



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 Australian Government Environment Minister or the Minister's delegate. (Further references to 'the Minister' in this form include references to the Minister's delegate.) To obtain approval from the Environment Minister, a proposed action should be referred. The purpose of a referral is to obtain a decision on whether your proposed action will need formal 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 for actions that are 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 that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land (even if taken outside 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)
- 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:

- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of 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.
- the Policy Statement titled Significant Impact Guidelines: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments—Impacts on water resources.
- the interactive map tool (enter a location to obtain a report on what matters of NES may occur in that location).

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, read 'Fact Sheet 6 Staged Developments/Split Referrals' and 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, 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. If a permission is not required under the GBRMP Act, no approval under the EPBC Act is required (see section 43, 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?

Completing all parts of this form will ensure that you submit the required information and will also assist the Department to process your referral efficiently. If a section of the referral document is not applicable to your proposal 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 project 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 three megabytes (3mb) 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 three megabytes (3mb) may delay processing of your referral.

Note: the Minister may decide not to publish information that the Minister is satisfied is commercial-in-confidence.

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](#).

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: in order to receive a reference number, submit your referral and the Referrals Gateway will email you the reference number.

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, electronic copies of documentation (on CD/DVD or by email) are required.

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

- Clearly mark the email as a 'Referral under the EPBC Act'.
- Attach the referral as a Microsoft Word file and, if possible, a PDF file.
- **Follow up with a mailed hardcopy 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.

The Department will write to you within 20 business days to advise you of the outcome of your referral and whether or not formal 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.

Compliance audits

If a decision is made to approve a project, the Department may audit it at any time to ensure that it is completed in accordance with the approval decision or the information provided in the referral. If the project changes, such that the likelihood of significant impacts could vary, you should write to the Department to advise of the changes. If your project is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and a decision is made to approve it, the Authority may also audit it. (See "*Is your action in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*," p.2, for more details).

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/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999>

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

Project title:

1 Summary of proposed action

1.1 **Short description**

Melbourne Water Corporation is proposing to replace the existing underground M9 Water Main which links Preston Reservoir to the supply tanks located in the Melbourne Water North Essendon Service Depot immediately adjacent to Essendon Airport. As the existing main traverses a large swathe of land known as the Hart Precinct, that the Essendon Airport Authority believes suitable for future development, as a condition of the works the Essendon Airport Authority has requested that the M9 Water Main be relocated to run along the boundary fence and that the old main is fully removed from developable area.

A total of 2.00 hectares of the nationally significant ecological community Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) has been mapped within the Hart Precinct.

Latitude and longitude

	Latitude			Longitude		
location point	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds

Existing M9 Main alignment

1	-37° 43'	27.247"	144° 54'	19.053"
2	-37° 43'	36.297"	144° 54'	19.989"
3	-37° 43'	39.136"	144° 54'	45.432"
4	-37° 43'	39.772"	144° 54'	45.730"
5	-37° 43'	43.545"	144° 54'	45.194"
6	-37° 43'	43.987"	144° 54'	45.750"
7	-37° 43'	44.499"	144° 54'	50.481"
8	-37° 43'	44.980"	144° 54'	50.486"
9	-37° 43'	44.458"	144° 54'	45.565"
10	-37° 43'	43.807"	144° 54'	44.659"
11	-37° 43'	43.612"	144° 54'	44.571"
12	-37° 43'	39.585"	144° 54'	45.057"
13	-37° 43'	36.752"	144° 54'	19.662"
14	-37° 43'	36.531"	144° 54'	19.399"
15	-37° 43'	27.287"	144° 54'	18.442"

