



Title of Proposal - Albany Heritage Park Trail Network Concept Plan

Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

1.1 Project Industry Type

Natural Resources Management

1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.

Details of the proposed action is contained in the “Albany Heritage Park Trail Network Concept Plan” (Attachment 1). The Albany Heritage Park (AHP) Trails Network Concept Plan was adopted by the City of Albany Council on 13th December 2016, and it is the entire content of this Plan that is being referred in this application.

Section 6 of the Concept Plan (Pages 44-74) details the proposed action. In summary, the proposed action involves the upgrade of 13,572 m of trail and the development of 15,398 m of new trail. This comprises 20,207 m of dual use trails, 13,265 m of mountain bike trails and 5,498 m of walk trails. A total of 38,970 m of trails. Trail head and trail markers will also be installed as part of the project. The rehabilitation of existing trails, surplus to needs, will also be undertaken as part of this project. The details of where rehabilitation works will be undertaken will be determined at the detailed design stage of the project.

New trail works will involve the clearing, by hand and small machines, of native vegetation to varying widths depending on the type of trail. All vegetation (including most of the roots) and top soil will be removed from trail alignments, and rocks (i.e. granite boulders) may be relocated to enhance trail design. The upgrade of trails may also involve these activities, but to a much lesser extent, and in many cases will see the cleared foot print of existing trails reduced. Cleared vegetation and top soil will be used to rehabilitate existing trails within the project area that are not required as part of the overall trails network and will be closed to public access.

Attachment 2 tabulates the 18 trails, their tread width and potential clearing area. Tread width is the width that the ground will be prepared for the trail, which may involve the laying and compacting of surface material (e.g. crushed granite). The clearing area is the tread width plus a contingency (calculated by adding 0.5 m to each side of the tread width), to allow room to move during construction, especially give the steepness and rocky nature of some areas. It is likely, that in many cases, the extra width will not be required. Also, in a limited number of sites, the trail may need to go slightly wider than the indicated tread, due to the rocky nature of the site, or a special feature may be designed into the trail (e.g. an easy and hard option for users).

Attachment 2 also indicates the length of each trail that is new trail, versus the length of existing trail or already disturbed/cleared of native vegetation. Where possible, existing trails and disturbed areas within the project area have been used as part of the AHP Trail Network.



However, more than 50% of the works will involve the building of new trails, with the aim of designing world class trails that have minimal impact on the environment. Existing trails, in most cases, were not well-designed or have been built by stealth or illegally by users of the area. These trails are often too steep, lack any consideration for drainage to avoid erosion, and cross other trails at dangerous locations. Well-designed trails not only creates a good experience for trail users, but it also reduces the risk of high maintenance costs and potential environmental damage, on and off site, from erosion.

The need to resolve conflict between trail cyclists and walkers is identified as an issue in need of resolution in the City Mounts Management Plan (2006). It is hoped that the implementation of this Concept Plan will resolve this issue as well as reduce environmental impacts.

1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Albany Heritage Park	1	-35.021699241149	117.89084289462
Albany Heritage Park	2	-35.021699241149	117.89084289462
Albany Heritage Park	3	-35.022285105528	117.89145057605
Albany Heritage Park	4	-35.021670072448	117.89323885902
Albany Heritage Park	5	-35.019824943304	117.89431174262
Albany Heritage Park	6	-35.019737079075	117.89720852836
Albany Heritage Park	7	-35.021699241149	117.8976376818
Albany Heritage Park	8	-35.022080209419	117.90289481147
Albany Heritage Park	9	-35.027497938569	117.91283700854
Albany Heritage Park	10	-35.02503793535	117.91308720573
Albany Heritage Park	11	-35.025887349231	117.91762893472
Albany Heritage Park	12	-35.024510782172	117.92106216226
Albany Heritage Park	13	-35.027703168576	117.92399499542
Albany Heritage Park	14	-35.033735472008	117.92163465149
Albany Heritage Park	15	-35.036312575223	117.91981074936
Albany Heritage Park	16	-35.036634445224	117.91630585655
Albany Heritage Park	17	-35.035668132245	117.91512568458
Albany Heritage Park	18	-35.036283060008	117.91276534065
Albany Heritage Park	19	-35.035199727133	117.90525515541
Albany Heritage Park	20	-35.033062191524	117.90214379295
Albany Heritage Park	21	-35.032183687252	117.90268023475
Albany Heritage Park	22	-35.029723825052	117.89581377967
Albany Heritage Park	23	-35.028581721008	117.89599273592
Albany Heritage Park	24	-35.02679508806	117.89084289462
Albany Heritage Park	25	-35.025946035386	117.89112871097
Albany Heritage Park	26	-35.024540301639	117.88959105476
Albany Heritage Park	27	-35.021699241149	117.89084289462



