required	
1.1	The location, boundaries and size (in hectares) of the disturbance footprint and of any adjoining areas which may be indirectly impacted by the proposal, including nearby vegetation. Include mapping and coordinates.
1.2	A description of all components of the action, including the anticipated timing and duration (including start and completion dates) of each component of the project. In addition, any components which were included in the referral material, but are no longer part of the proposed action or were previously referred must be clearly identified.
1.3	A description of the operational requirements of the action including any anticipated maintenance works.
1.4	A description of the surrounding land uses.
1.5	An indicative layout plan for the proposed action area, including the location and type of land use, key infrastructure, and the number and location of rehabilitation areas, dwellings, and associated infrastructure. Include mapping and coordinates for each of the above.
1.6	Provide a description of any approval that has been obtained from a State or Commonwealth agency or authority, including any conditions that apply to the action. Include a statement identifying any additional approval that is required.
1.7	To the extent reasonably practicable, provide a description of any future works that will be enabled due to the construction of this project. This includes projects that will and will not be referred by the proponent (or on their behalf).

## 2. HABITAT ASSESSMENT

### Background

Based on the information provided in your referral, and other available information, the department considers that the listed threatened species identified below may be significantly impacted by the proposed action.

Please note, it is the proponent's responsibility to be aware of any changes to the distribution of listed threatened species and information available in the Species Profile and Threats (SPRAT) Database. The proponent must ensure that a recent Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) report has been generated and considered before finalising the draft preliminary documentation.

The department does not accept the consideration of only Queensland Regional Ecosystem (RE) mapping to determine habitat for listed threatened species. Further, habitat assessments must not only consider remnant vegetation.

Habitat assessments must be informed by desktop and field surveys (in accordance with departmental guidelines or as defined by best practice surveys), and with reference to relevant departmental documents (e.g. approved Conservation Advices, Recovery Plans, draft referral guidelines and Listing Advices, and the SPRAT Database), including published research and other relevant sources. Where habitat assessments depart from departmental information, adequate justification must be provided to substantiate their suitability to the assessment.

Listed threatened species that are likely to be impacted by the proposed action:

- Black-throated Finch (*Poephila cincta cincta*) - Endangered
- Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus*) - Vulnerable
- Squatter Pigeon (*Geophaps scripta scripta*) - Vulnerable

Listed species that may be impacted by the proposed action:

- Masked Owl (northern) (*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*) - Vulnerable
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) - Vulnerable
- Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) - Vulnerable
- Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) - Critically endangered
- Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) - Endangered
- Australian Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*) - Endangered
- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) - Endangered
- McDonalds Frog (*Cophixalus mcdonaldi*) - Critically endangered
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) - Vulnerable
- Sermons Leaf-nosed bat (*Hipposideros semoni*) - Vulnerable
- Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) (*Phascolarctos cinerus*) - Endangered
- Greater Glider (northern) (*Petauroides minor*) – Vulnerable

- Greater Glider (southern and central) (*Petauroides volans*) - Endangered

## 2.1 Species general information

Information required	
2.1.1	Provide a habitat assessment for relevant listed threatened species and communities. Include information on habitat located within, adjacent to and downstream of the project area, include habitat patch size in hectares. Include references to updated advice from the SPRAT Database
2.1.2	Identify and describe known historical records of the listed threatened species and ecological communities in the broader region. All known records must be supported by an appropriate source (i.e. Commonwealth and State databases, published research, publicly available survey reports, etc.), the year of the record and a description of the habitat in which the record was identified.
2.1.3	Provide detailed mapping of suitable habitat (within, adjacent to and downstream of the project site, where relevant) for all listed threatened species and communities, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is specific to the habitat assessment undertaken for each listed threatened species and ecological community (i.e. does not only illustrate relevant Queensland Regional Ecosystems);</li> <li>• includes an overlay of the project disturbance footprint;</li> <li>• includes known records of individuals derived from desktop analysis and field surveys; and</li> <li>• is provided separately as attachments in JPEG format.</li> </ul>
2.1.4	Include an assessment of the adequacy of any surveys undertaken (including survey effort and timing). In particular, the extent to which these surveys were appropriate for the listed species or community and undertaken in accordance with relevant departmental survey guidelines.
2.1.5	Attach all relevant ecological surveys referenced in the referral and preliminary documentation as supporting documents to the preliminary documentation.