New M9 Mail alignment

1	-37° 43'	24.161"	144° 54'	18.613"
2	-37° 43'	23.891"	144° 54'	18.583"
3	-37° 43'	23.057"	144° 54'	19.483"
4	-37° 43'	22.849"	144° 54'	22.860"
5	-37° 43'	29.259"	144° 54'	34.677"
6	-37° 43'	32.495"	144° 54'	46.165"
7	-37° 43'	33.643"	144° 54'	46.540"
8	-37° 43'	38.979"	144° 54'	45.655"
9	-37° 43'	39.345"	144° 54'	45.738"
10	-37° 43'	42.292"	144° 54'	45.356"
11	-37° 43'	43.628"	144° 54'	47.366"
12	-37° 43'	44.310"	144° 54'	48.746"
13	-37° 43'	44.724"	144° 54'	48.424"
14	-37° 43'	44.029"	144° 54'	47.005"
15	-37° 43'	42.497"	144° 54'	44.712"
16	-37° 43'	39.355"	144° 54'	45.117"
17	-37° 43'	38.991"	144° 54'	45.035"
18	-37° 43'	33.673"	144° 54'	45.917"
19	-37° 43'	32.867"	144° 54'	45.653"
20	-37° 43'	29.696"	144° 54'	34.398"
21	-37° 43'	23.348"	144° 54'	22.693"
22	-37° 43'	23.527"	144° 54'	19.783"
23	-37° 43'	24.207"	144° 54'	19.048"

- 1.3 **Locality and property description**
The study area is located within an area of Essendon Airport known as the Hart Precinct, approximately 10 kilometres north of Melbourne's CBD (Figure 1). The Hart Precinct covers approximately 31 hectares and is bound by Lebanon Street and the Melbourne Water depot to the north, Arvon Road to the east, and additional Essendon Airport infrastructure and land to the south and west.

The study area comprises cleared open space that is regularly maintained through slashing, and removal of features to discourage fauna that could threaten airport operational safety. No waterways occur within the Hart Precinct.

- 1.4 **Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)**
Existing M9 Main removal construction corridor = 1.81 ha
Proposed new M9 Main construction corridor = 1.75 ha

- 1.5 **Street address of the site**
100 Bulla Road, Essendon Fields, Victoria, 3041.

- 1.6 **Lot description**
Plan PC354871

- 1.7 **Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)**
The study area is zoned Commonwealth Land (CA), and is therefore not controlled by State or Local planning controls.

- 1.8 **Time frame**
The proposed action is estimated to commence in January 2016.

1.9	Alternatives to proposed action	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete section 2.2
1.10	Alternative time frames etc	X	No
			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 3.3 (where relevant).
1.11	State assessment	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.5
1.12	Component of larger action	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.7
1.13	Related actions/proposals	X	No
			Yes, provide details:
1.14	Australian Government funding	X	No
			Yes, provide details:
1.15	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 3.1 (h), 3.2 (e)

2 Detailed description of proposed action

2.1 Description of proposed action

Melbourne Water has made the decision to replace the entire M9 Water Main from Preston to Essendon which is essential to secure the water supply to homes and businesses in the northern and western suburbs, and decreases the chances of losing water through leaks and bursts. The section within the Hart Precinct of the Essendon Airport land is the only section of this main which has not yet been renewed due to the sensitive nature of works within the airport itself.

The footprint associated with the replacement of the M9 Main are confined to two construction corridors of 15 metres in width to account for vehicles, excavation, temporary stockpiles, compaction and backfilling to remove the existing pipeline from its current location, and install the replacement pipeline in the new location (Figure 2). These alignments are predominantly sited to avoid impacts to the NTGVVP community, aside from two discrete patches that fall within the construction corridor (Figure 2).

Based on the proposed construction footprints, a total of 0.039 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community will be impacted by the proposed action, consisting of 0.0005 hectares impacted through the removal of the existing M9 Main, and 0.038 hectares impacted by the construction corridor of the new alignment (Figure 2).

2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

Alternatives to taking the proposed action include leaving the existing M9 Main in its current form, which would result in an increased susceptibility to increasing supply failures and leakages. This is considered to be an unviable option by the proponent.

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

Alternative locations are not available to the proponent and are therefore not considered. Alternative timeframes have not been considered as they would act only to postpone the proposed action.

2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

The study area is zoned Commonwealth Land (CA), and is therefore not controlled by State or Local planning controls. The approval of the proposal is solely subject to the requirements of the EPBC Act.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

The proposed development is not subject to a state environmental impact process.