1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).

The AHP encompasses a total area of approximately 260 Hectares, bound by the Albany City Centre, Princess Royal Harbour and Middleton Beach.

The AHP was officially named through the Geographical Naming Committee in 2010 and comprises what is known locally as Mount Clarence and Mount Adelaide. In 2010, these Mounts received the dual names of Mount Clarence/Corndarup and Mount Adelaide/Irrerup.

AHP is home to a number of National recognized Anzac memorials, namely the National Anzac Centre, Desert Mount Corps Memorial, Avenue of Honor, Padre White Lookout and the Princess Royal Fortress. The annual dawn service is held on Mount Clarence, with these sites often being a venue for visiting dignitaries.

The City Mounts have also been a favored recreation and tourism destination since Albany was colonised.

1.6 What is the size of the development footprint or work area?

The footprint of the proposed action is 5.6 Ha.

1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?

Lot

1.7.2 Describe the lot number and title. There are a number of land parcels involved. Please see Attachment 23.

1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.

Western Australia

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

Yes



1.10.1 Is there a local government area and council contact for the proposal?

Yes

1.10.1.0 Council contact officer details

1.10.1.1 Name of relevant council contact officer.

Tom Wenbourne (Senior Planning Officer)

1.10.1.2 E-mail

tomw@albany.wa.gov.au

1.10.1.3 Telephone Number

08 6820 3049

1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.

Start date 07/2017

End date 07/2027

1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.

In 2006, the City of Albany Council adopted the City Mounts Management Plan. This Plan identified 64 recommended management actions for the AHP area, plus a number of generic recommendations that applied across all the “Mounts” covered by the Plan (also covers Mount Melville and Bluff Rock). There are 13 recommendations in the management plan that specifically relate to trails in the project area.

Over the past 10 years, the City has continued to maintain existing trails within the AHP, and manage illegal trails and bike jump as best as possible. However, throughout this time, it became evident that a much more comprehensive trails network plan was required for the whole of the City of Albany Local Government Area to address increasing demand for mountain bike trails, user conflict and the environmental damage being caused by the ad hoc illegal clearing of native vegetation for trails.

In 2015, the City of Albany Council adopted the City of Albany Trails Hub Strategy. This Strategy was developed to provide strategic guidance to the City to become one of Australia’s primary trails destinations.

The Vision for the Trails Hub Strategy is: A World Class Trail Tourism Hub situated around high quality trail systems, supported by a complete package of hospitality and visitor services set within our unique natural landscapes.



With significant community consultation and input, the Albany Trails Hub Strategy reviewed the entire supply and demand of trails and user groups across the City of Albany, and significant gaps in all areas were identified. The Trails Hub Strategy identified suitable locations for trail development, and further recommended the most appropriate development for each location, including which user types and trail styles should be catered for.

The Strategy identified nine priority projects to be implemented. The Albany Heritage Park, was identified as the highest priority project.

The existing social network of trails in the AHP has very high demand for mountain bike trails as well as walk, running and interpretive trails. The mountain bike trail supply in this area is less than 1km of advanced classification trail, which caters for a limited market. The demand for lower classification mountain bike trails is evident by mountain bikers riding on many of the existing walk trails.