## 2.2 Species specific information

The preliminary documentation must address the following matters in addition to the general information listed above.

<b>Information required</b>	
<b>Black-throated Finch (Southern) (<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>) – Endangered</b>	
2.2.1	Include mapping of located individuals from surveys. Include in this mapping the location of breeding and foraging habitat within and surrounding the project area as well as any notable evidence of individuals such as nests.
2.2.2	Identification of relevant food species in and surrounding the project area.
<b>Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat (<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus</i>) - Vulnerable</b>	
2.2.3	Include mapping of suitable roosting and foraging habitat and locations of survey effort. This should include areas within and surrounding the project area that are suitable foraging and roosting habitat.
<b>Squatter Pigeon (southern) (<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>) – Vulnerable</b>	
2.2.4	A discussion of vegetation composition and structure on relevant land zones (i.e. specific tree and grass species).
2.2.5	A discussion of breeding, foraging and dispersal habitat requirements as defined by relevant statutory documentation. See note below.
2.2.6	The total area (in hectares) of each breeding, foraging and dispersal habitat type, including consideration of disturbed (non-remnant vegetation) areas.
<b>Australian Painted Snipe (<i>Rostratula australis</i>) – Endangered</b>	
2.2.7	A discussion of vegetation composition and structure (i.e. shallow wetlands with a good cover of grasses, rushes and reeds).
2.2.8	A discussion of habitat use requirements (e.g. breeding, foraging, dispersal, etc.).
2.2.9	The total area (in hectares) of each identified habitat type (e.g. breeding, foraging, dispersal, etc.)

**Note:** Breeding habitat for Squatter Pigeon (southern) is defined as stony rises on sandy or gravelly soils, within 1km of a suitable, permanent waterbody. Foraging habitat is defined as any remnant or regrowth open-forest, open-woodland or scrub dominated by *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, *Acacia* or *Callitris* species, on sandy or gravelly soils. In Queensland, foraging and breeding habitat is known to occur on well-draining, sandy or loamy soils on low, gently sloping, flat to undulating plains and foothills, and lateritic soils on low ‘jump-ups’ and escarpments. (SPRAT database)

### 3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Background

The preliminary documentation must include an assessment of direct, indirect and consequential impacts on the relevant controlling provisions as a result of the proposed action, and must be assessed in accordance with relevant departmental policies and guidelines, including the SPRAT Database.

The department considers the proposed action may result in, but is not limited to, the following direct, indirect and consequential impacts:

- Habitat loss from vegetation clearing.
- Habitat fragmentation from vegetation clearing.
- Habitat degrading processes such as edge effects (e.g. weed invasion).
- Mortality and injury of listed fauna from increased numbers of introduced predators.
- Mortality and injury from increased vehicle activity.
- Disruption of listed species' behaviour from increase light and noise pollution.

#### 3.1 Listed Threatened Species

Information required	
3.1.1	An assessment of the likely impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed action, including vegetation clearing, maintenance, increased traffic, and increased activity in the general area.
3.1.2	Include the direct and indirect loss and/or disturbance of protected matters and their habitat as a result of the proposed action. This must include the area (in hectares) and quality of the habitat to be impacted and quantification of the individuals to be impacted (where applicable).
3.1.3	An assessment of the impacts of habitat fragmentation in the project area and surrounding areas, including consideration of species' movement patterns.
3.1.4	An assessment of the likely duration of impacts to protected matters as a result of the proposed action.
3.1.5	A discussion of whether the impacts are likely to be repeated, for example as part of maintenance.
3.1.6	A discussion of whether any impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible.
3.1.7	Justify, with supporting evidence, how the proposed action will not be inconsistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australia's obligations under the Biodiversity Convention, the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention), and the</li></ul>



	<p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A recovery plan or threat abatement plan.</li></ul>
3.1.8	Assess the likelihood and give a description of all potential facilitated impacts to listed threatened species from future actions that have been enabled by this proposed action.

