

Department of Transport and Main Roads: Coomera Connector Stage 1 EPBC 2020/8646 Offset Area Management Plan



earthtrade

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Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, all the information contained in, or accompanying this document is complete, current and correct. I am duly authorised to sign this declaration on behalf of the proponent/approval holder. I am aware that:

- a. *section 490 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) makes it an offence for an approval holder to provide information in response to an approval condition where the person is reckless as to whether the information is false or misleading.*
- b. *section 491 of the EPBC Act makes it an offence for a person to provide information or documents to specified persons who are known by the person to be performing a duty or carrying out a function under the EPBC Act or the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) where the person knows the information or document is false or misleading.*
- c. *the above offences are punishable on conviction by imprisonment, a fine or both.*

Signed:



Andrew Wheeler
2024.07.05
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Full name: Andrew Wheeler

Organisation: Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads

EPBC Referral Number: EPBC 2020/8646

EPBC Offset Area Management Plan

Date: 5 / 7 /2024

Executive summary

The Coomera Connector Stage One (1) Project (the **action**) involves the construction and operation of a new 16 kilometre (**km**) high-speed arterial road between Shipper Drive, Coomera and Nerang-Broadbeach Road, Nerang, in the northern Gold Coast region in Queensland. The proponent for the action is the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (**TMR**).

By constructing additional crossings of the Coomera and Nerang rivers, the action will reduce pressure on the Pacific Motorway (**M1**) by providing an alternative route for the growing communities and commercial hubs of Helensvale and Coomera. The approval has been given for the ultimate 6-lane motorway; however, the action (see *Figure 1*) will initially be built to 4 lanes to meet medium-term traffic needs with upgrading when required. Key major structures will be future-proofed to 6 lanes, to help minimise future construction impacts to adjacent residents and the travelling public.

The action was assessed as being a controlled action by the Australian Government (DAWE, August 2020).¹ The action has been granted approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**). The EPBC Act approval conditions were issued by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**) on 17 March 2023.

An Offset Strategy (**OS**) for the action was prepared by Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd (**BAAM**) and submitted to DCCEEW in October 2022 (Appendix 15 of the Public Environment Report (**PER**)) and was deemed adequate on 1 December 2022. The PER and OS (BAAM, 2022, *Coomera Connector Stage 1 Offset Strategy - EPBC 2020/8646: Offsets for Coastal Swamp Oak TEC, Koala and Grey-headed Flying-fox*) quantified the impacts of the action to Matters of National Environmental Significance (**MNES**), identified the proposed offset sites, and also described the proposed offset outcomes and environmental gains from the proposed offsets. The OS detailed the survey methods and results for both the impact and offset areas. On that basis, the OS demonstrated that the proposed offsets will be adequate to compensate for the action's impacts on MNES and meet the requirements of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (**EOP**). As was required by the PER Guidelines by the now DCCEEW, the precautionary principle was applied and discussed in the executive summary on page 17 and in section 13.11.1 on page 552 of the PER as approved by the Delegate. This assessment included all baseline data, impact assessment and offsets (including Offset Strategy – Appendix 15) as required by the Public Environment Report Guidelines.

The EPBC Act approval conditions require TMR to prepare an Offset Area Management Plan (**OAMP**) for the approval of the Minister. This document is the OAMP for the action that has been prepared to meet all offset obligations and for MNES proposed to be impacted by the action. This OAMP is based on the approved Offset Strategy.

Impacts to MNES requiring offsets include one threatened ecological community (**TEC**), being the endangered Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community (**Coastal Swamp Oak TEC**), and to habitat for both Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus* - **GHFF**). The GHFF is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The Koala's EPBC Act listing was upgraded to endangered in February 2022 (Koala was listed as vulnerable at the time of the controlled action

¹ EPBC Approvals register, at <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/965239af-e553-ec11-80d2-00505684c563/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1662596424011>

decision; however both the PER and OS assessed the species as being endangered). An overview of the impacts to each MNES and the resultant offset requirements are summarised in *Table 1*.

