

# **BORR Northern and Central Sections Additional Information for Preliminary Documentation – EPBC Ref: 2019/8471**

DOC NO | BORR-01-RP-EN-0015

Rev 1

May 2020





## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Commissioner of Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) is proposing to construct and operate the Northern and Central sections of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) project. BORR is a planned Controlled Access Highway linking the Forrest Highway and Bussell Highway. The completed project will provide a high standard route for access to the Bunbury Port, improve road user safety and facilitate proposed development to the east of the City of Bunbury. BORR provides an effective bypass of Bunbury for inter-regional traffic. The proposed BORR comprises three sections:

- 'BORR Northern Section' Forrest Highway to Boyanup-Picton Road
- 'BORR Central Section' Boyanup-Picton Road to South Western Highway (an existing four km section which was completed in May 2013, along with a three km extension of Willinge Drive southwards to South Western Highway)
- 'BORR Southern Section' South Western Highway (near Bunbury Airport) to Bussell Highway.

This document refers to BORR Northern and Central Sections only (the Proposal). The Proposal, described in greater detail in Section 1, includes the construction and operation of 19 km of new freeway standard dual carriageway and associated bridges, interchanges and other road infrastructure including, but not limited to, culverts, lighting, noise barriers, fencing, landscaping, road safety barriers and signs. The Proposal is located approximately 200 km south of Perth and, at its closest point, approximately six km south-east of Bunbury. The 625 ha Proposal Area occurs within the City of Bunbury and the Shires of Dardanup and Harvey. Approximately 87 % of land within the Proposal Area is cleared for agriculture. Pockets of native vegetation occur within the Proposal Area in road reserves, along sections of the Collie, Ferguson and Preston Rivers, or as isolated patches on properties. The Proposal Area excludes areas within BORR Central Section which was constructed in 2013.

In June 2019, Main Roads referred the Proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of Western Australia (WA) for assessment under Section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The referral included an Environmental Referral Supporting Document (BORR IPT, 2019) which describes the receiving environments, potential impacts and mitigation strategies to address the identified impacts. The Proposal was advertised for a seven day public comment period on 14 June 2019. The EPA determined that the Proposal would be assessed on Referral Information with additional information required under Section 40(2)(a) of the EP Act on 3 July 2019. Additional information required under Section 40(2)(a) of the EPA on 5 March 2020 and released for public review on the 13 March 2020.

The Proposal was formally referred to the then Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) on 25 June 2019 (EPBC Act referral 2019/8471) as a potential Controlled Action under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) due to impacts on Matters of Nation Environmental Significance (MNES). DoEE provided advice in October 2019 that the Proposal is considered a Controlled Action and that it would be assessed by preliminary documentation.

Under Commonwealth government reforms announced in December 2019, DoEE was consolidated with the Department of Agriculture to form the new Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE), effective 1 February 2020. DAWE is the Commonwealth Department with primary EPBC Act regulatory authority. This Additional Information Request for Preliminary Documentation will therefore be submitted to DAWE for assessment.



#### **Purpose of this document**

This document has been prepared to address DoEE's 18 October 2019 request (Appendix B) for further information to support assessment of a controlled action by preliminary documentation.

#### Description of protected matters within the proposed action area

Section 2 of this document includes a description of the existing environment, including discussion of protected matters. MNES listed under the EPBC Act relevant to the Proposal and potential resulting impacts that are, or have the potential to be, in the Proposal Area and surrounds are:

- Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community (Endangered) (Banksia Woodlands TEC)
- Clay Pans of the Swan Coastal Plain (Critically Endangered) (Clay Pans TEC)
- Corymbia calophylla Xanthorrhoea preissii woodlands and shrublands of the Swan Coastal Plain (Endangered) (Corymbia Woodlands TEC)
- Tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community (Critically Endangered)
- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii naso) (Vulnerable)
- Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) (Endangered)
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus latirostris) (Endangered)
- Western Ringtail Possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis) (Critically endangered)
- Balston's Pygmy Perch (Nannatherina balstoni) (Vulnerable)
- Black-stripe Minnow (Galaxiella nigrostriata) (Endangered)
- Carter's Freshwater Mussel (Westralunio carteri) (Vulnerable)
- King Spider-orchid (Caladenia huegelii) (Endangered)
- Tall Donkey Orchid (*Diuris drummondii*) (Vulnerable)
- Dwarf Bee-orchid (*Diuris micrantha*) (Vulnerable)
- Glossy-leafed Hammer Orchid (*Drakaea elastica*) (Endangered)
- Dwarf Hammer-orchid (*Drakaea micrantha*) (Vulnerable)
- Keighery's Eleocharis (Eleocharis keigheryi) (Vulnerable).