## 4. AVOIDANCE, MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

### Background

Avoidance and mitigation measures are the primary methods of eliminating and reducing significant impacts on protected matters. Where possible and practicable, it is best to avoid impacts. Even if it is not possible to completely avoid a protected matter there may be ways to reduce the impact. If impacts cannot be avoided, then they should be minimised or mitigated as much as possible.

Avoidance and mitigation measures must be investigated thoroughly as a part of the assessment and be supported by evidence to demonstrate likely success. The SPRAT Database, and associated statutory documents, may provide relevant mitigation measures for protected matters. Management commitments by the person proposing to take the action must be clearly distinguished from recommendations or statements of best practice made by the document author or other technical expert.

Relevant management plans should be included as appendices to the preliminary documentation. Sufficient detail must be provided in each plan to ensure an assessment can be undertaken as to their likely suitability and effectiveness. Please note, the department is likely to recommend to the Minister (or delegate) that the conditions of approval require relevant plans to be approved and implemented prior to the commencement of the proposed action.

The department notes the referral includes a detailed description of the proposed avoidance, mitigation and management measures to be implemented by the proponent during the construction, operation and maintenance stages of the proposed action. The referral states that the following relevant management plans will be developed prior to the commencement of the proposed action:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Weed and Pest Animal Management Plan
- Bushfire Management Plan

In addition to the above plans, the department recommends the following plan be developed prior to the commencement of the proposed action:

- Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) Management Plan

Information required	
4.1	Include the management plans specified above (in approved or draft format) as appendices to the preliminary documentation.
4.2	<p>A detailed summary of measures proposed to be undertaken by the proponent to avoid, mitigate and manage relevant impacts of the proposed action on relevant protected matters (including any measures required through other Commonwealth, State and/or local government approvals).</p> <p>Proposed measures must be based on best available practices, appropriate standards, evidence of success for other similar actions and supported by published scientific evidence. All commitments must be drafted using committal language (e.g. 'will' and 'must') when describing the proposed measures.</p>

	<p>All proposed measures must also be drafted to meet the 'S.M.A.R.T' principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S – Specific (what and how)</li> <li>• M – Measurable (baseline information, number/value, auditable)</li> <li>• A – Achievable (timeframe, money, personnel)</li> <li>• R – Relevant (conservation advices, recovery plans, threat abatement plans)</li> <li>• T – Time-bound (specific timeframe to complete).</li> </ul>
4.2	Information on the timing, frequency and duration of the proposed avoidance, mitigation and management measures to be implemented.
4.3	Details of specific and measurable environmental outcomes to be achieved for relevant protected matters, including an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the proposed measures.
4.4	Any statutory or policy basis for the proposed measures, including reference to the SPRAT Database and relevant approved conservation advice, recovery plan or threat abatement plan, and a discussion on how the proposed measures are consistent with relevant plans.
4.5	Details of ongoing management and monitoring programs, including timing, to validate the effectiveness of proposed measures and demonstrate that environmental outcomes will be, or have been, achieved.
4.6	Details of tangible, on-ground corrective actions that will be implemented, including timing, in the event that monitoring programs indicate that the environmental outcomes have not been, or will not be, achieved.