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

No public consultation has been, or is scheduled to be undertaken with regards to the proposed action located within the Hart Precinct.

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project

It is understood that there are additional matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) located within other precincts of Essendon Airport, namely NTGVVP. Further, it is understood that an action located within the Wirraway North Precinct (north of the Hart Precinct) was referred to the Commonwealth Minister of the Environment as part of referral 2014/7213 under the EPBC Act (Meinhardt 2014).

Although this action is within the same land (Essendon Airport), the action was referred by a different proponent, is not related to the proposed M9 Main works, and as such, is considered separate and cannot be considered under Section 74A of the EPBC Act (i.e. - a staged development).

3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Description

There are no World Heritage Properties with 10km of the study area.

Nature and extent of likely impact

It is not considered likely that the proposed action will impact upon any World Heritage values or properties.

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

Description

There are no National Heritage Places within 10km of the study area.

Nature and extent of likely impact

It is not considered likely that the proposed action will impact upon any Natural Heritage values or properties.

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

Description

There are no Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands) within 10km of the study area.

Nature and extent of likely impact

It is not considered likely that the proposed action will impact upon the ecological character of any Ramsar wetlands

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Description

Communities.

One nationally listed ecological community was recorded within the study area, being Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) (Figure 2). This community is listed as Critically Endangered and occurs in scattered, discrete remnants across the study area. Due to the cover of indigenous perennial tussock grasses representing at least 50% of the vegetation cover in patches exceeding 0.05 hectares, it is considered that the threshold that defines the nationally significant community (NTGVVP) (DSEWPaC 2011) has been met, and that 2.00 hectares of NTGVVP (albeit of low quality) is present within the study area.

Flora.

As detailed in Ecology and Heritage Partners (2015b), the VBA (DEPI 2014), FIS (Viridans 2014b) and PMST (DoE 2015) contain records of 15 nationally significant flora species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area (Figure 3).

Due to the disturbed and modified condition of the Precinct, no flora species of national significance were considered likely to occur within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2014). Preliminary surveys within the NTGVVP were undertaken for the winter-flowering, nationally significant Spiny Rice-flower *Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens* during a previous assessment by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd in August 2014 (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015b). No plants were observed, and therefore, it was deemed that targeted surveys were not required. The NTGVVP within the Hart Precinct offers low quality habitat for this species due to its highly degraded state and there is a very low likelihood that Spiny Rice-flower persists within NTGVVP in the Hart Precinct.

Fauna.

As detailed in Ecology and Heritage Partners (2015b), the VBA (DELWP 2014), AVW (Viridans 2014a) and PMST (DoE 2015) contain records of 39 nationally significant fauna species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area (Figure 4).

There is potential habitat for Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana* within and surrounding the patches of NTGVVP in the Hart Precinct, due to the presence of its two favoured food plants, Wallaby Grass *Rytidosperma* spp. and Chilean Needle-grass *Nassella neesiana*. However, two Golden Sun Moth surveys have been previously undertaken within the Hart Precinct (Biosis 2012; Meinhardt 2008), both of which failed to detect the species despite surveys being undertaken during suitable conditions and Golden Sun Moth being confirmed flying at reference sites around Melbourne on the same days as the surveys. Therefore, Golden Sun Moth is considered unlikely to occur within the Hart Precinct.

Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* has been recorded 329 times within 10 kilometres of the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015b). However, vegetation within the study area lacks key habitat features required by Striped Legless Lizard such as embedded rock, cracking soils or a dense grass cover (the study area is regularly mown very short as a safety measure for the airport) (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2014; SKM 2014). Given the lack of these features and the history of disturbance at the site, it is unlikely that Striped Legless Lizard is present.

No other fauna species of national significance are considered likely to occur within the study area.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Based on the proposed construction footprints, a total of 0.039 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community will be impacted by the proposed action, consisting of 0.0005 hectares impacted through the removal of the existing M9 Main, and 0.038 hectares impacted by the construction corridor of the new alignment (Figure 2).