The Albany Heritage Parks' proximity to the city center presents excellent potential for visitors. The Trails Hub Strategy identified the excellent opportunity to address ongoing management issues and user conflict while promoting formal recreation and tourism utilization, as well as protecting the environment through provision of a logical, well signposted trail network.

In December 2016, the City of Albany Council adopted the Albany Heritage Park Trails Network Concept Plan.

The following strategies, policies, guidelines and plans were reviewed in the preparation of the AHP Trails Network Concept Plan:

Western Australian State Trails Strategy

The State Trails Strategy (Department of Sport & Recreation 2008) outlines the strategic direction for the Western Australian trails sector for the period 2009-2015. The Strategy was under review at the time of writing the Concept Plan. It supports and complements trail based initiatives, and embraces the various sectors by articulating high-level principles, directions and outcomes rather than prescriptive action. It outlines the purpose, guiding principles, vision, opportunities and strategies, and suggests implementation roles for developing trails. The Albany Trails Hub Strategy, as well as the Concept Plan, are aligned with several of the strategy's objectives.

Western Australian Mountain Bike Strategy

The Western Australian Mountain Bike Strategy (WestCycle 2015) provides the overarching framework and hierarchy of planning and development for mountain biking in WA, and it identifies the Great Southern as a mountain bike hot spot requiring regional level master planning to provide guidance for prioritising more detailed levels of site planning.

WA Mountain Bike Management Guidelines

The Draft Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines (Parks and Wildlife 2015)



were developed to provide a development and management process for sustainable mountain bike trails, using world's best practice planning, design and construction principles. Protection of Western Australia's unique and significant biodiversity and prevention of environmental impact is the key consideration of the guidelines

Albany Trails Hub Strategy (2015)

The City of Albany Trails Hub Strategy 2015-2025 was developed to provide strategic guidance to assist the City to become one of Australia's primary trails destinations situated around a high quality trail system, supported by a complete package of hospitality and visitor services. The Strategy identified broad objectives and trails initiatives, including the Albany Heritage Park Trail Network as a priority project.

Site specific planning documents and related literature

The following existing government documents, were reviewed as part of the development of the Concept Plan:

- Albany Regional Vegetation Survey (2010)
- Fuel Management Strategies and Works Program for Specific Areas of Land Managed by the City of Albany (2015)
- Age-Friendly Albany (2016-2020)
- Access and Inclusion Plan (2012-2017)
- City Mounts Management Plan (2006)
- Mount Clarence and Mount Adelaide Bush Reserve Fauna Survey (2002-2011)
- Distribution and Fire Response of Threatened and Significant Fauna Species within the Mount Clarence / Mount Adelaide Bush Reserves (2012)
- City of Albany Aboriginal Accord (2003)

1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.

Please see Community Engagement Report (Attachment 5).

In summary, the Concept Plan was developed with input from:

- Key Stakeholder Groups, including:
 - Noongar Community;



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- Bushwalking groups;
 - Mountain Bike Club; and
 - State Government Agencies (e.g. DPaW, Department of Sport and Recreation).
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- Three community forums (2016 – February, August and September)
 - Numerous one-on-one meetings with interested parties
 - Community Survey (pre) – online
 - Project Officer presenting at numerous community group meetings
 - Community Comment Survey – online (Appendix 6)
 - Community Comment Period – written submissions (Appendix 7)

Outcome:

248 online submissions – 87% support

24 written submissions – 33% support

272 submissions in total – 87%

Indigenous Stakeholders were invited to be involved in the above consultation opportunities. In addition, a workshop was held between the City of Albany, the trail consultant and local elders to offer a unique opportunity for indigenous interests and issues to be discussed. Further indigenous input was sought through the City's Heritage Impact Assessment Process, with the outcome involving the presence of an Aboriginal Monitor on site when an 800 m demonstration mountain bike trail was built at the end of 2016. There has also been a request for a full Heritage Survey to be undertaken within the project area, which commenced on 27th March 2017.