## 5. REHABILITATION REQUIREMENTS

Information required	
5.1	<p>The details of any rehabilitation activities proposed to be undertaken, including any activities required through other Commonwealth, State and/or local government approvals.</p> <p>All commitments must be drafted using committal language (e.g. 'will' and 'must') when describing the proposed activities.</p>
5.2	<p>The proposed final landform, including rehabilitation completion criteria, and its relation to the pre-disturbance vegetation community. Include an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the proposed rehabilitation activities.</p>
5.3	<p>Provide detailed mapping of the project site that clearly identifies areas to be rehabilitated.</p>
5.4	<p>Information on the timing, frequency and duration of proposed rehabilitation activities to be implemented, including anticipated time to completion.</p>
5.5	<p>Details of ongoing management and monitoring programs, including timing, to validate the effectiveness of proposed rehabilitation activities and demonstrate that completion criteria will be, or have been, achieved.</p>
5.6	<p>Details of tangible, on-ground corrective actions that will be implemented, including timing, in the event that monitoring programs indicate that the completion criteria have not been, or will not be, achieved.</p>
5.7	<p>Details on consideration of flora species that may be relevant to listed threatened species present in the region such as Southern Black-throated Finch.</p>

## 6. OFFSETS

### Background

Environmental offsets are measures that compensate for the residual significant impacts of an action on the environment. Offsets provide environmental benefits to counterbalance the impacts that remain after consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures. Offsets do not reduce the impacts of an action, and are not intended to make proposals with unacceptable impacts acceptable. It is important to consider environmental offsets early in the assessment process. Correspondence with the department regarding offsetting is highly encouraged. The department's *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (2012)* (Offsets Policy) is available at: [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy).

If an offset area has been nominated, then provide an Offset Management Plan (OMP). If not, provide an Offset Strategy (OS). Please note, the department is likely to recommend to the Minister (or delegate) that the conditions of approval require the environmental offset/s or the OMP be approved and implemented prior to the commencement of the proposed action.

Information required	
6.1	An assessment of the likelihood of residual significant impacts occurring on relevant protected matters, after avoidance, mitigation and management measures have been applied.
6.2	A summary of the proposed environmental offset, if required in accordance with the assessment of significant residual impact, and key commitments to achieve a conservation gain for each protected matter.
6.3	If an offset area has not been nominated, include a draft OS as an appendix to the preliminary documentation. The draft OS must meet the information requirements set out in <a href="#">Appendix B.1</a> .
6.4	Where offset area/s have been nominated, include a draft OMP as an appendix to the preliminary documentation. The draft OMP must meet the information requirements set out in <a href="#">Appendix B.2</a> , and must be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist and in accordance with the department's <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (2014)</i> , available at: <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/environmental-management-plan-guidelines">www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/environmental-management-plan-guidelines</a> .

## 7. ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Information required	
7.1	<p>A description of how the proposed action meets the principles of ESD, as defined in section 3A of the EPBC Act. The following principles are <b><i>principles of ecologically sustainable development</i></b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations;</li><li>• if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;</li><li>• the principle of inter-generational equity—that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;</li><li>• the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision making;</li><li>• improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.</li></ul>

## 8. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS

Information required	
8.1	An analysis of the economic and social impacts of the action, both positive and negative.
8.2	Details of any public consultation activities undertaken and their outcomes.
8.3	<p>Details of any consultation with Indigenous stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Indigenous engagement</b></p> <p>Identify existing or potential native title rights and interests, including any areas and objects that are of particular significance to Indigenous peoples and communities, possibly impacted by the proposed action and the potential for managing those impacts.</p> <p>Describe any Indigenous consultation that has been undertaken, or will be undertaken, in relation to the proposed action and their outcomes.</p> <p>The department considers that best practice consultation, in accordance with the <u><i>Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the EPBC Act (2016)</i></u> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying and acknowledging all relevant affected Indigenous peoples and communities;</li> <li>• committing to early engagement;</li> <li>• building trust through early and ongoing communication for the duration of the project, including approvals, implementation and future management;</li> <li>• setting appropriate timeframes for consultation; and</li> <li>• demonstrating cultural awareness.</li> </ul> <p>Describe any state requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that the proponent reasonably believes are likely to apply, to the proposed action with regards to Indigenous peoples and communities.</p>
8.4	Projected economic costs and benefits of the project, including the basis for their estimate through cost/benefit analysis or similar studies.
8.5	Employment opportunities expected to be generated by the project (including construction and operational phases).