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species

Description

A total of 28 migratory species are listed to contain potential habitat within 10 kilometres of the study area (DoE 2015). However, due to its degraded condition, existing land use and management regime, landscape context and distance from any large waterbodies, the study area is unlikely to be defined as 'important habitat' for any migratory shorebirds in accordance with the EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 *Significant impact guidelines for 36 migratory shorebird species Migratory species* (DEWHA 2009).

Nature and extent of likely impact

It is not considered likely that the proposed action will impact upon any listed migratory species, or their habitat.

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area

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

Description

There are no Commonwealth marine areas within 10km of the study area.

Nature and extent of likely impact

It is not considered likely that the proposed action will impact upon any Commonwealth marine area.

3.1 (g) Commonwealth land

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

Description

The action is being undertaken on Commonwealth land. See Section 3.2 (d).

Nature and extent of likely impact

See Section 3.2 (d).

3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Description

The action is not in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Nature and extent of likely impact

The proposed action will not have any direct or indirect impact upon the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

Description

The action is not a coal seam gas development or large coal mining development.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Not applicable.

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

3.2 (a)	Is the proposed action a nuclear action?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)
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?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)
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?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)
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
		X	Yes (provide details below)
If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))			

The proposed action will be undertaken on Commonwealth land.

The Hart Precinct contains a total of 2.00 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community (Figure 2). No other matters of NES are considered likely to occur within the precinct, or be impacted by the proposed action.

The footprint associated with the replacement of the M9 Main are confined to two construction corridors of 15 metres in width to account for vehicles, excavation, temporary stockpiles, compaction and backfilling to remove the existing pipeline from its current location, and install the replacement pipeline in the new location (Figure 2). These alignments are predominantly sited to avoid impacts to the NTGVVP community, aside from two discrete patches that fall within the construction corridor. Based on the proposed construction footprints, a total of 0.039 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community will be impacted by the proposed action, consisting of 0.0005 hectares impacted through the removal of the existing M9 Main, and 0.038 hectares impacted by the construction corridor of the new alignment (Figure 2).

No watercourses occur within the Hart Precinct, and the site is surrounded by residential development and operational airport infrastructure. As such, based on the current land use, management regime, and landscape context, the environmental values within and surrounding the Hart Precinct is considered to be low, and the proposed action is unlikely to result in any indirect impacts on the environment.

3.2 (e)	Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))

3.3 Other important features of the environment

3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

Flora.

Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act. A total of 2.00 hectares of this ecological community has been recorded in the Hart Precinct (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015b) (Figure 2). The NTGVVP is of low quality, which appears to be the result of past ground disturbance. All patches received a habitat quality score of 0.2. All patches of NTGVVP are dominated by (i.e. contain at least 50% vegetative cover of) the indigenous Wallaby-grass with some very small areas dominated by Spear-grass *Austrostipa* spp. and Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* in the east of the Precinct. Several indigenous herbs are present in low abundance across the study area, including Common Woodruff *Asperula conferta*, Grassland Wood-sorrel *Oxalis perennans*, Cut-leaf Goodenia *Goodenia pinnatifida* and Slender Bindweed *Convolvulus angustissimus* subsp. *omnigracilis*. All patches of NTGVVP have a high cover (25 – 50%) of introduced flora such as Rye-grass *Lolium* sp. and Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus* and the Weed of National Significance (WONS), Chilean Needle-grass.

All other vegetation within the Hart Precinct that was not assessed as the nationally significant NTGVVP is dominated by introduced flora, including Couch *Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon*, Ribwort *Plantago lanceolata*, Buck's-horn Plantain and Chilean Needle-grass.

Fauna.

The Hart Precinct (as well as other precincts within Essendon Airport) are actively managed to discourage the presence of fauna so as not to interfere with airport operations.

As detailed above in Section 3.1(d), there is potential habitat for Golden Sun Moth within and surrounding the patches of NTGVVP in the Hart Precinct, due to the presence of its two favoured food plants, Wallaby Grass and Chilean Needle-grass. However, two Golden Sun Moth surveys have been previously undertaken within the Hart Precinct (Biosis 2012; Meinhardt Pty Ltd 2008), both of which failed to detect the species, and it is considered unlikely to occur within the Hart Precinct.