The City is already aware of a number of registered and non-registered Aboriginal sites within the project area and the sites were considered and avoided during the mapping of proposed trails in the Concept Plan. It is expected that Aboriginal monitors will be on site to provide advice during all construction phases of the project.

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the



project.

Planning Stage - Identification of values and threats

Environmental values, threats and other constraints within the AHP were identified in the early stages of developing the Concept Plan (Pages 14-20). State and National matters of environmental significance and potential risks were identified and considered. As a result, habitat of known threatened flora locations were avoided, and the habitat requirements of fauna of conservation significance were considered from an early stage in the project. A qualified dieback interpreter was also engaged to undertake a Dieback Protectable Area assessment for the AHP (Attachment 8).

The City has access to the relevant Department of Parks and Wildlife databases, and also has existing fauna reports for the project area. The City also sought advice on environmental values from the Department of Parks and Wildlife in Albany, through one-on-one meetings, and representatives of the Department were on the Trails Hub Project Control Group who identified the AHP Trails Project as the number 1 priority, and endorsed the area as being suitable for a range of trails including walking and mountain bike trails. Representatives from DPaW were also present at public workshops for the Concept Plan.

City's Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure

The City's Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (2014) (Attachment 9) will be implemented when assessing each stage of the Project at the detailed design stage. This is a standard procedure applied to all proposed new works on City of Albany managed land. This Procedure is implemented by the Reserves Officers at the City, with expert advice sought or engaged when necessary.

Demonstration Mountain Bike Trail

To demonstrate (and trial) the whole procedure of planning and building a well-designed trail within the AHP, a section of trail from the draft Concept Plan was selected in 2016 to demonstrate what a well-designed mountain bike trail looks like on the ground.

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the Demo Trail involved the completion of the checklist from the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (Attachment 10). This checklist identified that a flora survey was required for the project area. It also identified that the Western Ringtail Possum was present and that the three Black Cockatoos species would use the general area for foraging regularly. A clearing permit was also required, as mountain bike



trails are not an exempt activity under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

A consultant was engaged to undertake a targeted threatened flora and community survey in May 2016. The report for this survey (Attachment 11) found no threatened flora or threatened ecological communities within the search area. However, there were six species identified that may have been missed due to the timing of the survey.

The results of the Dieback assessment, conducted in March 2016, were also considered during the EIA for the Demo Trail. This report indicates that “Due to the extent of disease distribution and the intensive land use across the reserve, there are no areas that can be considered to be protectable from future disease introduction and spread. Therefore any planning activities must adopt the objective of mitigating the risk of exporting potentially infested soil and tissue material way from the reserve, to external areas that may not be infested.”

With these two reports completed, the City applied for a clearing permit through the Department of Environment and Regulation. A conditional clearing permit was received in August 2016 (Attachment 12) which indicated another flora survey was required in the flowering season for the targeted threatened flora. It also indicated that dieback and weed free material and hygiene practices were to be used during the works.

The second flora survey was conducted in October 2016 (Attachment 13). This survey identified five plants of the State listed Priority 1 flora species, *Stylidium falcatum*. Priority 1 means “Poorly known species. Known from one or few location which are potentially at risk”. The City met on site with the consultant and Dr Sarah Barrett (Rare Flora Officer at the Department of Parks and Wildlife), and an acceptable re-alignment around these plants were identified.

The new alignment was resurveyed by the flora consultant in November 2016, and no Declared Rare or Priority flora were found.

An application to amend the clearing permit was submitted, and an amended permit was received by the City in January 2017 (Attachment 14).