## 9. ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD OF THE PERSON PROPOSING TO TAKE THE ACTION

Information required	
9.1	<p>Include details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the person proposing to take the action;</li><li>• for an action for which a person has applied for a permit, the person making the application;</li><li>• if the person is a body corporate—the history of its executive officers in relation to environmental matters; and</li><li>• if the person is a body corporate that is a subsidiary of another body or company (the parent body)—the history in relation to environmental matters of the parent body and its executive officers.</li></ul>





## **APPENDIX A: Preliminary documentation content, style and formatting requirements**

<b>A1. Content requirements</b>	
A1.1	Be a stand-alone document containing sufficient information to avoid the need to search out previous or supplementary reports.
A1.2	Enable interested stakeholders and the Minister to easily understand the consequences of the project on matters of national environmental significance (MNES).
A1.3	Be written so that any conclusions reached can be independently assessed. Include all key claims, findings, proposals and undertakings in the main document.
A1.4	Refer to all relevant standards, policies and other guidance material published by the department. Any instances where published guidance is not followed must be justified. Where no Commonwealth standards exist, state government and industry standards may be useful.
A1.5	Include the names, roles and qualifications (where relevant) of all persons involved in preparing the preliminary documentation.
A1.6	Include a copy of this request for information and a cross-reference table indicating where the information fulfilling this request is included in the preliminary documentation (e.g. Section 4.2.2 and Appendix A, Chapter 2.1).
A1.7	The preliminary documentation must state the following for all information provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The source and date of the information;</li><li>• How the reliability of the information was tested;</li><li>• The uncertainties (if any) in the information;</li><li>• The guidelines, plans, and/or policies considered.</li></ul>
<b>A2. Format and style requirements</b>	
A2.1	Be in a suitable format to be published in hardcopy (A4 or A3 size, with maps and diagrams in A4 or A3 size and in colour) and published in electronic format (e.g. MSWord or PDF) on the internet.
A2.2	Include detailed technical information, studies or investigations necessary to support the information in the stand-alone document as appendices.
A2.3	Be objective, clear, succinct, avoid technical jargon and, where appropriate, be supported by maps, plans, diagrams, data or other descriptive detail.
A2.4	Reference all sources using the Harvard standard of referencing. Ensure that other supporting documents (e.g. academic studies, regulatory standards) are publicly accessible, with electronic links provided where possible.

A2.5	Redact the names and contact details of departmental officers.
A2.6	Not contain any commercial-in-confidence markings. If the preliminary documentation contains sensitive information, please discuss this with the assessment officer.
<b>A3. Ecological data provision</b>	
A3.1	The preliminary documentation must include an appendix of occurrence records (both sightings and evidence of presence) for all listed threatened and migratory species identified during field surveys for the proposed action. This data may be used by the department to update the relevant species distribution models that underpin the publicly available Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST).
A3.2	The species occurrence records must be provided in accordance with the department's <u>Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018)</u> using the department's <u>Species observation data template</u> . Sensitive ecological data must be identified and treated in accordance with the department's <u>Sensitive Ecological Data – Access and Management Policy V1.0</u> (2016) or subsequent revision.

## **APPENDIX B: Information Requirements for EPBC Act Offset Proposals**

Guidance on environmental offsets is available on the department's website at: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice-for-complying-with-the-epbc-act/environmental-offsets-under-epbc/environmental-offsets-guidance>.