Although Striped Legless Lizard has been recorded 329 times within 10 kilometres of the study area, the vegetation within the study area lacks key habitat features required by Striped Legless Lizard such as embedded rock, cracking soils or a dense grass cover, and it is considered unlikely that Striped Legless Lizard are present at the site.

No other fauna species of national significance were deemed likely to occur within the study area

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

The study area is generally flat, with no ridges, crests or waterways within or immediately adjacent to the site.

3.3 (c) Soil and Vegetation characteristics

The study area is within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. The main geomorphological features in the bioregion include steeply sloped valleys, extensive broad flat to undulating plains, stony rises and remnant volcanic cones.

The soils of the Victorian Volcanic Plain are variable and range from red friable earths to scoriaceous material that supports Plains Grassland ecosystems. In terms of native vegetation, the bioregion is characterised by open areas of grassland, small patches of open woodland, stony rises denoting old lava flows dominated by characteristic shrubs and grasses, the low peaks of long-extinct volcanoes and numerous scattered large shallow lakes supporting wetland vegetation.

The native vegetation in the study area represents the typical grassland remnant in an urban context, with moderate species diversity, high weed cover and lack of connectivity to other remnants in the local area. The study area contains no embedded rock. The area is regularly mown with surface soil disturbance in the study area likely the result of the regular mowing regime. Weed encroachment, particularly by Chilean Needle-grass is affecting the overall quality and integrity of the grassland and may diminish the extent of the grassland over time.

3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features

There are no outstanding natural features within the study area.

3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation

Vegetation within the study area is dominated by exotic and remnant grassland. Where the grassland is remnant, it corresponds with the Heavier Soils Plains Grassland Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC), and the nationally significant ecological community NTGVVP, with a total of 2.00 hectares of remnant grassland recorded. The remnant grassland is of low quality, which appears to be the result of ground disturbance. All patches received a habitat quality score of 0.2 out of 1.00.

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

The topography of the study area is generally flat.

3.3 (g) Current state of the environment

The Hart Precinct is regularly maintained to facilitate general airport operations, and given the flat topography of the site, there is no evidence of erosion. Aside from 2.00 hectares of remnant vegetation, the site is dominated by exotic grasses and herbs as described in detail in Section 3.3(a).

No evidence of pest fauna was observed during the site assessment.

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

The PMST has identified two Commonwealth Heritage Places within 10 kilometres of the study area:

- Defence Explosive Factory Maribyrnong; and,
- Flemington Post Office.

These places do not occur on site, and will not be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed action.

3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values

The Essendon Airport Environment Strategy 2010 – 2014 (Essendon Airport 2010) confirms that there are no known indigenous heritage values within the Hart Precinct.

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

The study area is not located within proximity to any other important or unique environmental values.

3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

The study area is Commonwealth Land. The study area forms part of the lease of Essendon Airport from the Commonwealth to Essendon Airport Pty Ltd.

3.3 (l) Existing land/marine uses of area

There are no marine uses associated with the study area. The Hart Precinct is currently maintained as undeveloped open space.

3.3 (m) Any proposed land/marine uses of area

There are no proposed land/marine uses for the area.

4 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

As a condition of the works the Essendon Airport Authority has requested that the M9 Main not be renewed along the same alignment as the existing. The original main traverses a large swathe of land that the Airport Authority believes suitable for potential future development. The Essendon Airport Authority has therefore requested that the new main be relocated to run along the boundary fence and that the old main is fully removed from the potential developable area.

The footprints associated with the replacement of the M9 Main are confined to two construction corridors of 15 metres in width to account for vehicles, excavation, temporary stockpiles, compaction and backfilling to remove the existing pipeline from its current location, and install the replacement pipeline in the new location (Figure 2). The new alignment is predominantly sited to avoid impacts to the NTGVVP community, aside from a single, small patch that falls within the construction corridor (Figure 2). Impacts associated with the removal of the existing M9 Main are considered unavoidable.