Western Ringtail Possum Monitoring

The *EPBC Act* listed Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is known to occur within the AHP, as well as the surrounding landscape (including the urban environment). Spotlighting and ad hoc observations for Ringtail Possums over the past 15 years indicate that they occur in good numbers over much of the reserve (although data is limited). The City of Albany, in partnership with Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, University of Western Australia and Department of Parks and Wildlife, have over the past 12 months, been involved with a grant funded project (through State NRM Program) to collect data and information on this species in the AHP, as well as in the nearby Mount Melville Reserve. These surveys also indicated that Ringtails were in good numbers at the three monitoring sites within the AHP.

Ringtails are often seen on the edges of existing tracks and trails, and in trees on traffic islands in carparks. Ringtails are often seen around town scaling urban fences, eating garden plants and in people's roofs. Unfortunately, there are regular reports of road kills, especially adjacent to the AHP and Mount Melville. This behavior demonstrates that the Ringtail Possum is fairly tolerant of human activities, and they don't appear to avoid areas where there is a lot of human activity. Therefore, it was determined during the EIA for the Demo Trail, that this activity would not have a significant impact on this species.

Despite this determination, given community concern for the Ringtail Possum and the fact that there did not appear to be any studies on the impact of trails on Ringtail Possums, the City decided to monitor this species along the Demo Trail, before and after construction. A qualified fauna consultant, Dr Sandra Gilfillan, was engaged to develop, undertake and coordinate this monitoring. The Regional Ecologist from the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Sarah Comer, had input into the design of this monitoring program. Attachment 15 and 16 are the Preliminary Results of this monitoring, with more monitoring to be undertaken in April and June 2017. The summary and conclusion of Attachment 16 states that, "It appears that, at this stage, the trail construction has had no negative impact (reduction) on the number of Ringtails using the site". However, further data analysis will be undertaken once all the data has been collected.

Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Carnaby's Cockatoo and Baudin's Black Cockatoo

Although the three Black Cockatoo species are known to forage within the Albany Heritage Park, there is no known record of these birds breeding at this location (Attachment 17a). There are also no known night roosting sites. Given the high mobility of these species, and the fact that no large trees or tree hollows would be cleared as part of building the Demo Trail, it was determined that there would not be a significant impact on these three species. This determination will apply to the whole Concept Plan, as no large trees will be cleared.



Mitigation of Impacts / Environmental Code of Conduct for Works

The City of Albany has an Environmental Code of Conduct for Works on City of Albany Managed Land (2010). The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to minimize the impact of new and maintenance works on the environment. A specific Code of Conduct was prepared for the construction of the Demo Trail (Attachment 18). This was provided to the contractor prior to the construction of the Demo Trail, and it was read out and clarified by the City of Albany Reserves Officer, at the Project Startup Meeting with all the construction crew present. The site was visited daily by the City's Reserves Officer and other staff, to ensure that the works were being undertaken in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the Clearing Permit. As a result, the finished product was a well-designed trail, which was constructed with as minimal amount of impact on the environment as possible. Attachment 19 shows some photos of the finished Demo Mountain Bike Trail three months post construction.

Specific mitigation techniques used to reduce impacts on the Ringtail Possum were applied, and included the flagging and avoidance of any possum dreys found on the proposed alignment. Three possible dreys were identified and flagged on or close to the trail alignment. None of these possible dreys were being actively used by possums at the time of construction (possums can have a number of roosting sites within their home range) and appeared to be falling apart. The dreys were shown to the trail builders, to make sure that they were aware of where they were located, so they could be avoided. In one case, the trail was realigned to go around the drey.

Trees over 10 cm diameter were also avoided, to conserve the canopy for Possums to travel through. Although, Ringtails are seen on the ground at night, and are known to also nest under dense ground covers and piles of dead wood. No large trees (or tree hollows) were cleared for the Demo Trail, and will also be avoided when building any future trails.

Understory vegetation was disturbed/rustled before cleared, to allow any animals to escape.

Vegetation on the side of the trails were left undamaged, with all excess vegetation and spoil removed from the construction site. This valuable material was then spread over a nearby rehabilitation site, which comprised of a trail that was surplus to needs. Contractors were restricted to only clearing what was necessary for the tread of the trail.

