



Australian Government

Department of the Environment

Referral of proposed action

What is a referral?

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the **EPBC Act**) provides for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance (**NES**). Under the EPBC Act, a person must not take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on any of the matters of NES without approval from the Commonwealth Environment Minister or the Minister's delegate. (Further references to 'the Minister' in this form include references to the Commonwealth Environment Minister or the Minister's delegate.) To obtain approval from the Minister, a proposed action must be referred. The purpose of a referral is to enable the Minister to decide whether your proposed action will need assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

Your referral will be the principal basis for the Minister's decision as to whether approval is necessary and, if so, the type of assessment that will be undertaken. These decisions are made within 20 business days, provided sufficient information is provided in the referral.

Who can make a referral?

Referrals may be made by or on behalf of a person proposing to take an action, the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency, a state or territory government, or agency, provided that the relevant government or agency has administrative responsibilities relating to the action.

When do I need to make a referral?

A referral must be made by the person proposing to take an action if the person thinks that the action for actions that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on the following matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act:

- World Heritage properties (sections 12 and 15A);
- National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C);
- wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B);
- listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A);
- listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A);
- protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A);
- Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A);
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C);
- a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E);
- the environment, if the action involves Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A), including:
- actions taken outside Commonwealth land that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land;
- actions taken on Commonwealth land that may have a significant impact on the environment generally;
- the environment, if the action is taken by the Commonwealth (section 28); and
- Commonwealth Heritage places outside the Australian jurisdiction (sections 27B and 27C).

You may still make a referral if you believe your action is not going to have a significant impact, or if you are unsure. This will provide a greater level of certainty that Commonwealth assessment requirements have been met.

To help you decide whether or not your proposed action requires approval (and therefore, if you should make a referral), the following guidance is available from the Department's website:

- Submitting a referral under the EPBC Act – A fact sheet for a person proposing to take an action
<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/factsheet-environment-assessment-process>

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/significant-impact-guidelines-11-matters-national-environmental-significance> Additional sectoral guidelines are also available.
- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/significant-impact-guidelines-12-actions-or-impacting-upon-commonwealth-land-and-actions>
- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/significant-impact-guidelines-13-coal-seam-gas-and-large-coal-mining-developments-impacts>
- the interactive map tool (enter a location to obtain a report on what matters of NES may occur in that location) <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html>

Can I refer part of a larger action?

In certain circumstances, the Minister may not accept a referral for an action that is a component of a larger action and may request the person proposing to take the action to refer the larger action for consideration under the EPBC Act (Section 74A, EPBC Act). If you wish to make a referral for a staged or component referral contact the Referrals Gateway (1800 803 772).

Do I need a permit?

Some activities may also require a permit under other sections of the EPBC Act or another law of the Commonwealth. Information is available on the Department's web site.

Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

If your action is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park it may require permission under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (**GBRMP Act**). If a permission is required, referral of the action under the EPBC Act is deemed to be an application under the GBRMP Act (see section 37AB of the GBRMP Act). This referral will be forwarded to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (**the Authority**) for the Authority to commence its permit processes as required under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* (**GBRMP Regulations**). If a permission is not required under the GBRMP Act, no approval under the EPBC Act is required (see section 43 of the EPBC Act). The Authority can provide advice on relevant permission requirements applying to activities in the Marine Park.

The Authority is responsible for assessing applications for permissions under the GBRMP Act, GBRMP Regulations and Zoning Plan. Where assessment and approval is also required under the EPBC Act, a single integrated assessment for the purposes of both Acts will apply in most cases. Further information on environmental approval requirements applying to actions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is available from <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/> or by contacting GBRMPA's Environmental Assessment and Management Section on (07) 4750 0700.

The Authority may require a permit application assessment fee to be paid in relation to the assessment of applications for permissions required under the GBRMP Act, even if the permission is made as a referral under the EPBC Act. Further information on this is available from the Authority:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD 4810
AUSTRALIA

Phone: + 61 7 4750 0700
Fax: + 61 7 4772 6093

www.gbrmpa.gov.au

What information do I need to provide?

Please complete all parts of this form to assist the Department to process your referral efficiently. If a section of the referral document is not applicable to your proposal, please enter N/A.

You can complete your referral by entering your information into this Word file.

Instructions

Instructions are provided in blue text throughout the form.

Attachments/supporting information

The referral form should contain sufficient information to provide an adequate basis for a decision on the likely impacts of the proposed action. You should also provide supporting documentation, such as environmental reports or surveys, as attachments.

Coloured maps, figures or photographs to help explain the proposed action and its location should also be submitted with your referral. Aerial photographs, in particular, can provide a useful perspective and context. Figures should be good quality as they may be scanned and viewed electronically as black and white documents. Maps should be of a scale that clearly shows the location of the proposed action and any environmental aspects of interest.

Please ensure any attachments are below five megabytes (5mb) as they will be published on the Department's website for public comment. To minimise file size, enclose maps and figures as separate files if necessary. If unsure, contact the Referrals Gateway (email address below) for advice. Attachments larger than five megabytes (5mb) may delay processing of your referral.

Note: The Minister may decide not to publish information that the Minister is satisfied is commercial-in-confidence. If you believe that your referral contains information that is commercial-in-confidence, you must clearly identify such information and the reason for its confidentiality at the time of making the referral. The Minister cannot be satisfied that particular information included in a referral is commercial-in-confidence unless a person demonstrates to the Minister that:

- release of the information would cause competitive detriment to the person; and
- the information is not in the public domain; and
- the information is not required to be disclosed under another law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory; and
- the information is not readily discoverable.

How do I pay for my referral?

From 1 October 2014, the Australian Government commenced cost recovery arrangements for environmental assessments and some strategic assessments under the EPBC Act. If an action is referred on or after 1 October 2014, then cost recovery will apply to both the referral and any assessment activities undertaken. Further information regarding cost recovery can be found on the Department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/cost-recovery-cris>

If you are an individual or a small business, you may be exempt from paying the referral fee. See Part 9 of this form for further details.

You may apply for all or part of a fee to be waived. See Part 9 of this form for further details.

Payment of the referral fee can be made using one of the following methods:

- EFT Payments can be made to:
 - BSB: 092-009
Bank Account No. 115859
Amount: \$7352
Account Name: Department of the Environment.
Bank: Reserve Bank of Australia
Bank Address: 20-22 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2601
Description: The reference number provided (see note below)
- **Cheque** - Payable to "Department of the Environment". Include the reference number provided (see note below), and if posted, address:
 -
 -

- The Referrals Gateway
- Environment Assessment Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
-
- Credit Card
- Please contact the Collector of Public Money (CPM) directly (call (02) 6274 2930 or 6274 20260 and provide the reference number (see note below).
- **Note:** an invoice will be raised and forwarded to you upon submission of your referral which will include the EPBC reference number for your referral.

How do I submit a referral?

Referrals may be submitted by mail or email.

Mail to:

Referrals Gateway

Environment Assessment Branch
Department of Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If submitting via mail, please also provide electronic copies of documentation (on CD/DVD or by email)..

Email to: epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au

- Clearly mark the email as a 'Referral under the EPBC Act'.
- Attach the referral in a suitable electronic document format (e.g. Microsoft Word and, if possible, PDF).
- If submitting via email, please also mail a hardcopy of the referral including copies of any attachments or supporting reports.

What happens next?

Following receipt of a valid referral (containing all required information) you will be advised of the next steps in the process, and the referral and attachments will be published on the Department's web site for public comment. Any person may give the Minister comments on the referral within 10 business days of publication on the Department's website.

The Department will write to you within 20 business days to advise you of the outcome of your referral and whether or not assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required. There are a number of possible decisions regarding your referral:

The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NOT NEED approval

No further consideration is required under the environmental assessment provisions of the EPBC Act and the action can proceed (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements).

The proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have a significant impact IF undertaken in a particular manner

The action can proceed if undertaken in a particular manner (subject to any other Commonwealth, state or local government requirements). The particular manner in which you must carry out the action will be identified as part of the final decision. You must report your compliance with the particular manner to the Department.

The proposed action is LIKELY to have a significant impact and does NEED approval

If the action is likely to have a significant impact a decision will be made that it is a *controlled action*. The particular matters upon which the action may have a significant impact (such as World Heritage values or threatened species) are known as the *controlling provisions*.

The controlled action is subject to a public assessment process before a final decision can be made about whether to approve it. The assessment approach will usually be decided at the same time as the controlled action decision. (Further information about the levels of assessment and basis for deciding the approach are available on the Department's web site.)

The proposed action would have UNACCEPTABLE impacts and CANNOT proceed

The Minister may decide, on the basis of the information in the referral, that a referred action would have clearly unacceptable impacts on a protected matter and cannot proceed.

For more information

- call the Department of the Environment Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772 or
- visit the web site <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc>

All the information you need to make a referral, including documents referenced in this form, can be accessed from the above web site.

Referral of proposed action

Proposed action title: **Vegetation clearing for high value cropping, Wombinoo Station, Minnamoolka, Qld**

1 Summary of proposed action

- NOTE:** In addition to completing the fields below, you must also attach a map of the area affected by the action that includes the following features (if relevant): the location of the action; the approximate boundary of the areas and habitat mentioned in items 3.1 and 3.2; and to the extent practicable and relevant, the tenure of the project area of the proposed action (e.g. freehold, leasehold etc.).
- It is the Department's preference that maps are provided in A4 size and that the geographic information system (GIS) vector (shapefile) dataset associated with the maps is also provided.

1.1 Short description

This submission is for the referral of a land clearing activity only.

The proposed 2742.2 ha clearing is for Lot 3825 on RP273689, Wombinoo Station, in the Tablelands Regional Council area, located south of Mt Garnet, Queensland (Attachment Two, Maps 1) and located north central within the Herbert River catchment (Attachment Two, Map 1). The land will be cleared in stages in order to produce forage and grain crops (sorghum, maize) to supplement Wombinoo livestock and to be on sold to other surrounding cattle stations. Land will be cleared using dozers and these activities will be performed after the Wet season to ensure minimal disturbance to the land. Wombinoo station has been operating as a cattle station for over 80 years is well situated to supply cattle to live export depots at Townsville or Karumba. The introduction of these high food value crops will mitigate grazing pressures from surrounding native pastures communities.