The offsets will be located on two properties that are owned by TMR, known as 'Tabooba' which is located approximately 16 km south of Beaudesert in the Scenic Rim Regional Council local government area (**LGA**), and 'Greenridge' which is located in Pimpama, 3.5 km north-east of the northern extent of the action, within the Gold Coast City Council LGA. The offsets for the Coastal Swamp Oak TEC will be located at Greenridge, and offsets for Koala and GHFF will be located at both properties.

This OAMP demonstrates that the offset areas are suitable to meet all the EOP requirements and approval conditions. This OAMP has been prepared to meet all offset obligations as detailed in the OS. TMR commits to the implementation of this OAMP.

Table 1: Summarised action impacts versus proposed offset area values

MNES	EPBC status	Impact area (ha)	Impact site quality (- /10)	Impact quantum	Offset property	Offset Area	Offset start quality (- /10)	Quality without offset (- /10)	Quality with offset (- /10)	Offset quantum and % of liability provided
Coastal swamp oak TEC	END	15.9*	8	12.72	Greenridge	Remnant RE 12.1.1 AU1: 14.2 ha	8	7	9	17.47%
					Greenridge	Regrowth RE 12.1.1 AU2: 5.16 ha	7	7	9	5.67%
					Greenridge	Non-remnant (cleared) RE 12.1.1 AU3: 22.03 ha	3	3	6	34.98%
					Greenridge	Remnant RE 12.3.20 AU4: 28.22 ha	8	7	9	34.71%
					Greenridge	Regrowth RE 12.3.20 AU5: 4.74 ha	7	7	9	5.23%
					Greenridge	Non-remnant RE 12.3.20 AU6: 12.48 ha	2	2	9	41.96%
Total area of coastal swamp oak TEC offset at Greenridge					86.83 ha		143.91%			
Phascolarctos cinereus koala	VUL#	73.81	7	51.67	Tabooba	Remnant RE 12.8.16 AU1: 49.84 ha	8	8	9	8.78%
					Tabooba	Advanced regrowth RE 12.8.16 AU2: 145.02 ha	6	6	8	48.46%
					Tabooba	Young regrowth RE 12.8.16 AU3: 48.1 ha	4	3	7	30.73%
					Tabooba	Remnant RE 12.8.14 AU4: 50.62 ha	8	8	8	0.75%
					Tabooba	Advanced regrowth AU5: 19.8 ha	7	6	8	6.62%
					Greenridge	Remnant RE 12.3.20 AU4: 28.22 ha	8	8	8	0.42%
					Greenridge	Regrowth RE 12.3.20 AU5: 4.74 ha	7	7	9	1.56%
					Greenridge	Non-remnant RE 12.3.20 AU6: 12.48 ha	4	4	7	5.91%
Total area of koala offset at Tabooba and Greenridge					358.82 ha		103.23%			
Pteropus poliocephalus grey-headed flying-fox	VUL	68.76	7	48.13	Tabooba	Remnant RE 12.8.16 AU1: 49.84 ha	6	6	6	0.60%
					Tabooba	Advanced regrowth 12.8.16 AU2: 145.02 ha	5	5	7	76.58%
					Tabooba	Young regrowth RE 12.8.16 AU3: 48.1 ha	5	1	6	40.98%
					Tabooba	Remnant RE 12.8.14 AU4: 50.62 ha	6	6	7	9.38%
					Tabooba	Advanced regrowth RE 12.8.14 AU5: 19.8 ha	5	5	6	3.63%
					Greenridge	Remnant RE 12.3.20 AU4: 28.22 ha	6	6	7	5.23%
					Greenridge	Regrowth RE 12.3.20 AU5: 4.74 ha	6	6	6	0.06%
					Greenridge	Non-remnant RE 12.3.20 AU6: 12.48 ha	2	2	7	10.59%
Total area of grey-headed flying-fox offset at Tabooba and Greenridge					358.82 ha		147.05%			

*Includes functional loss of 0.928 ha

#The EPBC conservation status of the Koala was upgraded to endangered in February 2022; however, at the time of the controlled action decision for the action, the Koala was listed as vulnerable.

Figure 1: Action location and route