Dieback free material was used, and machinery was clean on entry, and when leaving the project area.



Surface material was stock piled on existing cleared areas that had minimal chance of being infected with weed seed. Despite this, the City recognizes that all trails need to be monitored on a regular basis for potentially new incursions of weeds brought in by trail users, or as a result of trail construction works.

The risk of erosion is one of the primary considerations during the detailed design of these trails. The intention is to utilise the natural undulations of the site, to provide adequate drainage for trails to avoid and minimise the potential for erosion to occur on trails, or down slope of trails as a result of trail construction.

Trail users will also be encouraged to stay on the approved trails, through strategically placed objects such as natural boulders, chunky brushing and soft ground. Trail markers will be installed, and a User Code of Conduct will also be promoted.

The City is confident that the number of illegal trails being built will cease, or be considerably reduced as the result of implementing the Concept Plan.

Environmental Impact Assessments for Future Trails

Although an EIA has not yet been completed for each stage of the Concept Plan, due to the detailed design not having been completed (i.e. detailed design for Stage 1 has commenced) or undertaken, the environmental values and threats within the project area are already quite well known and documented. However, an EIA checklist for the whole of the Concept Plan has been completed (Attachment 20) which identifies the environmental issues that will need to be addressed during the EIAs of detailed designs.

The habitat of all fauna will be considered during the design and construction of all future trails, with specific procedures in place to have minimal impact, in particular, on the following four threatened fauna species that are either known to occur within the AHP, or utilise the project area for foraging:

- 1 Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*)



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- 2 Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*)
 - 3 Baudin's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*)
 - 4 Forest Red Tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*)

The only Nationally listed threatened flora species (also listed as vulnerable in WA) that has been recorded in the project area previously, in 1983 by Prof Steve Hopper, is the Pink Spider Orchid (*Caladenia harringtoniae*). The exact location of the original record is still being determined, as there were no GPSs or range finders readily available in 1983.

Prof Hopper recently searched for this species, in September and November 2016 (during the plants active growing and flowering season), but did not locate any plants. This could be due to impacts of fire (see paragraph below), or the trigger required to stimulate this plants emergence from underground tubers may not have occurred in recent times. A photo of the original sighting exists, and attempts have been made to relocate this site using clues from the image (e.g. rock structures and plant species). At this stage, the original site has not yet been located.

The description of the recorded location comprises "NNW slope of Mt Clarence. 200m above pine forest. Ca 400m SE of jnc of Watkins & Serpentine Rds." The location of the record on the DPaW Rare Flora database is in the wrong position. However, cannot be corrected until the original site is located.

Fire history records (accuracy unknown) and aerial imagery held by the City of Albany indicate that the approximate site of the original record could have been subject to three fire events since 1983, in 1989 (prescribed burn, most likely not in summer), 1993/94 (month unknown) and 2013 (April wildfire). This, of course, depends on where the original record was located. It is documented that fire can kill this species if undertaken during their active growing period (May-Nov) (Department of Environment 2008), and that a summer fire can stimulate flowering of this species (Brown *et al* 1998).

It has not yet been determined if *C harringtoniae* is susceptible to dieback (Hopper *pers comm*).

Despite not having a recent record for this species in the AHP, we have been advised by Dr



Barrett and Prof Hopper that we need to expect it to be still there. As a result, the City has sought and received advice from Prof Hopper on how trails can best be designed to try and avoid this species. On 6th April 2017, the City's Reserves Officer walked over some potential granite outcrop areas with Prof Steve Hopper and John Watson (local resident and former South Coast Regional Manager of DPaW) to search for the original record site, and to become familiar with the habitat that this orchid may occupy. Prof Hopper's advice is to avoid developing trails near the large granite rock areas.