Based on the proposed construction footprints, a total of 0.039 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community will be impacted by the proposed action, consisting of 0.0005 hectares impacted through the removal of the existing M9 Main, and 0.038 hectares impacted by the construction corridor of the new alignment (Figure 2).

As part of the proposed works, adjacent areas of NTGVVP outside of the construction corridor will be temporarily fenced off to reduce the likelihood of unintended impacts occurring during construction activities.

5 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, complete section 5.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete section 5.3

5.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

A total of 0.039 hectares of the NTGVVP ecological community will be impacted by the proposed action, consisting of 0.0005 hectares impacted through the removal of the existing M9 Main, and 0.038 hectares impacted by the construction corridor of the new alignment (Figure 2).

The action is not considered to be a controlled action as:

- The vegetation condition score is low (0.2 out of a possible maximum score of 1.00);
- Low native species diversity;
- High cover of exotic species;
- Ongoing management regime due to airport operational requirements, including regular slashing, and removal of fauna habitat;
- Lack of connectivity to other areas containing ecological value;
- No habitat for nationally significant flora or fauna identified within the study area.

Given the low quality of the native vegetation within the Hart Precinct, current disturbance regime, and greater landscape context, it is considered that the native vegetation provides minimal ecological contribution to the environment.

Of the 2.00 hectares of NTGVVP identified within the Hart Precinct, 1.961 hectares is being retained, and it is considered unlikely that the removal of 0.039 hectares of NTGVVP would constitute a 'significant impact' under the EPBC Act.

5.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

Not applicable.

Matters likely to be 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)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)

6 Environmental record of the responsible party

	Yes	No
<p>6.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</p> <p>Provide details</p> <p>Melbourne Water has an established Environmental Policy (MWC 2013), and provides annual Sustainability Reports detailing its performance which are published on the company website.</p> <p>Melbourne Water further provides ongoing monitoring and reporting of listed species and water quality to the Department of the Environment under existing audit requirements.</p>	X	
<p>6.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</p> <p>In 2000/01 Melbourne Water received two Penalty Infringement Notices for litter and odour related to the discharge of effluent to Bass Strait from Eastern Treatment Plant.</p> <p>In 2005/06 Melbourne Water received two Penalty Infringement Notices for pollution and late notification related to a failure of a sludge supernatant pump at Eastern Treatment Plant.</p> <p>In 2005/06 aluminium sulphate (alum) from the Winneke water treatment plant lost to Sugarloaf Creek at Christmas Hills was identified and contained in November 2005. The cause was a leaking chemical pipeline that went undetected because it was within a wall cavity at the plant. The leak is likely to have occurred for many weeks before being realised and finally resulted in a blue colouration to the creek water and a small number of dead fish in Watsons Creek. EPA Issued a Clean Up Notice for this incident.</p> <p>In 2005/06 fluorosilicic acid (a liquid form of fluoride) from the Cardinia water treatment plant was lost to Cardinia Creek at Beaconsfield. The cause was a leaking chemical pipeline within a part of the plant that was out of service at the time of the incident. The leak occurred intermittently over a period of 3 weeks before it was identified and stopped. Inspection of the creek revealed no sign of fish deaths.</p> <p>These two offences were heard together in the Magistrates' Court on 29 August 2007 with both found proven without a conviction recorded against Melbourne Water. Melbourne Water was required to make contributions to an environmentally relevant community project totalling \$150,000 and also had to pay for the EPA's technical reports and its legal costs.</p> <p>In 2006/07 Melbourne Water was issued a Pollution Abatement Notice to manage the remediation of the Dandenong Wastewater Treatment Plant. Melbourne Water inherited this plant from a previous organisation. The remediation work has now been completed.</p>		
<p>6.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?</p>	X	