Subsequent to the referral of the Proposal to the WA EPA and DoEE, additional floristic and vegetation surveys were undertaken. A targeted *Drakaea* survey of selected sites was completed in August 2019. In response to additional information requested by the DoEE and WA EPA, a targeted survey for *Banksia* Woodland TEC/PECs and confirmation of vegetation types in previously unsurveyed gaps in the Survey Area was completed in August 2019. Ecoedge (2019a) also undertook a Clay Pans TEC assessment in July-August 2019 (Table 2-1) specific to the EPA request for additional information. All previous and additional studies conducted are summarised in Table 2-2.

Additional targeted aquatic fauna surveys were undertaken in 2019 to further survey habitat and presence for Balston's Pygmy Perch, CFM and Black Striped Minnow.

Further discussion and description of potential impacts of the Proposal on threatened fauna species including WRP and Black Cockatoos is also provided.

#### **Assessment of Impacts**

Section 3 includes an assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts on protected matters determined to be present in the direct footprint of the Proposal or proximate to potential indirect impacts.

Assessments are included for:

- Threatened Communities
  - Banksia Woodlands TEC (Section 3.1.1)



- Clay Pans TEC (Section 3.1.2)
- Corymbia Woodlands TEC (Section 3.1.3)

#### Fauna

- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Section 3.2.1)
- Baudin's Cockatoo (Section 3.2.1)
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (Section 3.2.1)
- Western Ringtail Possum (Section 3.2.2)
- Balston's Pygmy Perch (Section 3.2.3)
- Black-stripe Minnow (Section 3.2.4)
- Carter's Freshwater Mussel (Section 3.2.5)

#### Flora

- King Spider-orchid (Section 0)
- Tall Donkey Orchid (Section 3.3.2)
- Dwarf Bee-orchid (Section 3.3.3)
- Glossy-leafed Hammer Orchid (Section 3.3.4)
- Dwarf Hammer-orchid (Section 3.3.5)
- Keighery's Eleocharis (Section 3.3.6)

Where appropriate and consistent with guidance, protected matters have been assessed against the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013).

#### **Avoidance and Mitigation Measures**

Section 4 outlines avoidance through design changes that have been implemented since referral of the Proposal and management measures proposed. Substantial changes to the Proposal design have been made since referral in June 2019 to reduce impacts on TECs, conservation significant fauna, and conservation significant flora, as appropriate and necessary to avoid and minimise impacts on the environment.

Main Roads does not consider that a standalone Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for TECs is warranted based on the quanta of impacts (now estimated to be 5.7 ha as compared to the previously referred total of 8.2 ha) and consequently no TEC EMP been prepared. Main Roads has included management, monitoring and mitigation measures for TECs in this additional information document.

This document does include an EMP to manage, monitor and mitigate direct and indirect impacts to conservation significant fauna species including Western Ringtail Possum, Carter's Freshwater Mussel, Black-stripe Minnow and Brush-tailed Phascogale to meet the requiementnet of the State EPA. In addition, a Black Cockatoo Action Management Plan (AMP), covering the three species of threatened Black Cockatoo within the Proposal Area (Baudin's, Carnaby's, and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo), has been prepared.

Both the Conservation Significant Fauna EMP (BORR IPT, 2020d)(Appendix H) and the Black Cockatoo AMP (BORR ITP, 2020e)(Appendix I) will require approval under s133 of EPBC Act.

#### **Offsets**

Section 5 provides a summary of the offset package to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to Banksia Woodlands TEC, Clay Pans TEC, WRP and Black Cockatoo species. The offsets proposed are based on preliminary offset calculations using the EPBC Act Offset Assessment Guide, as presented in Appendix J.



#### **Economic and Social Matters**

Section 6 describes the Proponents funding commitments towards the Proposal, including identification of Commonwealth funding contributions for the Proposal. Discussion of the economic and social costs and benefits of the Proposal subject to State assessment are also reviewed in detail, including the Stakeholder Consultation process undertaken by the Proponent to engage affected stakeholders and decision making authorities during the development of the Proposal.

#### **Ecologically sustainable development**

Section 7 assesses consideration of EPBC Act principles of ecologically sustainable development undertaken in the development of the Proposal.

#### Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Section 8 documents Main Roads' record of environmental management and certification of Main Roads' environmental management system. This includes compliance with Main Roads' environment and heritage compliance obligations under prior Commonwealth approvals.

### Other approvals and conditions

Section 9 reviews requirements for approval or conditions that apply, or that are likely to apply, to the Proposal from Western Australia state agencies that exist outside of approval under the EPBC Act.

#### **Relevant Policies and Publications**

Section 10 assesses the relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans that have been considered during the preparation of the Proposal.