Flora surveys of proposed trail corridors (30 m wide) will be undertaken for each stage of the project. The Pink Spider Orchid, and any WA listed threatened or Priority flora that could potentially be present, will be targeted during these surveys. As with the Demo Trail, if any plants are found, trails will be realigned around plants to avoid clearing or impacting on these species. In the case of the *C harringtoniae*, where the location of plants is unknown, the City will avoid granite outcrops as much as possible. However, these granite features also provide great view points for trail users. Therefore, it is proposed that trails will go near (and in some cases over) at least some of these granite outcrop areas.

Other considerations during EIAs is dieback, weeds, erosion, fire, on-going monitoring and maintenance. These issues have all been discussed in more details elsewhere in this application.

1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

No

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No



Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising 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. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

- [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](#);
- [Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies](#).

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed threatened species (except a conservation dependent species) or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

No

2.5 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

No



2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

No

2.7 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth land?

No

2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No

2.9 Will there be any impact on a water resource related to coal / gas / mining?

No

2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?

No

2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency?

No

2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas?

No

2.13 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area?

No



Section 3 - Description of the project area

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 in Section 2).

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.

FAUNA

There are two reports that document and discuss the fauna in the project area (please see attached). They are:

- 1 Leighton. S. 2012. *Mount Clarence & Mount Adelaide Bush Reserve Fauna Survey 2002-2011*. Department of Environment and Conservation, Albany. (Attachment 21)
- 2 Leighton S and Gilfillan. S. 2012. *Distribution and Fire Response of Threatened and Significant Fauna Species within the Mt. Clarence/Adelaide Bush Reserves*. (Attachment 17a and b)

Report 1 above, documents the results of a fauna survey undertaken in the project area.

Report 2, specifically identifies the threatened fauna species that are known, or may occur within the project area, whilst discussing how to reduce the impact of fire on these species.

Leighton (2012) reported that there are more than 160 native fauna species in the project area, including 11 mammals, 127 birds, 8 frogs and 6 reptiles. Bats were not surveyed, and reptiles could be surveyed in much more detail. Comparisons are made to the diversity of fauna at the Bold Park and Kings Park in Perth, and the known diversity of species in the AHP is higher than these famous Perth destinations. This could partly be due to the higher diversity of vegetation community types, with 14 different recognised plant communities, compared to the three major plant communities recognised to occur at Kings Park.



The fauna species of National Environmental Significance that are known to live or forage within the project area are:

Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*)

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*)

Baudin's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*)

Forest Red Tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*)

No other fauna of National Environmental Significance are known from the project area.

Due to the coastal location of the project area, the majority of species identified in the *EPBC Act* Protected Matters Report (Attachment 22) as potentially being within the project area, are coastal and marine species, including a range of foreshore or wading birds. None of these species occur within the AHP, or will be affected by the proposed action. Likewise, there are no wetlands within the AHP, so wetland species are not expected to rely on habitat within the project area. There are no known records of the few terrestrial bird and mammals species listed (i.e. Western Bristlebird, Grey Wagtail, Fork-tailed Swift and Dibbler), apart from one community record of a Rainbow Bee-eater (reliability unknown). Rainbow Bee-eaters are known to occur within the City of Albany, but sighting are not frequent.

The Osprey and White-bellied Seaeagle are known to forage along this coastline, but there are no suitable nesting sites within the AHP, with known Osprey nests along the shores of Oyster Harbour and Kalgan River to the north of the project area.

Invasive mammal species known to occur within the AHP includes cats, foxes, rabbits, house mouse, black rat and given the close proximity to houses, domestic cats and dogs are regular visitors to the site. Invasive birds would include the Kookaburra.

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Leighton (2012) also reports that there are approximately 350 species of plants known from the AHP. This high diversity of plants is reflective of the high number of recognised plant



communities within the project area. Whilst Kings Park is approximately double the size of the AHP, in 2012, it supported 234 plant species.