	Yes	No
<p>If yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework</p> <p>See Section 6.1.</p>		
<p>6.4 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> <p>2015/7515 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management (sewerage)/Werribee/VIC/Western Treatment Plant Stage 2 Augmentation Project</p> <p>2014/7313 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management (sewerage)/Lot 1, New Farm Road, Werribee/VIC/Western Treatment Plant Stage 1 Augmentation</p> <p>2014/7156 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/218 Mt Derrimut Road, Derrimut/VIC/Kayes Drain drainage works</p> <p>2013/6939 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management (sewerage)/within Melbourne Water Western Treatment Plant SW Werribee/VIC/205W Sludge Drying Pan Refurbishment</p> <p>2013/6719 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management (sewerage)/Approximately 6km east of Melbourne CBD/VIC/Kew North Branch Sewer Upgrade</p> <p>2012/6678 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/Seaford, approx 35km south east of Melbourne /VIC/Seaford Wetlands Hydrology Works</p> <p>2010/5654 Melbourne Water Corporation/Natural resources management/1.2km stretch of land adjacent to Mordialloc Creek/VIC/Mordialloc Creek Wetland Lot 4 Governor Road Braeside</p> <p>2010/5641 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/Yarra River, Melbourne /VIC/Replace the existing weir at Dights Falls with a new weir and vertical slot fishway, Yarra River</p> <p>2010/5626 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/Eastern side of Turntable Way, Caroline Springs/VIC/Modification of an artificial dam into a constructed wetland and water retarding basin</p> <p>2009/5249 Melbourne Water Corporation/Natural resources management/Laverton/VIC/Modifications to Laverton Wetland inflow & outflow structures</p> <p>2008/4614 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/south of Cooper St, Epping, Melbourne/VIC/Edgars Creek Drainage Enhancement</p> <p>2008/4602 Melbourne Water Corporation/Natural resources management/Near Musteys Bridge Lancefield/VIC/Woody Weed Control and Revegetation of Deep Creek</p> <p>2007/3622 Melbourne Water Corporation/Water management and use/Drouin West /VIC/Tarago Water Treatment Plant</p> <p>2007/3229 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management (sewerage)/Bangholme/VIC/Additional Aeration tanks for Eastern Treatment Plant</p> <p>2006/2620 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management/Werribee/VIC/Sludge handling and biosolids management - Western Treatment Plant</p> <p>2002/890 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management/Werribee/VIC/Removal of Sludge to Produce Dried Biosolids, Western Treatment Plant</p> <p>2002/688 Melbourne Water Corporation/Waste management/Werribee/VIC/Western Treatment Plant Environment Improvement Project (post Effluent Reuse Stage 2)</p> <p>2001/273 Melbourne Water Corporation/Sewage Treatment Plants/Werribee/VIC/Effluent Reuse Stage 2</p> <p>2001/185 Melbourne Water Corporation/Marine Infrastructure/Western Treatment Plant, Wyndham/VIC/Western Treatment Plant Groyne and Beach Works</p>	X	

7 Information sources and attachments

(For the information provided above)