<b>B1. Minimum Requirements for a draft Offset Strategy:</b>	
<p>An Offset Strategy (OS) is like a proof-of-concept for an offset proposal. It demonstrates suitability and feasibility, and commits to a timeframe. When impacts and offsets are well understood and suitability of the proposed offset is high, an OS may not be required.</p>	
B1.1	<p>Details of the residual impacts to protected matters as a result of the proposed action. This must include the methodology, with justification and supporting evidence, used to inform the inputs of the Offsets Assessment Guide in relation to the impact site for each relevant protected matter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>total area of habitat (in hectares); and</li> <li>habitat quality (e.g. using the Queensland Government <a href="#">Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality: A toolkit for assessing land based offsets under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy [2020]</a>).</li> </ul> <p>A methodology that is suitable for the species in question must be used to assess habitat quality (i.e. approved by the department or supported by literature), noting the same scoring mechanism must be used at both the impact site and the offset site.</p> <p><u>Please note</u>, if using the above <i>Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality</i>, the 'absence of threats' component of the score must only contain indicators that reflect the current habitat quality of the site (e.g. presence of pest species). Indicators that instead relate to a site's potential future condition must be excluded (e.g. risk of clearing or development).</p> <p>It is important to avoid confounding the presence of threats at a site <i>that might affect the future state of a site</i>, with those affecting its <i>current</i> state. These threats are appropriately dealt with in consideration of future risk of loss in the Offsets Assessment Guide and so should not be included in the score for current habitat condition.</p>
B1.2	<p>Details of the potential offset area/s (including a map) to compensate for the residual impacts of the proposed action on relevant protected matters.</p>
B1.3	<p>Specific details of the nature of the conservation gain to be achieved for relevant protected matters, including the creation, restoration and revegetation of habitat in the proposed offset area/s.</p>
B1.4	<p>Details, with supporting evidence, of how the environmental offset/s meets the requirements of the <i>EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (2012)</i> (Offsets Policy), available at: <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy">www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy</a>.</p>
B1.5	<p>The methodology, with justification and supporting evidence, used to inform the inputs of the Offsets Assessment Guide in relation to each potential offset area/s for each relevant protected matter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time until ecological benefit;</li> <li>• risk of loss (%) without offset;</li> <li>• risk of loss (%) with offset; and</li> <li>• confidence in result (%).</li> </ul> <p><u>Please note</u>, risk of loss should not include consideration of stochastic events (e.g. bushfires), activities that contribute to changes in habitat quality scores or impacts that would otherwise require an offset under any relevant legislation.</p>
B1.6	Evidence that the relevant protected matter, and/or their habitat, can be present in the potential offset area/s.
B1.7	Information about how the potential offset area/s provides connectivity with other relevant habitats and biodiversity corridors.
B1.8	Details and execution timing of the mechanism to legally secure the environmental offset/s (under Queensland legislation or equivalent) to provide enduring protection for the potential offset area/s against development incompatible with conservation.
<p><b>B2. Minimum Requirements for a draft Offset Management Plan:</b></p> <p>The Offset Management Plan (OMP) outlines what needs to be done to manage an offsite site once it is in place, such as setting milestones, monitoring, and reporting. It should also include a risk assessment and identify triggers for adaptive management. All direct offsets require an OMP.</p>	
B2.1	Details of the residual impacts to protected matters as a result of the proposed action. This must include the area/s of habitat (in hectares) and its quality (see Section B2.6 below) within the impact site for which the offset/s is to compensate (i.e. the quantum of impact).
B2.2	A description of the offset area/s, including location, size, condition, environmental values present and surrounding land uses.
B2.3	Maps and shapefiles to clearly define the location and boundaries of the offset area/s, accompanied by the offset attributes (e.g. physical address of the offset area/s, coordinates of the boundary points in decimal degrees, the relevant protected matter that the environmental offset/s compensates for, and the size of the environmental offset/s in hectares).