Wombinoo have existing approved cleared land for the purpose of growing high value agriculture. They are successfully growing forage crops of sorghum and maize which has been very useful in terms of providing high value protein to the property cattle feedlot.

The clearing application for the purpose of high value agriculture on Wombinoo Station was received by DILGP along with a land suitability report. The application was approved on 14 April 2015, SDA-0215-018228. The land suitability report and decision notice can be viewed in Attachments One and Three respectively.

1.2 Latitude and longitude

location point	Latitude Decimal degrees	Longitude Decimal degrees
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Please refer to Attachment Three, DILGP_DecisionNotice; Clearing polygons can be viewed on pages 13 to 18 of the Decision Notices. Co-ordinates are provided in the last two pages of the decision notice in UTM format and they also can be viewed in decimal degree format in Attachment Four, Referral-coordinatesDD.

1.3	Locality and property description Wombinoo station is a well established property used for extensive cattle grazing for breeders and for fattening. It also has a feedlot approved for 1000 SCU's. The nearest towns are Mount Garnet to the north and Mount Surprise to the west both of which are approximately 100km from Wombinoo Station, see Attachment Two, Maps 1. The station is well positioned to meet the needs of live cattle export trade. Townsville to the east is just under 400km and Karumba is just over 500km to the west. Both of these centres offer facilities for live cattle export.	
	A description of the land, soils and climate describing the proposed suitability of the activity can be found in the Attachment One prepared for the purpose of the Land Clearing Suitability Assessment submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning in Far North Queensland. The reference number for this submission is: SDA-0215-018228. This Development Permit for operational work for clearing of native vegetation for high-value agriculture was approved on the 14th April 2016, see Attachment Three_DILGP_DecisionNotice.docx	
1.4	Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)	The property boundary is rectangular and occupies approximately 25,691ha. The proposed clearing is just under 2742.2ha which amounts to 10.7% of the total property, see Attachment Two, Map 2.
1.5	Street address of the site	Wombinoo Station, Cashmere Road, Minnamoolka, QLD 4872
1.6	Lot description Lot 3825 on SP273689; Leasehold Land	
1.7	Local Government Area and Council contact (if known) The property is located within the Tablelands Regional Council. However the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) is the agency considering the application. The DILGP contact is Joanne Manson, Principal Planning Officer, 07 4037 3228. Submission number is: SDA-0215-018228. This activity has been approved by the DILGP on the 14 th April 2014. Please refer to Attachment Three to view the Decision Notice.	
1.8	Time frame Strategic clearing will take place once approval is provided. Clearing will be staged over several years depending on farm priorities. However it is estimated that the majority of clearing will be completed by 2020.	
1.9	Alternatives to proposed action Were any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) considered which are not proposed?	There are no other operational alternatives for this property that offer such value on return with respects to producing high value cattle feed while minimising the impacts of surrounding environmental values. Soil mapping of this site was performed to ensure suitable high value cropping land was selected for clearing, please refer to Attachment One for the Land Suitability Report.
1.10	Alternative time frames, locations or activities Does the proposed action include alternative time	No Alternatives to the site location were considered however the proposed site offers the best soil and land conditions for high value agriculture on this property.

	frames, locations or activities?		Yes, you must also complete Section 2.3. For each alternative, location, time frame, or activity identified, you must also complete details in Sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4-2.7 and 3 and 5 (where relevant).
1.11	Commonwealth, State or Territory assessment Is the action subject to other a Commonwealth, State or Territory environmental impact assessment?		Requires the Commonwealth EIS through this referral process.
1.12	Component of larger action Is the proposed action a component of a larger action?		No
1.13	Related actions/proposals Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?		No
1.14	Australian Government funding Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake the proposed action?		No
1.15	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Is the proposed action inside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?		No

2 Detailed description of proposed action

NOTE: You **must** complete each of the sections below. Please ensure that the description is complete and includes all components and activities associated with the action. If relevant, each of the matters below need to be addressed in respect of each alternative location, time frame, or activity that is identified as part of the description. If certain related components are not intended to be included within the scope of the referral, this should be clearly explained in section 2.7.

2.1 Description of proposed action

Wombinoo Station propose the activity of clearing 2742.2 ha for Lot 3825 on SP273689, in the Tablelands Regional Council area, located south of Mt Garnet, Queensland (Attachment Two, Map 1). The land will be cleared in stages in order to produce forage and grain crops (sorghum) to supplement Wombinoo free range cattle and feedlot livestock and to be on sold to other surrounding cattle stations or markets. Wombinoo station has been operating as a cattle station for over 80 years and is well situated to supply cattle to live export depots at Townsville or Karumba. The introduction of these high food value crops will also help mitigate grazing pressures on the surrounding native pasture communities.

An evaluation of the proposed parcel of land was conducted by Pinnacle Pocket Consulting to determine if this location was suitable for purpose of high value cropping, see Attachment One, Land Suitability Assessment. This development, SDA-0215-018228, has been approved, see Attachment Three_DILGP_DecisionNotice.docx. Soil samples were analysed, soil profiles conducted, site visits undertaken plus an investigation of the land and its climate performed to determine suitability. All soils have a depth of over 100cm. Soils within the proposed activity are described under two major soil types. The red earth (Sturgeon) and the yellow Chromosol (Cargoosol) with brown variants of the two found on Wombinoo. Soils have medium to slow drainage and are medium acid to neutral. All results can be viewed in the attached report; Attachment One-WombinooLand SuitabilityReport. The land suitability assessment concluded that all proposed clearing sites would be suitable for the purpose of high value cropping as long as the recommendations are followed as described within the land suitability report and as provided by the 'conditions of development approval' within the decision notice.

Suitable Crops

As determined by the assessment authority, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the proposed land was deemed suitable for the production of grain sorghum, forage sorghum and maize.

Stages of Clearing

Clearing will take place over a three to five year period depending on wet season duration and availability of machines and contractors.

Timing of Operations

The proponents will employ practices that avoid soil compaction. The proposed timing of clearing and ground preparation for rain-grown sorghum and maize is as follows:

- Pull timber after wet season (typically after April) or when it is dry enough to get equipment (dozers) onto country. This time of year offers maximum ground cover that will help mitigate erosion.
- Burn fallen timber in September to avoid the more intense dry period later in the year.
- September-December, Sticks rake the area and ground preparation by using disc ploughs. This preparation coincides with the period of little/no rainfall so potential erosion is minimised.
- With the first showers of rain (at least 50mm) the proponents will spray weeds with ground rig boom, possibly cultivate once with a chisel plough and start planting using a large minimum or zero till planter. (This means that by cultivating a single crop per year, ground cover will be achieved throughout the wet season to protect soil).

Stubble will be retained following harvest.

Equipment used

Dozers and chains will be mostly used for the clearing activity.

Standard air seeders for sowing and fertiliser application plus combine harvesters for harvesting.

Chemicals to be used

Standard and approved chemicals, typically used for growing sorghum, maintaining soils, weed prevention and eradication will be used. These products are:

- Glyphosate (Roundup)- Knockdown
- Atrazine (Atrazine 500)- Pre emergent
- 2,4-D amine (2,4-D amine 625)
- Fluroxypyr (Starane 200)
- S-metolachlor (Dual Gold)

All chemicals will be used in accordance with the Reef Protection Regulations as set by the Queensland Government.

Activities to maintain and preserve the surrounding environment and hydrological processes.

To ensure the clearing boundary is maintained within the approved areas all sites will be marked with high-visibility paint on trees that will dictate boundary limits prior to site being cleared.

As described within the conditions of development approval of the DNRM decision notice the following conditions will be abided by protect watercourses. The conditions are:

- “Within the area shown on ‘Permit A on SDA 0215-018228’, all vegetation must be retained in and within:
25 metres of each defining bank of each watercourse represented by a line marked as ‘B’;
50 metres of each defining bank of each watercourse represented by a line marked as ‘C’;

The watercourses represented within the Permit Area A on SDA 0215-018228 sheets 1-8 are indicative only. Prior to undertaking any clearing it is the responsibility of the permit holder to determine the exact location of the defining bank of each watercourse and establish the relevant set-back distances in accordance with the condition.”

“Any clearing within permit area A on slopes greater than 2% must entail soil conservation measures designed and implemented in accordance with Shepherd, R.N. & Macnish, S.E.(1989) Land Management Field Manual for Atherton/Mareeba District. Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Land Management Field Manual QE89002 ISSN 0812-0005.”

2.2 Feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action

If you have identified that alternatives to taking the action were considered, but are not proposed (in section 1.9), please complete this section. Please provide a detailed description outlining any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but are not proposed. (Please note that these do not include any proposed alternative locations, time frames, or activities that form part of the proposed action which are to be discussed below at section 2.3).

None

2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

If you have identified that the proposed action includes alternative time frames, locations or activities (in section 1.10), please complete this section. Please describe any alternatives related to the physical location of the action, time frames within which the action is to be taken and alternative methods or activities for undertaking the action. For each alternative location, time frame or activity identified, please also complete (where relevant) the details in sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4, 2.7, 3 and 5. Please note, if the action that you propose to take is determined to be a controlled action, any alternative locations, time frames or activities that are identified here may be subject to environmental assessment and a decision on whether to approve the alternative.

None

The parcels of land chosen are the most suitable for cropping on this property with no alternatives available.

2.4 Context, including any relevant planning framework and state/local government requirements

Please explain the context in which the action is proposed, including any relevant planning framework at the state and/or local government level (e.g. within scope of a management plan, planning initiative or policy framework) and social and economic context including as population size, economic opportunities and employment information. Describe any applicable Commonwealth or state legislation or policies (other

than those related to other environmental impact assessment which are to be discussed below at section 2.5).