7.1 References

- @Biosis 2012. Essendon Fields: Golden Sun Moth Survey. Biosis Research Pty Ltd. Report prepared for Essendon Fields Pty Ltd. February 2012.
- DEPI 2014. Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. Sourced from: "VBA_FLORA25" and "VBA_FLORA100", 2014. Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries.
- *DEWHA 2009. Significant impact guidelines for 36 migratory shorebird species. Migratory species. EPBC Act policy statement 3.21. DRAFT. Department of the Environment Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.
- *DoE 2015. Protected Matters Search Tool: Interactive Map [WWW Document]. URL <http://www.environment.gov.au/arcgis-framework/apps/pmst/pmst.jsf> (accessed 02/09/2015). Federal Department of the Environment. Canberra.
- *DSEWPac 2011. Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities of the Victorian Volcanic Plain: Natural Temperate Grassland & Grassy Eucalypt Woodland. A guide to the identification, assessment and management of nationally threatened ecological communities. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Commonwealth of Australia. Canberra.
- Ecology and Heritage Partners 2014. Peer review of ecological advice for the Wirraway North Precinct and the Hart Precinct, Essendon Airport, Essendon Fields, Victoria. Report prepared for Essendon Fields Pty Ltd. July 2014
- #Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015a. Due diligence assessment of impacts to the nationally significant ecological values in the Hart Precinct, Essendon Airport, Essendon Fields. Unpublished report prepared for Melbourne Water Corporation. September 2015.
- #Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015b. Flora and Fauna Assessment, Hart Precinct, Essendon Airport, Essendon Fields, Victoria. Report prepared for Essendon Fields Pty Ltd. February 2015.
- *Essendon Airport 2010. Essendon Airport Environment Strategy 2010 – 2014. Prepared by Essendon Airport Pty Ltd. Approved 7th December 2010.
- @Meinhardt 2008. Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana* survey, Essendon Airport. Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Pty Ltd. Report prepared for Essendon Airport Pty Ltd. January 2008.
- @Meinhardt 2014. EPBC – 'Preliminary Documentation' Essendon Fields Pty Ltd – Auto-Centro Development (EPBC 2014/7213) August 2014. Prepared by Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Pty Ltd.
- *MWC 2013. Environmental Stewardship Policy - Version 1. Prepared by Melbourne Water Corporation. November 2013.
- @SKM 2014. Ecological assessment of the Hart Precinct, Essendon Airport. Sinclair Knight & Mertz. Report for Essendon Fields Pty Ltd.
- Viridans 2014a. Flora Information System. Viridans Biological Databases.
- Viridans 2014b. Victorian Fauna Database. Viridans Biological Databases.

Note. * Indicates publicly available document; # = Provided as part of this referral; @ Provided as part of EPBC referral 2014/7213.

7.2 Reliability and date of information

The information contained in Section 3 was based on the ecological assessments and reviews conducted by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd (2014, 2015b). The results of the field work, along with the desktop assessment and review are presented in the aforementioned reports.

The terrestrial flora and fauna data collected during the field assessments and information obtained from relevant desktop sources is considered adequate to provide an accurate assessment of the ecological values present within the study area, and to inform the likely impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance.

7.3 Attachments

		✓ attached	Title of attachment(s)
You must attach	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1)	✓	Figure 1: Study Area Figure 2: Development plan Figure 3: Significant flora Figure 4: Significant fauna Figure 5: EPBC Co-ordinates
	GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1)		
	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3)	✓	Development Area Shapefiles
If relevant, attach	copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.5)	N/A	
	copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.6)	N/A	
	copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3)	✓	Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015a. Ecology and Heritage Partners 2015b
	technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4)	✓	As above
	report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders (section 3)	N/A	

8 Contacts, signatures and declarations

Project title:

8.1 Person proposing to take action

1. Name and Title:

Alesha Printz

2. Organisation

Melbourne Water Corporation

3. EPBC Referral Number

4: ACN / ABN 81 945 386 953

5. Postal address

Melbourne Water
PO Box 4342
Melbourne VIC 3001
AUSTRALIA

6. Telephone: 9679 7812

7. Email: Alesha.printz@melbournewater.com.au

8. Name of designated
proponent (if not the
same person at item 1
above [and if applicable](#)):

9. ACN/ABN of
designated proponent (if
not the same person
named at item 1 above):

**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:

- ☐ an individual; OR
- ☐ a small business entity (within the meaning given by section 328-110 (other than subsection 328-119(4)) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*); OR
- ☒ not applicable.

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

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)).

business entity:

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

I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the [EPBC Regulations](#). Under sub 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 agree to be the proponent for this action.

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

Signature



Date 28th September 2015

8.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

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

Name Shannon LeBel

Title Consultant Botanist

Organisation Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd

ACN / ABN (if applicable) 65 685 233 760

Postal address 292 Mt Alexander Road, Ascot Vale, VIC. 3032

Telephone (03) 9377 0100

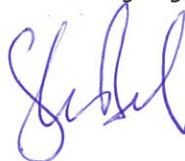
Email slebel@ehpartners.com.au

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 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

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?
- ✓ 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)?

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 (eg. 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.

All data will be provide under a Creative Commons license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>)