

Table 3.2. Significant Impact Criteria for Endangered Ecological Communities

Significant Impact Criteria	Response – ESBS
<p>Will the action reduce the extent of an ecological community</p>	<p>The proposed action will result in the removal of 0.241 ha of the EEC Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS). Although the community's extent will be slightly reduced by 0.241 ha, the majority of the ESBS to be removed (0.157 ha) is in low condition as it is dominated by exotic weeds and has been exposed to a substantial level of illegal dumping.</p> <p>The proposed action will result in the implementation of a vegetation management plan that will result in the retention, rehabilitation and management of high condition ESBS within the subject land. The area of high condition ESBS to be retained, rehabilitated and managed is more than double (0.545 ha retained to 0.241 ha removed) than what is being removed.</p> <p>With consideration of the above, the proposed action will reduce the extent of ESBS within the Referral Area (primarily areas in low condition with low recovery potential), but will result in an increase of ESBS in high condition retained and managed under a management plan within the subject land. Furthermore, if nothing is done within the subject land, illegal dumping and the further spread of weeds is likely to continue into adjacent areas, including Kamay Botany Bay National Park.</p> <p>Therefore, although the proposed action will slightly reduce the extent of the community, the overall outcomes of the proposed action will increase the extent of the community within the locality that is retained and managed.</p>
<p>Will the action fragment or increase fragmentation of an ecological community, for example by clearing vegetation for roads or transmission lines</p>	<p>The proposed action will result in the clearing of 0.241 ha of ESBS from the Referral Area. Clearing is restricted to the northern edge of the community's within the study area. As a result, the proposed clearing of vegetation will encroach further in to remaining habitat, but will not isolate habitat patches. It is acknowledged that a patch of ESBS is present to the north of the Referral Area; however, there is no connectivity between the patch of ESBS to the north and the habitat within the Referral Area proposed to be cleared due to previous development. As such, the proposed removal of ESBS within the Referral Area would very minimally add to fragmentation further than current conditions.</p>
<p>Will the action adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of an ecological community</p>	<p>The proposed action will result in the removal of 0.241 ha of ESBS, the majority of which is in low condition with low recovery potential. As such, the area of the community to be removed is not critical to the community's survival in the long-term. Furthermore, the retention and management of larger areas of</p>

	ESBS as a result of the proposed action will increase the community's long-term survival.
Will the action modify or destroy abiotic (non-living) factors (such as water, nutrients, or soil) necessary for an ecological community's survival, including reduction of groundwater levels, or substantial alteration of surface water drainage patterns	The proposed action is likely to slightly modify the current hydrological regimes of the Referral Area and surrounds as a small ephemeral drainage line will be removed within the north of the Referral Area. The drainage line is heavily infested with weeds and is likely to be only a low lying area that fills after periods of rain. It does not drain into any nearby waterbodies or stormwater drains and its removal is unlikely to impact on the community's survival. Additionally, given that the ESBS within the Referral Area and surrounds currently exist in an urbanised environment with engineered drainage, it is unlikely that any alteration as a result of the proposed action will significantly impact the community. Furthermore, the proposed development will maintain the current topography of the Referral Area, further reducing the likelihood of any major change to hydrological regimes.
Will the action cause a substantial change in the species composition of an occurrence of an ecological community, including causing a decline or loss of functionally important species, for example through regular burning or flora or fauna harvesting	The proposed action is unlikely to cause a substantial change in the species composition of ESBS within the Referral Area or surrounds. The areas of ESBS proposed to be removed is highly degraded and dominated by exotic species. The removal of the area will likely reduce the chance of substantial changes in composition occurring that what negatively impact on the community as weeds will be removed and the retained area of ESBS will be managed in perpetuity.
Will the action cause a substantial reduction in the quality or integrity of an occurrence of an ecological community, including, but not limited to: – assisting invasive species, that are harmful to the listed ecological community, to become established, or – causing regular mobilisation of fertilisers, herbicides or other chemicals or pollutants into the ecological community which kill or inhibit the growth of species in the ecological community, or	The proposed action is unlikely to cause a substantial reduction in the quality or integrity of ESBS as the most weed infested areas will be removed. This includes areas of dense Bitou Bush, which is a listed key threatening process for the community. Furthermore, all retained ESBS within the subject land will be managed in perpetuity with the aim of increasing the quality of ESBS present.
Will the action interfere with the recovery of an ecological community	The habitat within the Referral Area represents a small portion of the community, which is primarily comprised of low condition areas that are weed infested and contain high levels of rubbish as a result of illegal dumping. If nothing is done, the Referral Area and surrounds, including areas of high condition ESBS with connectivity to Kamay Botany Bay National Park, will be prone to increased weed infestation and illegal dumping. The proposed action will remove a small area of ESBS; however, more than double the area to be cleared will be retained and managed. As a result, the proposed action will result in an increase of ESBS protected and managed in the locality. Furthermore, areas with the subject land that were likely to be ESBS that are now overgrown with weeds will be revegetated

	as ESBS. For these reasons, the proposed action is not considered likely to significantly impact on the recovery of this community.
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