An approval for clearing for the purpose of high value agriculture was sought through the Queensland Governments' Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP). The Land Suitability Assessment application was accepted on 3 March 2015, see Attachment One. A decision notice approving this development, permit SDA-0215-018228, was received on the 14 April 2015, see Attachment Three.

The property owners will be responsible for much of the work but will engage contractors to complete tasks when necessary.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation

If you have identified that the proposed action will be, is being or has been subject to a Commonwealth, State or Territory environmental impact statement (in section 1.11), please complete this section. Please describe any environmental assessment of the relevant impacts of the proposed action that has been, is being, or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation. Specify the type and scope of the assessment (for example, whether the assessment relates to part or the whole of the proposed action, or the proposed action, as a component of a larger action), the relevant legislation and the current status of any assessments or approvals. Where possible, provide contact details for the relevant assessment contact officer. Further, please describe or summarise any public consultation undertaken, or to be undertaken, during the assessment. Attach copies of relevant assessment documentation and outcomes of public consultations (if available).

Not required.

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

Your referral must include a description of any public consultation that has been, or is being, undertaken. Where Indigenous stakeholders are likely to be affected by your proposed action, your referral should describe any consultations undertaken with Indigenous stakeholders. Identify the relevant stakeholders and the status of consultations at the time of the referral. Where appropriate include copies of documents recording the outcomes of any consultations.

The following is an extract from the DILGP Decision Notice, Attachment Three, page 5.

Native title considerations

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 seeks to protect artefacts and cultural sites that are of significance to Aboriginal people. The Act requires anyone carrying out an activity to exercise a Duty of Care. Guidelines have been produced to enable assessment of sites under the Act. The guidelines are available from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait and Islander and Multicultural Affairs and can be downloaded from its website at www.datsima.qld.gov.au.

Please be aware the following Registered Native Title Body Corporate made a submission during the notification period under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth):

☐ Goondaloo Aboriginal Corporation

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger action

If you have identified that the proposed action is a component of a larger action (in section 1.12), please complete this section. Please provide information about the larger action and details of any interdependency between the stages/components and the larger action. You may also provide justification as to why you believe it is reasonable for the referred action to be considered separately from the larger action (e.g. the referred action is 'stand-alone' and viable in its own right, there are separate responsibilities for component actions or approvals have been split in a similar way at the state or local government levels).

This is not a staged development or component of a larger action it is simply clearing for the purpose of high value agriculture.

2.8 Related actions

If you have identified that the proposed action has related actions (in section 1.13), please complete this section. Please provide information about the related actions including, as appropriate:

- the nature, scope and location of the related action;
- the nature and scope of the assessment under the relevant legislation;
- a statement confirming how the action relates to the Proposed Action;
- the key documents produced as part of the assessment, by whom and when (using active statements), and the extent to which the assessment of the action is relevant to the assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Action on the matters protected by the Controlling Provisions of the EPBC Act and the related findings of this Report. Please cross reference to the analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action below;
- public consultation during the assessment including the extent (i.e. duration and means) and results; and
- if available, the conclusion of the assessment and final decision following assessment, i.e. approval, approval subject to conditions or refusal.
-
- N/A

3 Description of environment & likely impacts

Note: If you have identified alternatives in relation to location, time frames or activities as part of the proposed action at section 1.10 and 2.3, please complete this section in relation to each of the alternatives identified.

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposed action on the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The interactive map tool can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest.

For each matter protected by the EPBC Act, provide a description of the matter including, as appropriate:

- a brief description of the matter (for example, for threatened species, the population size, habitat, breeding, diet and life cycle etc);
- the status, extent and condition of the matter within the affected area and also more broadly in the region; and
- the key threats and threatening processes and beneficial actions and processes for the Protected Matter(s) excluding those from the proposed action, for example, under relevant approved conservation advices, recovery plans or threat abatement plans, management plans or other strategic plans, management principles or obligations under International Conventions.
-
- Having identified the relevant matters protected under the EPBC Act, identify the impacts the proposed action will or is likely to have on these matters (e.g. light, noise, biodiversity loss, water quality etc). For each type of impact, provide a concise description of the likely nature, scope and consequences of the impact on the Protected Matter(s). In doing so, consider factors such as, as appropriate: whether the impact is a direct or indirect impact - **note that, even if your proposed action will not be taken in a World Heritage area, Ramsar wetland, Commonwealth marine area, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or on Commonwealth land, it could still impact upon these areas (for example, through downstream impacts) by its indirect impacts;**
- the timing and duration of the likely impact, for example, one-off, re-occurring or ongoing, short term or long term;
- the extent of the impact, for example, uncertain or certain, permanent/irreversible or temporary/ reversible, and localised or broad-scale;
- the likely consequence of the impact on the Protected Matter(s), including both adverse and beneficial impacts and any related social and economic impacts;
- the likelihood of the impact affecting the Protected Matter(s); and
- whether there are, or mitigate and repair the consequences of, the impact.
-

Your assessment of likely impacts should refer to the following resources (available from the Department's web site):

- specific values of individual World Heritage properties and National Heritage places and the ecological character of Ramsar wetlands;
- profiles of relevant species/communities (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;
- Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance; and
- Associated sectoral and species policy statements available on the web site, as relevant.
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Your assessment of likely impacts should also consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposed action. The Minister has prepared four marine bioregional plans (**MBP**) in accordance with section 176 of the EPBC Act. It is likely that the MBPs will be more commonly relevant where listed threatened species, listed migratory species or a Commonwealth marine area is considered.

For specific information for each individual NES species please refer to Attachment Five: SpeciesConcerned WithDevelopment.docx

In addition the table below in section 3.1(d) summarises the potential impact for each matter identified.

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

The proposed activity is found on a catchment system that drains into the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. However due to the following reasons and management practises the activity will have minimal impact on the GBR. Especially those issues concerning erosion and increased sedimentation into the catchment.

It is situated some 195km upstream of the Herbert River inlet and over 200km from the nearest point of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park . Please refer to Attachment Two, Map 1.

The majority of streams within the activity are of stream order one and represent a very small proportion

of the entire system.

Because of points 1 and 2 most contaminants are either filtered out or perish before reaching the GBR. The streams are ephemeral and flow for only short periods during the wet season.

Proponents will maintain a non-cleared buffer zone around all streams as per the decision notice conditions.

Boundary lines to be clearly marked to ensure clearing activities maintain agreed distance from streams. All clearing will take place outside of Wet Season.

Suitable pasture and or crop stubble cover during non cropping periods will minimise erosion.

Sowing cleared areas before wet season with suitable pasture species to establish good ground cover.

Maintain sufficient ground cover during the wet season.

The majority of site chosen has minimal slope of <1% that will help minimise erosion.

Any sites with >2% slope will follow the design and implementation conditions described in 'Attachment 1, page 6, point 3 of the Decision Notice', see Attachment Three.

There will be minimum soil tillage during wet season.

Once cropping is established there will be a practise of minimum to zero till when sowing crops.

All chemicals will be used in accordance to state and manufacturer recommendations.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on the World Heritage values of any World Heritage property.

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

The activity is unlikely to have any impact on the Great Barrier Reef (National Heritage Place) as per the reasons stated in 3.1(a).

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on the National Heritage values of any National Heritage place.

3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)

N/A: The nearest wetlands of International Importance is at Bowling Green Bay over 200kms to the south east of Wombinoos Station. Wombinoos is located within the Herbert River catchment while Bowling Green Bay wetland is not, see Attachment Two, Map 3.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on the ecological character of any Ramsar wetlands.

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Description

From the protected matters report conducted on the 18th of January 2017 there were 22 threatened species, 15 migratory species and 21 marine, species or their habitat, likely to occur in the nominated area. The attached document, Attachment Five: Species Concerned With Development, discusses each individual species identified in the report and describes the likely consequence of the impact for each individual.

Table 1 below provides a summary of attachment five providing some information on preferred habitat and the likely impacts on each species. For those species identified as, likely to be affected by this activity, further information immediately below is provided, to help examine each case:

Red Goshawk: The EHP ecological assessment regard this species as 'not an important population' in context with the activity when examining against the following population criteria: a key source population, important in maintaining genetic diversity or if it is at the limit of its range. Landline Consulting agree with this evaluation.

Black-footed Tree Rat: EHP assessment determined that there is a 'Moderate likelihood of occurrence' based on some areas providing suitable habitat. Additionally the EHP consider this an 'important population' based on the location being at the extent of its range. However there is a lack of physical

evidence or records supporting the presence of the Black-footed Tree Rat (BFTR). The nearest physical record was taken from Mount Garnet over 40km to the north. This record was a skull from 1977 with little history of the specimen provided. Furthermore there is evidence suggesting that the BFTR have a preference for habitat containing Pandanus plants. There are no Pandanus plants in the site of proposed clearing activity. The BFTR also tend to prefer those woodlands with a dense shrub layer. The shrub layer of the proposed activity have been described mostly as open or absent by the EHP ecological assessment. Therefore it is unlikely that the Black-footed Tree Rat would be significantly impacted by the proposed activity. Landline Consulting do not agree with the EHP evaluation and more physical evidence would need to be provided to consider this as an 'important population'.

Greater Glider: The EHP evaluation concludes that an 'important population' does occur in the proposed activity and is likely to have a significant impact on this species. This interpretation was largely based on that the activity will have a long-term decrease in the size of an important population and have a reduction in the area of occupancy of the Greater Glider. And an important population was determined by EHP as that which is at its north-western limit of its range. However it must be noted that the range of the glider is quite extensive from southern Victoria up to Cooktown in far north Queensland. Beyond Wombinoo the glider is found 300km to the north in Cooktown and also over 80km to the west. So when you look at the range beyond Wombinoo to the north and west, there is over 21000 square km available in this northern extremity of the population distribution. Hence on the broader scale the proposed activity is unlikely to have a significant impact on the e northern population. Although it is agreed that some animals will be impacted locally.

Koala: There is some habitat suitable for koalas in the proposed site and there has been one record of koalas on Wombinoo Station in 1999. However this was not at the site of the proposed activities. More recently, during August 2016, EHP performed an ecological assessment of the proposed sites and no sightings or signs were observed.

