

7 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Section 3A of the EPBC Act defines the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Table 7-1 outlines how each of the five principles has been applied to the Proposal.

Table 7-1 EPBC Act Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development

NO.	PRINCIPLE	CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLE IN THE PROPOSAL
a)	Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations	<p>A holistic decision making process has been established for the Proposal with the aim to provide an integrated and transparent approach. A comprehensive decision making tool was used to assist in making a range of significant decisions, through consideration of the triple bottom line (environment, social, local economic). The tool allows some flexibility in the weightings appointed to each sustainability aspect while maintaining a holistic balance. Where the tool has been used to inform and document significant design decisions, the inputs, selection criteria and outcomes have been documented in design reports.</p> <p>Additionally, the decisions have been summarised within a decision making register (BORR-00-SC-SU-0002).</p>
b)	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	<p>A Natural Hazards and Climate Change Risk Assessment workshop was held to identify risks to the project from natural hazards and aspects of climate change. These risks were then rated and adaption controls were identified which will be integrated into the detailed design for the Proposal.</p> <p>A wide range of comprehensive desktop and field studies was undertaken to assess the impact of the Proposal. Studies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Goode & Associates (2020) Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) North and Central Project: Brunswick to North Boyanup, WA • Biota (2020) BORR Northern and Central Section Targeted Fauna Assessment • BORR IPT (2019e) Overarching Acid Sulfate Soil and Dewatering Management Plan (ASSDMP) North and Central Alignment • BORR IPT (2019a) BORR Northern and Central Sections Air Quality Assessment • BORR IPT (2020b) BORR Northern and Central Sections Noise Assessment • (BORR IPT, 2020c) BORR Northern and Central Sections Vegetation and Flora Study • BORR IPT (2019d) BORR Northern and Central Sections Wetland Study

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BORR IPT (2018a) Drainage Strategy – Northern and Central Sections • Great Southern Biologic (2018) <i>Phytophthora</i> Dieback Occurrence Survey Bunbury Outer Ring Road North, 8 October 2018 • WRM (2020) Bunbury Outer Ring Road Northern and Central Investigation Area: Targeted Conservation Significant Aquatic Fauna Survey. <p>Information gathered during these studies was used to inform this Proposal and has reduced the uncertainty surrounding the prediction of impacts for the assessment.</p> <p>Main Roads has ensured that the Proposal’s design (where possible) avoids serious or irreversible damage to the environment.</p> <p>Impacts have been identified and described under each key environmental factor. Mitigation and management measures have been proposed to ensure they are environmentally acceptable.</p>
c)	The principle of intergenerational 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.	The Proposal will ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained through retaining as much habitat as possible, establishing noise walls to reduce noise related impacts and maintaining access for property owners.
d)	The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making	There are patches of limited biological diversity and ecological integrity within and adjacent to the Proposal. Main Roads has sought to preserve as much of the remnant biodiversity as possible by avoiding areas of native vegetation where practicable.
e)	Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted	<p>Main Roads acknowledges the need for improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms and endeavours to pursue these principles when appropriate. For example, environmental factors will greatly determine the location of road corridors, with the project having a strong focus on reducing its direct and indirect clearing footprint.</p> <p>Impacts on flora, vegetation and terrestrial fauna have been assessed and mitigation and management measures proposed.</p> <p>Main Roads accepts that the cost of the Proposal must include environmental impact mitigation, management and maintenance activities. These requirements will be incorporated into the overall Proposal costs.</p>

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		<p>The Proposal will be subject to a sustainability rating, which will assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Proposal, including its waste stream and the resources utilised for construction. The Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australian (ISCA) rating scheme is designed such that goals are established for a Proposal, then the Proposal is assessed against the achievement of those goals.</p>