#### **Information Sources**

Section 11 assesses the reliability and potential for uncertainties in the technical studies undertaken in preparation of the Proposal.



## **ACRONYMS**

AHD Australian Height Datum

AH Act Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

ANZECC Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council

ARI Assessment on Referral Information

ASS Acid Sulfate Soils

BC Act Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

BORR Bunbury Outer Ring Road

CCW Conservation Category Wetlands

CEMP Construction Environmental Management Plan

CRG Community Reference Group

DAWE Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

DBCA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

DBH Diameter Breast Height

DoEE Department of the Environment and Energy

DoW Department of Water

DPaW Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPLH Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

DPIRD Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

DSEWPaC Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

DWER Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

EMP Environmental Management Plan

EP Act Environmental Protection Act 1986

EPA Environmental Protection Authority

EPBC Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

GBRS Greater Bunbury Region Scheme

GKB Gnaala Karla Booja People

GKB NTC Gnaala Karla Booja Native Title Claim group

GoWA Government of Western Australia

IBRA Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia

ILM Investment Logic Mapping

IPT Integrated Project Team

KSIA Kemerton Strategic Industrial Area



MCA Multi-Criteria Assessment

MNES Matters of National Environmental Significance

MSE Mechanically Stabilised Earth

PEC Priority Ecological Community

PSP Principal Shared Path

RDASW Regional Development Australia South West

RIWI Act Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

SCP Swan Coastal Plain

SPP 5.4 State Planning Policy 5.4 Road and Rail Transport Noise and Freight Considerations in Land Use Planning

SWDC South West Development Commission

TEC Threatened Ecological Community

TSSC Threatened Species Scientific Committee

WA Western Australia

WAHERB Western Australian Herbarium

WAPC Western Australian Planning Commission

WoNS Weeds of National Significance



# **DEFINED TERMS**

TERM	DEFINITIONS	
BORR Sections	BORR includes three sections (North, Central and South), which are referred to as:	
	The 'BORR Northern Section' – section between Forrest Highway (north) and Boyanup-Picton Road (south).	
	The 'BORR Central Section' – section that has already been constructed, between Boyanup-Picton Road (north) and South Western Highway (south).	
	The 'BORR Southern Section' – section between South Western Highway (north) and Bussell Highway (south).	
<b>Conservation Wetland</b>	Wetlands which support a high level of attributes and functions.	
Main Roads	Main Roads Western Australia	
Multiple Use Wetland	Wetland with few important ecological attributes and functions remaining.	
Proposal	Main Roads proposes to construct the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) Northern and Central Sections from Forrest Highway (north) to South West Highway (south), at its closest point approximately six km from East Bunbury, in the South West Region of Western Australia (WA) (referred to as the Proposal).	
Proposal Area	The Proposal Area is located within the City of Bunbury and Shires of Dardanup and Harvey, at its closest point approximately six km from East Bunbury and 200 km south of Perth.	
	The Proposal Area extends 19 km between Forrest Highway and South Western Highway.	
	The Proposal Area covers 625 hectares (ha) and includes existing road reserves, agricultural land and native vegetation.	
Resource Enhancement Wetlands which may have been partially modified but still support substant ecological attributes and functions. Wetland		
Site	As per the Proposal Area.	
Survey Area	The Survey Area includes all sites of significance that occur both within the Proposal Area and wherever relevant, outside the Proposal Area, in order to determine both direct and indirect impacts.	
Swan Coastal Plain	Low-lying coastal plain in the south west of Australia mainly covered with woodlands, with rare landscape features such as Holocene dunes and wetlands.	



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Appendix D BORR Northern and Central Sections Vegetation and Flora Study (BORR IPT 2020)

Appendix E BORR Northern and Central Section Targeted Fauna Assessment (Biota 2020)

Appendix F BORR Northern and Central Investigation Area: Targeted Conservation Aquatic Fauna Survey (WRM 2020)

Appendix G TEC Vegetation Monitoring Program

Appendix H Conservation Significant Fauna Environmental Management Plan

Appendix I Black Cockatoo Action Management Plan

Appendix J BORR Northern and Central Sections Offset Strategy (Main Roads, 2020)

Appendix K Final report of an Aboriginal Heritage survey of the BORR North and Central Project (Brad Goode & Associates, 2020)

doode & Associates, 2020)

Appendix L ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems Certificate of Confidence

Appendix M Main Roads WA Environmental Policy

Documer	nt Control				
Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved
Α	28/02/20	Draft for Main Roads Review	BORR Team	FH	FH
0	08/04/20	Final issued to Main Roads for submission to DAWE	BORR Team	FH	FH
1	04/05/20	Issued to Main Roads for DAWE Publication	BORR Team	FH	FH

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