Landline Consulting and EHP calculated a score of 7 using the habitat assessment tool located in the EPBC Act koala referral guidelines. A score of 5 or more indicates habitat critical to the survival of the koala. Therefore a score of 7 would indicate critical habitat. The proposed activity may have a significant impact on the koala as defined by the disturbance to critical habitat in the proposed location. However the activity only represents a very small area of available habitat critical to the koalas survival in the known range of distribution. Therefore Landline Consulting believe the activity is unlikely, on a broader scale, to significantly impact on this species.

Please refer to Attachment Three: Species Concerned WithDevelopment.docx for details of each matter. Table 1 below provides a summary of the examination of each species and the likelihood of any direct and indirect impact for each resulting from the activity.

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
<i>Erythrotriochis radiates</i> Vulnerable	Red Goshawk	Prefer forests of intermediate densities and areas between habitats of different densities for hunting. Prefer large trees typically 30m for nesting and close to permanent water, <1km.	Yes	Likely	No	No	No Changes to the environment are unlikely to have any significant impact. This particular parcel nominated for clearing has no large permanent water body. The nearest sightings have been recorded over 60 km to the east where suitable habitat exist amongst the ranges. This species is highly mobile and there are vast areas of similarly structured habitat surrounding the impacted area.	None	Unlikely Maybe some loss of foraging sites due to tree removal and loss of prey.	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List On-ground examination of trees during high value cropping suitability assessment, Landline Consulting 2016.
<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i> Endangered	Gouldian Finch	Prefers habitat containing the following trees that provide suitable nesting hollows; <i>E. tintinnans</i> , <i>E. brevifolia</i> , <i>E. tectifera</i> , <i>Corymbia confertiflora</i> , <i>E. leucophloia</i> , <i>Corymbia latifolia</i> and <i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i> It also favours annual and perennial grasses especially sorghum. Nearby permanent water is essential.	No	Unlikely	No	No	RE mapping suggests that none of the tree species favoured by the Gouldian Finch are present in this landscape. Additionally there is an absence of permanent water on the nominated location. Nearest water (cattle dams) are located 600m to the north west and 700m to the south. Annual and perennial grasses are present however these will be replaced by sorghum that would in fact improve the habitat for the GF. Nearest observations have been over 50km away to the west and northwest of Wombino. This is a mobile animal and there is much more of the same habitat surrounding the site on and off the property.	Activity is unlikely to have any impact on the Gouldian Finch. Removing native grasses would reduce foraging opportunities if they indeed visit this site. Action may in fact improve food resources with the inclusion of sorghum crops and their preference for this seed.	None	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i> Endangered	Southern Black-throated Finch	It is thought to require a mosaic of habitats in which it can find seed during the wet season. Some of the more common species of eucalypt	Yes	Unlikely	No	No	The lack of permanent water nearby would reduce the likelihood of this site as being a key habitat for the BTFS. It is acknowledged that the current trees and grasses at this location maybe suitable	Unlikely Action may in fact improve food resources	Unlikely	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
		forest include Ironbark(E. crebra), River Red Gum (E. camaldulensis), Silver-leaved Ironbark (E. melanophloia) Reid River Box (E. brownii), Yellow jacket (E. similis) and Forest Red Gum (E. tereticornis). It occasionally occurs in Melaleuca woodlands or in grasslands comprised of Astrebla, Dicanthium or Panicum. Almost all recent records have been in riparian habitat.					in supporting BTFS however a more comprehensive evaluation would need to be performed to determine presence/absence of this finch.	with the inclusion of sorghum crops and their preference for this seed.		Advice Red List
<i>Rostratula australis</i> Endangered	Australian Painted Snipe	The APS generally inhabits shallow terrestrial freshwater wetlands including temporary and permanent lakes, swamps, clay pans, waterlogged grassland, dams, rice crops, sewerage farms and bore drains. Typical sites include tussocks of grass, sedges, rushes, reeds, samphire, canegrass or sometimes tea-tree.	Yes	Low	No	No	There is a complete absence of suitable habitat required by the APS. Hence the action will have no effect on this species.	None	None	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli</i> Vulnerable	Masked Owl (northern)	The masked owl has been recorded in riparian forest, rainforest, open forest, melaleuca swamps and the edges of mangroves and margins of sugarcane fields. They require large trees with large hollows for nesting and a habitat that supports abundant small to medium sized terrestrial mammals.	Yes	Low	No	No	Will not have a significant impact. All recorded observations in Queensland have been within the coastal ranges. Nearest observations have been in more suitable habitat over 150kms to the southeast. It is unlikely to be found at this location given the absence of any nearby records and an observational preference towards coastal habitat. However the site does offer recognised habitat that can support these owls.	Possible	Possible	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> Critically endangered	Curlew Sandpiper	Mainly occur on intertidal mudflats in sheltered coastal areas, such as estuaries, bays, inlets and lagoons, and also around non-tidal swamps, lakes and lagoons near the coast	No	Low	No	No	None	None	None	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> Critically endangered	Eastern Curlew	Sheltered coasts, especially estuaries, bays, harbours, inlets and coastal lagoons, with large intertidal mudflats or sand flats, often with beds of seagrass (Zosteraceae).	No	Low	No	No	None	None	Unlikely	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Litoria dayi</i> Endangered	Australian Lace-lid Frog									
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> Endangered	Northern Quoll	The NQ occupies a diverse range of habitats. From rocky areas, eucalypt forest and woodlands, rainforests, sandy lowlands, beaches, shrub land, grasslands and deserts. However the habitat usually generally has a rocky den with surrounding vegetation for foraging. Woodland habitats usually have a high structural diversity containing large diameter trees, termite mounds or hollow logs for denning purposes.	Yes	Low	No	No	There is likely to be suitable habitat within the impacted area. However the nearest and most frequent observations have been along the coastal ranges over 100km away. There was one observation recorded at Undara in 1989, 30km to the west. Additionally rocky out crops that are considered prime quoll habitat within the affected area will not be touched.	Unlikely	Unlikely	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Macroderma gigas</i> Vulnerable	Ghost bat	Ghost Bat is mainly found in the arid zone near rock outcrops, and roosts in caves, mines, and rock clefts. The species also occurs throughout the tropical savannah, in savannah woodlands, and in mangroves (N. McKenzie pers. comm.). Most nesting caves are multiple entrance systems.	Yes	Low	No	No	There are some volcanic rocky outcrops nestled within the impact area however these will not be influenced by the clearing activity and it is not clear if there are suitable cave sites within these outcrops anyway. Nearest frequent observations are over 100km to the north. One historic record in 1972 was taken from the Undara caves complex over 40km away. These are a highly mobile animals that that can feed on a variety of small mammals, birds, reptiles , frogs and large insects. The clearing activity is likely to have little impact on this animal.	Unlikely	Possible	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Mesebriomys gouldii rattoides</i>	Black-footed Tree Rat	In north Queensland, this species mostly occurs in eucalypt forests and woodlands,	Low	Low	No	No	There is little evidence that the BFTR is found in the affected area. The nearest records have been observed over 80km to	Very unlikely	Unlikely	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
Vulnerable		especially where hollows are relatively plentiful. It forages on the ground and in trees, and individuals may make movements of at least 500 m from roost sites to foraging areas (Friend et al. 1992). Its diet comprises mostly fruits (including of the tough <i>Pandanus spiralis</i>) and seeds, but also includes some invertebrates, flowers and grass (Morton 1992, Rankmore 2006, Rankmore and Friend 2008). It occurs mostly in lowland open forests and woodlands dominated by <i>Eucalyptus miniata</i> and/or <i>E. tetradonta</i> , particularly where these forests have a relatively dense shrubby understorey (Friend and Taylor 1985, Friend 1987).					the north, east and south of Wombino Station. The record south of the site was the southern most of range and this record was from 1995. More frequent records have been observed in the tablelands between Malanda and Mareeba over 100km away to the northeast. They seem to prefer a dense shrubby understorey. The impacted site is largely open woodland lacking in dense understorey. In addition the impacted site is absent of the preferred eucalypt species and the pandanus fruit.			EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List AWC
<i>Petauroides volans</i> Vulnerable	Greater Glider	Highest abundance is typically in taller, montane, moist eucalypt forests, with relatively old trees and abundant hollows (Andrews et al. 1994; Smith et al. 1994a,b; Kavanagh 2000; Eyre 2004; van der Ree et al. 2004; Vanderduys et al. 2012).	Yes	Known	Unlikely	Yes locally. No at a broader regional scale. See notes preceding this table.	Unlikely See notes preceding this table.	Yes	Yes	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> Vulnerable	Koala	The Koala is an arboreal folivorous marsupial. It occurs in forests and woodlands, typically dominated by eucalyptus species. In inland (semi-arid) portions of its range, it occurs mainly in riparian woodlands (Ellis <i>et al.</i> 2002, Seabrook <i>et al.</i> 2011). Elsewhere distribution may be associated particularly with soil fertility (and hence foliage nutrient content) (Moore and Foley 2000). The Koala has a	Yes	High	Unlikely	Unlikely. No at a broader regional scale. See notes preceding this table.	Unlikely on a regional scale. However the following must be noted. EPBC Act referral guidelines for the koala resulted in the following conclusions: The action does occur in the koalas modelled distribution. Geographic context is considered Coastal because mean annual rainfall of 812mm is greater than 800mm. However most rainfall occurs between December and April followed by an extended dry.	Yes Loss of foraging and roosting habitat.	Unlikely	SPRAT QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act referral guidelines Conservation Advice Red List