B2.4	Baseline data and other supporting evidence that documents the presence of the relevant protected matter/s within the offset area/s.
B2.5	<p>Details, with supporting evidence, to demonstrate how the environmental offset/s compensate for residual significant impacts of the proposed action on relevant protected matters, and/or their habitat, in accordance with the principles of the Offsets Policy and all requirements of the Offsets Assessment Guide, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time over which loss is averted (max. 20 years);</li> <li>• time until ecological benefit;</li> <li>• risk of loss (%) without offset;</li> <li>• risk of loss (%) with offset; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confidence in result (%).</li> </ul> <p><u>Please note</u>, risk of loss should not include consideration of stochastic events (e.g. bushfires), activities that contribute to changes in habitat quality scores or impacts that would otherwise require an offset under any relevant legislation.</p>
B2.6	<p>An assessment of the habitat quality for the offset area/s (e.g. using the Queensland Government <u><i>Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality: A toolkit for assessing land based offsets under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy</i></u> [2020]).</p> <p>A methodology that is suitable for the species in question must be used to assess habitat quality (i.e. approved by the department or supported by literature), noting the same scoring mechanism must be used at both the impact site and the offset site.</p> <p><u>Please note</u>, if using the above <i>Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality</i>, the 'absence of threats' component of a score must only contain indicators that reflect the current habitat quality of the site (e.g. presence of pest species). Indicators that instead relate to a site's potential future condition must be excluded (e.g. risk of clearing or development).</p> <p>It is important to avoid confounding the presence of threats at a site <i>that might affect the future state of a site</i>, with those affecting its <i>current</i> state. These risks are appropriately dealt with in consideration of future risk of loss in the Offsets Assessment Guide and so should not be included in the score for current habitat condition.</p>
B2.7	<p>Details of how the offset area/s will provide connectivity with other habitats and biodiversity corridors and/or will contribute to a larger strategic offset for the relevant protected matter.</p>
B2.8	<p>Specific, committal and measurable environmental outcomes that detail the nature of the conservation gain to be achieved for each protected matter, including the creation, restoration and revegetation of habitat in the proposed offset area/s.</p>
B2.9	<p>Specific offset completion criteria derived from the offset area habitat quality to demonstrate the improvement in the quality of habitat in the offset area/s over a 20-year period.</p>
B2.10	<p>Details of the management measures, and timeframes for implementation, to be carried out to meet the offset completion criteria.</p> <p>All proposed management measures must be written using committed language (e.g. 'will' and 'must').</p>
B2.11	<p>Interim milestones that set targets at 5-yearly intervals for progress towards achieving the offset completion criteria.</p>
B2.12	<p>Details of the nature, timing and frequency of monitoring to inform progress against achieving the 5-yearly interim milestones (the frequency of monitoring must be sufficient to track progress towards each set of milestones, and sufficient to determine whether the offset area/s are likely to achieve those milestones in adequate time to implement all necessary corrective actions).</p>

B2.13	Proposed timing for the submission of monitoring reports which provide evidence demonstrating whether the interim milestones have been achieved.
B2.14	<p>Details of the tangible, on-ground corrective actions, and timeframes for implementation, if monitoring activities indicate an interim milestone has not been achieved, including an approach to monitoring the effectiveness of the corrective actions.</p> <p>All proposed corrective actions must be written using committed language (e.g. 'will' and 'must').</p>
B2.15	Evidence of how the management actions and corrective actions take into account relevant approved conservation advices and are consistent with relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans.
B2.16	Risk analysis and a risk management and mitigation strategy for all risks to the successful implementation of the OMP and timely achievement of the offset completion criteria, including a rating of all initial and post-mitigation residual risks in accordance with a risk assessment matrix.
B2.17	Details and execution timing of the mechanism to legally secure the proposed offset area/s, such that legal security remains in force over the offset area/s for at least 20 years to provide enduring protection for the offset area/s against development incompatible with conservation.