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
		specialist diet, mostly limited to foliage of <i>Eucalyptus</i> species, with occasional intake of leaves of other plant (mostly <i>Myrtaceous</i>) genera (Martin and Handasyde 1999; Moore and Foley 2000, 2005).					<p>Therefore it may be considered as Inland.</p> <p>The site does include habitat suitable for koalas.</p> <p>Desktop study identifies that koalas may occur in this area.</p> <p>Primary feed trees are likely to occur.</p> <p>EHP on-ground surveys did not detect any signs or sightings of koalas.</p> <p>Using Table 4 of the habitat assessment tool resulted in a score of 7 which would indicate that it contains habitat critical for koala survival.</p> <p>From Section 7 Figure 2 it indicates that the action would likely affect habitat critical to the survival of the koala.</p> <p>The outcomes therefore indicate that a referral is recommended.</p>			
<i>Rhinolophus robertsi</i> Vulnerable	Large-eared Horseshoe Bat	The Greater Large-eared Horseshoe Bat is found in lowland rainforest, along gallery forest-lined creeks within open eucalypt forest, <i>Melaleuca</i> forest with rainforest understorey, open savannah woodland and tall riparian woodland of <i>Melaleuca</i> , Forest Red Gum (<i>E. tereticornis</i>) and Moreton Bay Ash (<i>E. tessellaris</i>) (Churchill 2009; Pavay & Kutt 2008). They typically roost in caves and underground mines.	Yes	Low	Unlikely	No	<p>None</p> <p>There have been reports of LEHB located in the nearby Undara caves however records on the map from the Atlas of Living Australia only indicate observations recorded over 300km away to the north near Cooktown. There have been no records of the LEHB on Wombinoos Station.</p>	Unlikely	Unlikely	QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List
<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniat</i> Vulnerable	Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat	The Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat occurs mostly in lowland areas, typically in a range of woodland, forest and open environments (Schulz & Thomson 2007; Reardon et al. 2010; Dennis 2012). The Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat	No	Unlikely	None	No	<p>None</p> <p>The closest recorded observation is over 95 km to the east. There have been no observations recorded on or near the proposed affected area. Nearly all observations have occurred within lowland coastal ranges.</p>	Possible however unlikely due to its observed preference along coastal ranges.	Unlikely	QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
		has been suggested to forage over habitat edges such as the edge of rainforest and in forest clearings (Churchill 1998). The small number of confirmed roosts located in Australia have all been in tree hollows (Churchill 1998; Compton & Johnson 1983).								
Cajanus mareebensis Vulnerable		Cajanus mareebensis occurs in grassy woodlands of Melaleuca-Acacia, Eucalyptus-Callitris and Eucalyptus-Corymbia woodlands on sandy soils derived from granite with a lower horizon of impeded drainage.	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	It is unlikely that C. mareebensis will be affected in any way by the proposed activity. The preferred soils for this plant are sandy soils derived from granite. All soils at Wombinoo Station are derived from basalt.	Unlikely	Unlikely	QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act
<i>Egernia rugosa</i> Vulnerable	Yakka Skink	The known distribution of the Yakka Skink extends from the coast to the hinterland of sub-humid to semi-arid eastern Queensland. This vast area covers portions of the Brigalow Belt (North and South), Mulga Lands, South-east Queensland, Einasleigh Uplands, Wet Tropics and Cape York Peninsula Biogeographical Regions. within the Mulga Lands and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions (TSN 2008b). It occurs in a wide variety of vegetation types within Queensland Regional Ecosystem Land Zones (LZ) (Brigalow Belt Reptiles Workshop 2010): LZ 3 - Alluvium (river and creek flats) LZ 4 - Clay plains not associated with current alluvium LZ 5 - Old loamy and sandy plains LZ 7 - Ironstone jump-ups LZ 9 - Undulating country on fine-grained sedimentary rocks LZ 10 - Sandstone ranges. Preferred forest types are:	Yes	Moderate	Unlikely	Unlikely	Nearest observations recorded are over 170km to the southwest and over 260km to the north of Wombinoo Station.	Unlikely	Unlikely	QLD DEHP AoLA EPBC Act Conservation Advice Red List

Species and Status	Common Name	Habitat Preferences	Likely Habitat	Likely Occurrence	Critical Habitat	Important Population	Significant Impacts	Direct Potential Impact	Indirect Impact	References
		<p>brigalow, mulga, bendee, lancewood, belah, poplar box, ironbark and white cypress pine.</p> <p>This species is not generally found in trees or rocky habitats (Chapple 2003).</p>								

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species**Description**

Performing a search using the Department of the Environment and Energy's Protected Matters Search Tool returned 15 migratory species identified within the vicinity of the proposed activity. A brief summary of these animals has been provided in Attachment Five and was concluded that none of these species would be affected by the proposed activity.

Please refer to Attachment Five: Species Concerned With Activity.docx

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area

(If the action is in the Commonwealth marine area, please complete 3.2(c) instead. This section is for actions taken outside the Commonwealth marine area that may have impacts on that area.)

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area.

N/A: This activity does not occur in a Commonwealth Marine Area.

3.1 (g) Commonwealth land

(If the action is on Commonwealth land, please complete 3.2(d) instead. This section is for actions taken outside Commonwealth land that may have impacts on that land).

N/A

3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Description

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on any part of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Note: If your action occurs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park you may also require permission under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (GBRMP Act)*. If so, section 37AB of the GBRMP Act provides that your referral under the EPBC Act is deemed to be an application under the GBRMP Act and Regulations for necessary permissions and a single integrated process will generally apply. Further information is available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au

The activity is unlikely to have any impact on the GBR Marine Park as per the reasons stated in 3.1(a).

3.1 (i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development or large coal mining development

Description

N/A

If the action is a coal seam gas development or large coal mining development that has, or is likely to have, a significant impact on water resources, the draft *Policy Statement Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources* provides further details on the type of information needed.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on water resources. Your assessment of impacts should refer to the draft Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources.

3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

You must describe the nature and extent of likely impacts (both direct & indirect) on the whole environment if the proposed action:

- is a nuclear action;
- will be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency;
- will be taken in a Commonwealth marine area;
- will be taken on Commonwealth land; or
- will be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Your assessment of impacts should refer to the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 - Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies and specifically address impacts on:

- ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
- natural and physical resources;
- the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas;
- the heritage values of places; and
- the social, economic and cultural aspects of the above things.

3.2 (a)	Is the proposed action a nuclear action?		No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (b)	Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency?		No
If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment			
3.2 (c)	Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area?		No
If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f))			
3.2 (d)	Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land?		No
If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))			
3.2 (e)	Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?		No
If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))			

3.3 Description of the project area and affected area for the proposed action

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed above). If at Section 2.3 you identified any alternative locations, time frames or activities for your proposed action, please also complete each of the details below (where relevant) for each alternative identified.

3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

Flora:

Broad Vegetation Groups

Regional Ecosystem Mapping indicate the dominant ecosystems within the proposed activity are 9.5.5a, 9.5.5b, 9.5.5c and 9.5.5e comprising a mixed eucalypt woodland containing Queensland Blue Gum, Gum-topped Box, Ironbarks and Bloodwoods. The broad vegetation groups are mixed within the clearing polygon depending on the soil type and topographic features that these groups depend upon. The dominant vegetation groups likely to be found within this clearing activity are described below and an estimation of the area they would likely cover within this activity. Other RE types featuring in the proposed activity, at a far lesser extent of 0.6% are; 9.3.11a, 9.3.8 and 9.5.6a. These types are ephemeral wetlands, gum-topped box woodland and bloodwood woodland respectively.

Description

9.5.5a - Mixed woodland to open forest of Narrow-leaved Ironbark, Clarkson's Bloodwood and Lemon-scented Gum *Corymbia citriodora* +/- White Mahogany *Eucalyptus portuensis* with a generally open sub-canopy of canopy species +/- Cypress Pine *Callitris intratropica* and

Acacia spp. The open shrub layer often contains juvenile canopy species, Quinine, Powder Puff Wattle *Acacia flavescens* and other Acacia spp. Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* is the dominant species in a dense grassy ground layer. Occurs on Tertiary plateaus and remnants.

9.5.5b - Woodland of Narrow-leaved Ironbark or *Eucalyptus granitica* +/- Clarkson's Bloodwood +/- Dallachy's gum *Corymbia dallachiana* +/- Red Bloodwood *C. erythrophloia* with a usually open sub-canopy and shrub layer including juvenile canopy species, Bushman's Clothes Peg *Grevillea glauca*, Silver Oak *G. parallela*, Powder Puff Wattle, Quinine, Broadleaved Paperbark *Melaleuca viridiflora* and Yellow-berry *Denhamia cunninghamii*. The grassy ground layer is dominated by Kangaroo Grass. Occurs on Tertiary plateaus and remnants.

9.5.5c - Woodland to open woodland of Gum-topped Box or Queensland Blue Gum +/- Swamp Mahogany *Lophostemon suaveolens* +/- Clarkson's Bloodwood. The distinct subcanopy usually contains canopy species +/- Broad-leaved Paperbark. Scattered Broad-leaved Paperbark, Quinine and Acacia spp. may be found in the shrub layer. The dense grassy ground layer is often dominated by Kangaroo Grass and Golden Beard Grass *Chrysopogon fallax*. Occurs on Tertiary sand plains.

9.5.5e - Woodland to open forest of Pink Bloodwood *Corymbia intermedia*, Narrow-leaved Ironbark +/- White Mahogany +/- Lemon-scented Gum +/- Dallachy's Gum. A sub-canopy is generally absent, but a tall shrub layer containing juvenile canopy species and Powder Puff Wattle +/- Bushman's Clothes Peg +/- *Persoonia falcata* often occurs. The dense grassy ground layer is dominated by Kangaroo Grass +/- Giant Speargrass *Heteropogon triticeus*. Occurs on Tertiary sand plains.

Fauna:

A search using the 'Explore Your Area' in the Atlas of Living Australia website identified 66 birds, 4 mammals and 3 reptiles that have been recorded within a 10km radius of the proposed activity. The list of these animals is provided below in Table 2

Table 2. List of animals recorded within a 10km search using the AoLA and those animals observed during the Ecology and Heritage Partners environmental assessment (highlighted grey)

Species	Common Name
Mammals	
<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Eastern Grey Kangaroo
<i>Macropus parryi</i>	Whiptail Wallaby
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bent-wing Bat
<i>Miniopterus orianae</i>	Eastern Bent-wing Bat
<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Gould's Wattled Bat or Eastern Free-tailed Bat
<i>Chalinolobus nigrogriseus</i>	Hoary Wattled Bat or a Broad-nosed Bat
<i>Petauroides volans</i> (VU)	Greater Glider
<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Brush-tailed Possum
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider or Sugar Glider
<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Echidna
Birds	
<i>Anas (Nettion) gracilis</i>	Australasian Grey Teal
<i>Ardea (Casmerodius) modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret
<i>Aythya (Nyroca) australis</i>	Barwing
<i>Corvus orru orru</i>	Torresian Crow
<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	Grey Butcherbird
<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	Blue Crane
<i>Euseyornis melanops</i>	Black-fronted Dotterel
<i>Falco (Hierofalco) peregrinus</i>	Black-cheeked Falcon
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Australian Coot

Grallina cyanoleuca	Magpie-lark
Haliastur sphenurus	Whistling Kite
Manorina melanocephala	Noisy Miner
Pachycephala rufiventris	Rufous Whistler
Pardalotus (Pardalotinus) striatus	Striated Pardalote
Philemon corniculatus	Noisy Friarbird
Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Trichoglossus haematodus	Rainbow Lorikeet
Cracticus nigrogularis	Pied Butcherbird
Melopsittacus undulatus	Budgerigar
Anas superciliosa	Pacific Black Duck
Nettapus coromandelianus	Cotton Pygmy Goose
Chenonetta jubata	Wood Duck
Vanellus miles	Masked Lapwing
Rhipidura fuliginosa	Grey Fantail
Cracticus torquatus	Grey Butcherbird
Rhipidura leucophrys	Willy Wagtail
Pardalotus striatus	Striated Pardalote
Platycercus adscitus	Pale-headed Rosella
Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon
Grallina cyanoleuca	Magpie-lark
Trichoglossus moluccanus	Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Threskiornis spinicollis	Straw-necked Ibis
Cracticus tibicen	Australian Magpie
Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronzewing
Artamus leucorhynchus	White-breasted Woodswallow
Cracticus torquatus	Pied Butcherbird
Strepera graculina	Pied Currawong
Colluricincla harmonica	Grey Shrike-thrush
Geopelia humeralis	Bar-shouldered Dove
Coracina novaehollandiae	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Entomyzon cyanotis	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Geophaps scripta peninsulae	Squatter Pigeon (nthn)
Todiramphus macleayii	Forest Kingfisher
Myiagra rubicola	Leaden Flycatcher
Cacatua galerita	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Geopelia placida	Peaceful Dove
Centropus phasianus	Pheasant Coucal
Corvus orru	Torresian Crow
Corvus coronoides	Australian Raven
Myzomela sanguinolenta	Scarlet Honeyeater
Lichmera indistincta	Brown Honeyeater
Philemon corniculatus	Noisy Friarbird
Gerygone olivacea	White-throated Gerygone
Dicrurus bracteatus	Spangled Drongo
Podargus strigoides	Tawny Frogmouth
Phalacrocorax varius	Pied Cormorant
Manorina melanocephala	Noisy Miner
Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	Australasian Grebe
Dacelo novaehollandiae Laughing	Kookaburra
Pachycephala rufiventris	Rufous Whistler
Glossopsitta pusilla	Little Lorikeet
Reptiles	

<i>Aspidites melanocephalus</i>	black-headed python
<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>	Green Tree Snake
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor
<i>Oedura coggeri</i>	Northern Spotted Velvet Gecko
<i>Amalosia rhombifer</i>	Zigzag Velvet Gecko
<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>	Bynoe's Gecko

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

The site of the proposed activity contains first and second order ephemeral streams. First and second order streams are defined as those streams at the very beginning, or source, of the drainage system and are less likely to have any impacts on downstream systems due to filtering of contaminants. Please refer to Attachment Two, Map 2.

3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features

There are no outstanding natural features within the proposed activity.

3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation

This site is largely remnant native vegetation with some disturbance from cattle grazing. The native pastures are in good condition with little overgrazing. However as is typical with most cattle stations there has been the introduction of some non-native pasture species and some weed species. Overall though, the station has been managed well to ensure that good coverage of pasture species are maintained. There is little tree thickening evident on this property and the proposed activity.

3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)

The majority of slope is <1%. Therefore flows across the site are typically slow and gentle minimising erosion, sedimentation and the transportation of other potential contaminants across the site. Any sites with slope >2% will have to abide by those conditions detailed in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, decision notice reference: SDA-0215-018228, Attachment 1, conditions of development approval, point 3: 'Any clearing within permit area A on slopes greater than 2% must entail soil conservation measures designed and implemented in accordance with Shepherd, R.N. & Macnish, S.E.(1989) Land Management Field Manual for Atherton/Mareeba District. Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy, Land Management Field Manual QE89002 ISSN 0812-0005.'

3.3 (g) Current state of the environment

Include information about the extent of erosion, whether the area is infested with weeds or feral animals and whether the area is covered by native vegetation or crops.

The proposed site is in good condition. There is no erosion with good cover of native pastures and woodlands. There are few weed species and some feral animals typical of this area. Mostly feral pigs.

3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values

After searching the Australian Heritage Database on 3/2/2017 for Wombinoo Station coordinates; west 145.06.10, north 18.00.56, east 145.19.51 and south 18.08.45 there were no World, National or Commonwealth Heritage Places located within the proposed site.

3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values

As per the search described in 3.3(h) there were no indigenous heritage values listed for Wombinoo Station.

3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment

Describe any other key features of the environment affected by, or in proximity to the proposed action (for example, any national parks, conservation reserves, wetlands of national significance etc).

There are no other important or unique values of the environment located in or in proximity of this area that will be affected by this action.

3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold)

Leasehold

3.3 (l) Existing uses of area of proposed action

Cattle grazing and feedlot plus limited area used for growing forage and grain sorghum plus maize.

3.3 (m) Any proposed uses of area of proposed action

High value dryland cropping. This land would be well suited for and approved for growing forage sorghum, grain sorghum and maize.

4 Environmental outcomes

Provide descriptions of the proposed environmental outcomes that will be achieved for the matters protected by the EPBC Act that are likely to be affected by the proposed action. Include details of the baseline data upon which the outcomes are based, and the confidence about the likely achievement of the proposed outcomes. Where outcomes cannot be identified or committed to, provide explanatory details including any commitments to identify outcomes through an assessment process.

If a proposed action is determined to be a controlled action, the Department may request further details to enable application of the *Outcomes-based Conditions Policy 2016* (<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/outcomes-based-conditions-policy-guidance>), including information about the environmental outcomes to be achieved by proposed avoidance, mitigation, management or offset measures, details of baseline data, milestones, performance criteria, and monitoring and adaptive management to ensure the achievement of outcomes. If this information is available at the time of referral it should be included in the description of the proposed measures.

General commitments to achieving environmental outcomes, particularly relating to beneficial impacts of the proposed action, CANNOT be taken into account in making the decision about whether the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act. However, those commitments may be relevant at the later assessment and approval stages, including the appropriate level of assessment, and conditions of approval, if your proposal proceeds to these stages.

The proposed environmental outcomes, to help protect matters, that are likely to be affected by this activity are:

- Minimising habitat fragmentation by not clearing near the higher order streams thereby not encroaching on habitat corridors.
- Ensure that adequate ground cover at all times post clearing activity for sedimentation control.
- Ensure large trees, living or dead, suitable for animal dens are checked for occupancy before removal.
- Ensure primary koala food trees (*E. tereticornis*) are checked for koalas before removal.
- Ensure proponents can clearly identify the trees identified in points 4 and 5 before engaging in clearing.
- Ensure weeds and pests are kept to minimum.
- On a regional scale the proposed activity occupies an extremely small portion of the available land of similar regional ecosystem type.

In addition, implementing the proposed mitigation measures as described in Section 5.

5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

NB: These are the measures/actions in more detail that will mitigate any impacts with a reference to those outcomes identified in section 4 above.

Clearing will be performed in stages over a three to five year period and in a way to minimise the impacts of erosion and to ensure tree regrowth is kept to a minimum. Cleared areas will be promptly sown with suitable pasture grass and legume species prior to the wet season to minimise erosion and minimise tree regrowth. And clearing will not be performed during the wet season to minimise erosion.

Once a cropping rotation is established pastures will be grown and minimum till practises adopted to ensure good ground cover.

The impacted area will not intrude on any established creeks or riparian zones. There will be a buffer from these drainage sites and proposed cleared areas as per conditions stipulated in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Local Planning including conditions for any land with slope >2%. This will not only reduce sedimentation entering the waterways but will help minimise any residual chemicals entering the river system.

Any large hollow bearing trees will not be immediately cleared. These trees will be left in place for at least 24hours to give any resident animals time to vacate unharmed.

Weed and Pest Control

Weed problems can be reduced by washing down any contracting machinery coming on to the property. Whether it be for clearing application or equipment used for maintain crops. In addition proponents will remain vigilant and proactively removing/treating any weeds to ensure there is minimum likelihood of weeds spreading.

Animal pests such as pigs will be controlled by routine monitoring followed-up by suitable control measures such as fencing, shooting and or baiting. Fencing will be performed before any cropping to stop cattle and to stop pests and macropods damaging crops.

Clearing and Cropping Activities:

Clearing activity will be staged over several years to mitigate sedimentation problems and to ensure the property is designed and managed properly.

Proponents will maintain a non-cleared buffer zone, as per state conditions, from any creek line.

Boudary line to be clearly marked to ensure clearing activities maintain agreed distance from streams.

All clearing will take place outside of Wet Season.

Suitable pasture cover during non cropping periods will minimise erosion.

All cleared areas to be seeded with suitable pasture species before wet season with to establish good ground cover.

Maintain sufficient ground cover before and during the wet season.

The vast majority of the site has minimal slope of <1% that will help minimise erosion.

Any areas with slope >2% to be cleared will do so considering state conditions.

There will be minimum soil tillage during wet season.

Pesticides and herbicides applied as per manufacturer recommendations and by state law.

Sedimentation control

Avoid and reduce impacts.

Maintain good clearing and cropping practises keeping the following in mind.

Proponents will maintain a non-cleared buffer zone from any discernible creek line.

Boudary line to be clearly marked to ensure clearing activities maintain agreed distance from streams.

All clearing will take place outside of Wet Season.

Suitable pasture cover during non cropping periods will minimise erosion.

Sow cleared areas before wet season with suitable pasture species to establish good ground cover.

Maintain sufficient ground cover during the wet season.

There will be minimum soil tillage during wet season.

Adhere to state conditions.

Habitat Connectivity Preservation

Due diligence surrounding the decision to identify key cropping areas for clearing has been taken. Only that land suitable for high value cropping will be cleared and any other land such as the rocky areas or poor quality soils to be left untouched. The remaining vegetation will offer corridors providing animals the opportunity to move freely around any areas of disturbance. In addition this parcel of land, nominated for clearing, represents only a very small fraction of the total surrounding land with the same or very similar habitat as described by the Regional Ecosystem Mapping, see Attachment 2, Map 4. For example, The same RE habitats within a 20km radius of the proposed clearing, cover an area of over 55000hectares. The proposed cleared area represents 2742.2 ha or 5% of this. Additionally these land types continue for many more kilometres. So on a regional scale the proposed clearing represents an extremely small part of this land type available.

Note: If you have identified alternatives in relation to location, time frames or activities as part of the proposed action at sections 1.10 and 2.3 please complete this section in relation to each of the alternatives identified.

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

For each proposed measure, specify:

- a concise description of the nature, scope, work plan and consequence of the measure for the relevant impact and any statutory or policy basis for the measure;

- in doing so, include analysis and findings on whether each measure is likely to achieve the environmental outcomes for the matters protected by the EPBC Act which are likely to be affected by the proposed action, including noting:
- the likely effectiveness of the measure in avoiding or mitigating the relevant impact on the matters protected by the EPBC Act;
- the level of commitment by the person proposing to take the action to achieve the proposed environmental outcomes and implement the proposed mitigation measures. For example, identify if the measures are preliminary suggestions only that have not been fully researched, or are dependent on a third party's agreement (e.g. council or landowner);
- any likely residual impacts (being, impacts likely to occur having implemented mitigation and/or avoidance measures) and, if such impacts will or are likely to occur, the measure available to compensate or offset these residual impacts. Please consider the Department's *EPBC Act, the EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy* (October 2012) (and *How to use the Offsets Assessment Guide*) and the *draft Policy Statement on EPBC Act Advanced Environmental Offsets*;
- the likely consequences for the matters protected by the EPBC Act should the measure not be effective; and
- any other likely consequences of the measure including both adverse and beneficial, such as efficiency, cost and cost-effectiveness and public acceptability (noting however, beneficial consequences of the measure will not be considered in deciding whether or not the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the matters protected by the EPBC Act).

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Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

Note, the Minister may decide that a proposed action is not likely to have significant impacts on a protected matter, as long as the action is taken in a particular manner (section 77A of the EPBC Act). The particular manner of taking the action may avoid or reduce certain impacts, in such a way that those impacts will not be 'significant'. More detail is provided on the Department's web site.

For the Minister to make such a decision (under section 77A), the proposed measures to avoid or reduce impacts must:

- clearly form part of the referred action (e.g. be identified in the referral and fall within the responsibility of the person proposing to take the action);
- be must be clear, unambiguous, and provide certainty in relation to reducing or avoiding impacts on the matters protected; and
- must be realistic and practical in terms of reporting, auditing and enforcement.

6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

Identify whether or not you believe the action is a controlled action (i.e. whether you think that significant impacts on the matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act are likely) and the reasons why.

6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

<input type="checkbox"/>	No, complete section 5.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete section 5.3 should be 6.3

6.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

Specify the key reasons why you think the proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have significant impacts on a matter protected under the EPBC Act by reference to each relevant matter protected by the EPBC Act.

Greater Glider: From recent ecological assessment we understand that there is a population of greater gliders located within parts of the proposed action. However Landline Consulting believe by definition of the Significant Impact Guidelines that the proposed clearing will not have a notable impact when put into context with the nation wide population and its vast distribution from Victoria to northern Queensland. Even on a more regional scale the extent of this population ranges a futher 80km to the west and over 300km to the north, occupying over 20 000 square kilometres. Therefore the proposed activity would not lead to a long-term decrease in the size or reduce the area of occupancyof an important population.

Koala: The most recent recorded sighting of a koala on Wombinoo station was 1999. However this was outside the proposed clearing activity. In addition to this the ecological assessment performed in August 2016 revealed no evidence of koalas. Furthermore the koala distribution ranges over 175 km to the west and north of Wombinoo Station. The fact that there have been no recent sightings indicates that koalas, likely to enter the habitat on the proposed site, would in fact be transient. There will be sufficient habitat corridors remaining within the property to allow for the dispersal and mixing of transient koala populations.

Black-footed tree rat: No sightings recent or historical have been within the proposed activity. Therefore this should not be considered an important population hence there will be no significant impact on this species.

Red goshawk: This is not considered to be an important population as it is not a key source population, it is not necessary for maintaining genetic diversity and it is not within the limits of its range. This is in agreement with the resulting evaluation determined within the ecological assessment report provided by Ecology and Heritage Partners, September 2016.

6.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

Type 'x' in the box for the matter(s) protected under the EPBC Act that you think are likely to be significantly impacted. (The 'sections' identified below are the relevant sections of the EPBC Act.)

Matters likely to be significantly impacted

<input type="checkbox"/>	World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)

N	A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
N	Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)
N	Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28)
N	Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)

Specify the key reasons why you think the proposed action is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the matters identified above by reference to each matter protected by the EBPC Act identified in section 3 above.

7 Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

	Yes	No
<p>7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</p> <p>Provide details On the 3 November 2016 Warren and Gail Jonsson were issued a warning letter from the Queensland Government, Department of Natural resources and Mines (DNRM) for: Suspected offences under section 578 of the Sustainable Planning Act 1999 in respect to clearing on a road reserve adjacent to Lot 3825 on RP273689. This was a warning only and no further action was taken. Ref: i06223-2016</p> <p>Following this the DoEE, along with Ecology and Heritage Partners (EHP), did an inspection under a monitoring warrant to determine if the clearing activity would require approval under the Act. A report was prepared by EHP titled "Ecological Assessment of Vegetation Clearing at Wombinoo Station", see Attachment Seven.</p>		NO
<p>7.2 Provide details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against: (a) the person proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action - the person making the application.</p> <p>If yes, provide details</p>		NO
<p>7.3 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework and if and how the framework applies to the action.</p>		NO
<p>7.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>Provide name of proposal and EPBC reference number (if known)</p>		NO

8 Information sources and attachments

(For the information provided above)

8.1 References

- List the references used in preparing the referral.
- Highlight documents that are available to the public, including web references if relevant.

Atlas of Living Australia

RedList

SPRAT

QLD DEHP

EPBC Act Conservation Advice

8.2 Reliability and date of information

For information in section 3 and the map required by section 1, specify:

- source of the information;
- how recent the information is;
- how the reliability of the information was tested; and
- any uncertainties in the information.

All text and references relating to any of the matters of NES has been sourced from the most recent information taken from state and commonwealth web sites listed in section 8.1.

All location maps have been constructed using ArcMap and the most up to date Google earth maps in conjunction with Queensland Globe developed by the Queensland Governments Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Regional Ecosystem mapping was constructed using spatial layers from the Queensland Government, Queensland Spatial Catalogue.

8.3 Attachments

Indicate the documents you have attached. All attachments must be less than three megabytes (3mb) so they can be published on the Department's website. Attachments larger than three megabytes (3mb) may delay the processing of your referral.

		✓ attach ed	Title of attachment(s)
You must attach	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the locality of the proposed action (section 1)	YES	AttachmentTwo_Maps_CommReferral.docx
	GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1)	shape files	WombinooProposedClearing .zip AttachmentFour_ReferralCo ordinatesDD.docx
	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the proposed action in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3)	YES	AttachmentTwo_Maps_CommReferral.docx
If relevant, attach	copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.5)	YES	AttachmentOne_Wombinoo Land SuitabilityReport.docx
	copies of any completed assessments to	YES	AttachmentThree_DILGP_D ecisionNotice_Wombinoo.d

	meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.6)		ocx
	copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3)	YES	AttachmentFive_SpeciesConcerned WithActivity.docx
	technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3) conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4)		AttachmentSeven_Expert Advice_160919_final report by Ecology and Heritage Partners Wombinoos Station.pdf
	report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders (section 3)	YES	AttachmentThree_DILGP_DecisionNotice.docx

9 Contacts, signatures and declarations

NOTE: Providing false or misleading information in response to a requirement under Part 7 of the EPBC Act is an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment and/or fine (section 489 of the EPBC Act).

Under the EPBC Act a referral can only be made by:

the person proposing to take the action (which can include a person acting on their behalf); or
a Commonwealth, state or territory government, or agency that is aware of a proposal by a person to take an action, and that has administrative responsibilities relating to the action.

Proposed action title:

9.1 Person proposing to take action

This is the individual, government agency or company that will be principally responsible for, or who will carry out, the proposed action. It may be a trustee (either being an individual or a body corporate) acting on behalf of the trust for which they have responsibility (but not the trust).

If the proposed action will be taken under a contract or other arrangement, this is:

the person for whose benefit the action will be taken; or

the person who procured the contract or other arrangement and who will have principal control and responsibility for the taking of the proposed action.

If the proposed action requires a permit under the GBRMP Act¹, this is the person requiring the grant of a GBRMP permission.

The Minister may also request relevant additional information from this person.

If further assessment and approval for the action is required, any approval which may be granted will be issued to the person proposing to take the action. This person will be responsible for complying with any conditions attached to the approval.

Name and Title: Warrengail Pastoral
Company Pty Ltd, ATF Jonsson
Family Trust

Organisation (if applicable):

Organisation name should match entity identified in ABN/ACN search

Trust deed (if applicable):

☐ not applicable

ACN / ABN (if applicable):

30 891 574 957

Postal address:

457 Tumoulin Rd, Evelyn Central
R4888

¹ If your referred action, or a component of it, is to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park the Minister is required to provide a copy of your referral to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) (see section 73A, EPBC Act). For information about how the GBRMPA may use your information, see http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/privacy/privacy_notice_for_permits.

Telephone: 0427978143

Email: wgjonsson@outlook.com

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU QUALIFY FOR
EXEMPTION FROM THE FEE(S) THAT WOULD OTHERWISE
BE PAYABLE

I qualify for exemption from fees
under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the
EPBC Act because I am:

YES- a small business entity – aggregated turnover is
less than \$2million for the previous income year (as
prescribed within section 328-110 (other than subsection
328-119 (4)) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*);

If you are small business entity you
must provide the Date/Income Year
that you became a small business
entity:

12 March 1990

Note 1: Please retain evidence (i.e. tax statements)
displaying aggregated turnover for the relevant income year.
The Department may request this evidence at any stage of
the assessment process. Aggregated turnover, for the
purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity
Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth)), means:

(1) a company annual turnover for the income year **and**
(11) the annual turnover for the income year of any entity
that is connected or affiliated with the company at any time
during the income year (see section 328-155 of the *Income
Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth)).

Note 2: You must advise the Department within 10 business
days if you cease to be a small business entity. Failure to
notify the Secretary of this is an offence punishable on
conviction by a fine (regulation 5.23B(3) *Environment
Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*
(Cth)).

Note: You must advise the Department within 10 business

days if you cease to be a small business entity. Failure to notify the Secretary of this is an offence punishable on conviction by a fine (regulation 5.23B(3) *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth)).

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER

Note: Applications for a waiver must be supported by information in writing setting out the grounds on which the applicant considers that a waiver should be made and the reasons why it should be made. The Minister may, at his or her discretion, waive all or part of a fee that would otherwise be payable in the following circumstances:

- the action's primary objective is to protect the environment, or protect and conserve heritage, in a way that is consistent with the objects of the EPBC Act;
- it is in the public interest to do so; or
- there are other exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver.

The Minister will consider the application within 20 business days.

I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under regulation 5.21A of the [EPBC Regulations](#). Under regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made:

☐ not applicable.

Declaration:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.

I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature: **See Appendix One below**

Date:

9.2 Designated proponent

Individual or organisation who is proposed to be designated as the proponent if the Minister decides that the action is a controlled action and further assessment and approval is required. The proponent is responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process. The proponent may or may not be

the person proposing to take the action.

Name of proposed proponent:

If the name of the proposed proponent is not the same person as named at item 1 of section 9.1 above, please complete all of the below fields in section 9.2.

ACN / ABN (if applicable):

Postal address:

Telephone:

Email:

Declaration by the
proposed proponent:

I, the proposed proponent,
consent to the proposed
designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of
the action described in this
referral.

Date:

Signature:

I, the person proposing to
take the action, consent to
the proposed designation of..... as
proponent for the purposes
of the action described in this referral.

Declaration by the person proposing
to
take the action:

Signature:

Date:

9.3 Person preparing the referral information (if different from section 9.1)

Individual or organisation who has prepared the information contained in this referral form.

Name: Dean Jones

Title: Mr.

Organisation:

Landline Consulting.

ACN / ABN (if applicable):

19532862590

Postal address:

1 Jack Street, Atherton, QLD,
4883

Telephone:

0467 776 275

Email:

djones@landlineconsulting.co
m

Declaration:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.
I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature: See Appendix 2
below.

Date:

REFERRAL CHECKLIST

NOTE: This checklist is to help ensure that all the relevant referral information has been provided. It is not a part of the referral form and does not need to be sent to the Department.

HAVE YOU:

- ☐ Completed all required sections of the referral form?
- ☐ Included accurate coordinates (to allow the location of the proposed action to be mapped)?
- ☐ Provided a map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the project area for the proposed action?
- ☐ Provided a map/plan showing the location of the action in relation to any matters of NES?
- ☐ Provided a digital file (preferably ArcGIS shapefile, refer to guidelines at [Attachment A](#)) delineating the boundaries of the referral area?
- ☐ Provided complete contact details and signed the form?
- ☐ Provided copies of any documents referenced in the referral form?
- ☐ Ensured that all attachments are less than three megabytes (3mb)?
- ☐ Sent the referral to the Department (electronic and hard copy preferred)

Attachment A

Geographic Information System (GIS) data supply guidelines

If the area is less than 5 hectares, provide the location as a point layer. If the area greater than 5 hectares, please provide as a polygon layer. If the proposed action is linear (e.g. a road or pipeline) please provide a polyline layer.

GIS data needs to be provided to the Department in the following manner:

Point, Line or Polygon data types: ESRI file geodatabase feature class (preferred) or as an ESRI shapefile (.shp) zipped and attached with appropriate title

Raster data types: Raw satellite imagery should be supplied in the vendor specific format.

Projection as GDA94 coordinate system.

Processed products should be provided as follows:

For data, uncompressed or lossless compressed formats is required - GeoTIFF or Imagine IMG is the first preference, then JPEG2000 lossless and other simple binary+header formats (ERS, ENVI or BIL).

For natural/false/pseudo colour RGB imagery:

If the imagery is already mosaiced and is ready for display then lossy compression is suitable (JPEG2000 lossy/ECW/MrSID). Prefer 10% compression, up to 20% is acceptable.

If the imagery requires any sort of processing prior to display (i.e. mosaicing/colour balancing/etc) then an uncompressed or lossless compressed format is required.

Metadata or 'information about data' will be produced for all spatial data and will be compliant with ANZLIC Metadata Profile. (http://www.anzlic.org.au/policies_guidelines#guidelines).

The Department's preferred method is using ANZMet Lite, however the Department's Service Provider may use any compliant system to generate metadata.

Attachment B

Privacy and Confidentiality Notice

The Department is required under section 74(3) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (**EPBC Act**) to publish the information (including personal information of the author and/or third parties) provided in this referral on the internet. The information published may include your personal information.

Information including your personal information included in this referral will be used for the purposes of administering the EPBC Act. The information may be provided to various Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies for the purposes of administering the Act or other Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation. For example, if the proposed action (or a component of it) is to be taken in the GBRMP, the Minister is required to provide a copy of your referral to GBRMPA (see section 73A, EPBC Act). For information about how the GBRMPA may use your information, see http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/privacy/privacy_notice_for_permits.

- The Department will collect, use, store and disclose the personal information contained in this referral in a manner consistent with its obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Department's privacy policy.

The Department's privacy policy contains details about how respondents may access and make corrections to personal information that the Department holds about the respondent, how respondents may make a complaint about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle, and how the Department will deal with that complaint. A copy of the Department's privacy policy is available at: <http://environment.gov.au/privacy-policy>.

The Department is not obliged to publish information that the Minister is satisfied is commercial-in-confidence. If you believe that this referral contains information that is commercial-in-confidence, you must clearly identify such information and the reason for its confidentiality at the time of making the referral. The Minister cannot be satisfied that particular information included in a referral is commercial-in-confidence unless you demonstrate to the Minister (by providing reasons in writing) that:

- release of the information would cause competitive detriment to the person; and
- the information is not in the public domain; and
- the information is not required to be disclosed under another law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory; and
- the information is not readily discoverable.

The Department is subject to certain legislative and administrative accountability and transparency requirements of the Australian Government including disclosures to the Parliament and its Committees. While the Department will treat all referral information provided in this referral sensitively, any information contained in or relating to a referral, including information identified by a person as commercial-in-confidence, may be disclosed by the Department:

- to its employees and advisers in order to evaluate or assess a referral;
- to the Parliamentary Secretary;
- within the Department or other agencies where this serves the legitimate interest of the Australian Government;
- in response to a request by a House or Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia;
- where information is authorised or permitted by law to be disclosed; and
- where the information is in the public domain other than by the Department's disclosure of that information.

Appendix 1: Person Proposing the action declaration

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER

Note: Applications for a waiver must be supported by information in writing setting out the grounds on which the applicant considers that a waiver should be made and the reasons why it should be made. The Minister may, at his or her discretion, waive all or part of a fee that would otherwise be payable in the following circumstances:

- the action's primary objective is to protect the environment, or protect and conserve heritage, in a way that is consistent with the objects of the EPBC Act;
- it is in the public interest to do so; or
- there are other exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver.

The Minister will consider the application within 20 business days.

I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under regulation 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations. Under regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made:

☐ not applicable.

Declaration:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.

I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature: 

Date: 7-3-17

9.2 Designated proponent

Individual or organisation who is proposed to be designated as the proponent if the Minister decides that the action is a controlled action and further assessment and approval is required. The proponent is responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process. The proponent may or may not be the person proposing to take the action.

Name of proposed proponent:

If the name of the proposed proponent is not the same person as named at item 1 of section 9.1 above, please

Appendix 2: Consultant Declaration

1 Jack Street, Atherton, QLD,
4883

Telephone:

0467 776 275

Email:

djones@landlineconsulting.co
m

Declaration:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given
on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.
I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious
offence.

Signature:



Date: 10.3.2017

REFERRAL CHECKLIST

NOTE: This checklist is to help ensure that all the relevant referral information has been provided. It is not a part of the referral form and does not need to be sent to the Department.

HAVE YOU:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Completed all required sections of the referral form? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Included accurate coordinates (to allow the location of the proposed action to be mapped)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided a map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the project area for the proposed action? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided a map/plan showing the location of the action in relation to any matters of NES? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided a digital file (preferably ArcGIS shapefile, refer to guidelines at Attachment A) delineating the boundaries of the referral area? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided complete contact details and signed the form? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provided copies of any documents referenced in the referral form? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ensured that all attachments are less than three megabytes (3mb)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sent the referral to the Department (electronic and hard copy preferred) |