Given the close proximity of the AHP to the Albany CBD, the flora are well surveyed. It is a regular venue for Albany Wildflower Society outings, as well as being popular with other citizen scientists. The Friends of Mount Clarence and Mount Adelaide have been caring for bush in the AHP, in partnership with the City of Albany, for at least 20 years. There have also been a number of targeted flora surveys undertaken for specific projects.

There is one species, the Pink Spider Orchid *Caladenia harringtonae*, of National Environmental Significance that was recorded within the project area in 1983, by Prof Steve Hopper. This species is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and as vulnerable in Western Australia.

Three State listed Priority flora (not *EPBC Act* listed) have also been recorded in the project area, including:

- 1 *Stilidium falcatum* (Priority 1 – Poorly-known species) – A number of plants have recently been recorded within the project area, including along the Demo Trail.
- 2 *Leucopogon brateolaris* (Priority 2 – Poorly-known species) – One record in project area with unknown date.
- 3 *Thysanotus isantherus* (Priority 4 – Rare, Near threatened or species in need of monitoring) - One record from 2001.

There are no known records of any of the additional species listed as potentially occurring in the project area in the *EPBC Act* Protected Matters Report (Attachment 22).

Given the long history of activity within the project area since the first settlers arrived in 1827, there are a whole range of invasive flora species within the project area. Some of these species are from overseas, such as pampas grass and watsonia, whilst others are from other parts of Australia, such as Sydney Golden Wattle and Victorian Teatree.



The three Weeds of National Significance that are most likely to be within the project area include Bridal Creeper, Blackberry and Gorse. However, the City and community have been working hard for the past 20 years controlling weeds in this area, and have had many successes in bring weed infested areas back to natural vegetation. Weed control will always be on-going in the project area, due to high level of public access across the site. This is a maintenance requirement that the City recognises and accepts. The City of Albany has an annual budget to control environmental weeds on City managed land.

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).

The topography of the AHP is dominated by the two prominent granite/gneiss headlands of Mount Clarence and Adelaide, connected by a relatively flat saddle which slightly falls along the axis to the south-east. The vertical relief of the AHP is approximately 185m, while the foot of Mount Adelaide reaches sea level on the shores of King George Sound.

There are no waterways within the AHP. The majority of rainfall either soaks into the soil or flows downhill where it flows eventually into the ocean via urban storm drains or soaks into the ground in low lying areas often outside of the AHP. After rainfall, small granite depressions will remain full of water, until such time as they evaporate due to no rainfall. A few areas on the slopes of Mount Clarence and Adelaide are seasonally wet and contain, *Callistachus lanceolata* Thicket and low open woodland of mixed *Banksia littoralis*/paperback woodland.

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.

The soils and vegetation within the AHP is diverse with fourteen major vegetation units having been mapped by the Albany Regional Vegetation Survey (Sandiford & Barrett 2010). The vegetation types are divided into four major groups:

- 1 Upland Eucalypt Woodland/Forest;
- 2 Coastal Dune System;
- 3 Granite Outcrops; and
- 4 Wetlands & Damplands.

A description and map of these vegetation units and associated soils are included in Leighton & Gilfillan (2012) in Attachment 17a and b.

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique



values relevant to the project area.

Please see 3.2 above. Images of the Albany Heritage Park can be seen on the <http://nationalanzaccentre.com.au>.

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.

No *EPBC Act* or State listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) are within the project area. No State listed Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) are included in the shapefile for State PEC and TEC provided by DPaW. Although not mapped, a small area of the *Banksia coccinea* Shrubland/*Eucalyptus staeri*/Sheoak Open Woodland community, which is listed as a State PEC may occur within the project area. It is predicted that it was not mapped by Sandiford & Barrett (2010), due to its small size (Barrett *pers comm*). The occurrence of the PEC in the project area is yet to be confirmed by DPaW. Despite this, care will be taken to avoid impacting on this community.

Due to the absence of comparative pre-clearing vegetation extent data within and outside of the Albany Regional Vegetation Survey (ARVS) area (125,415 Ha), 1500 ha was used to indicate rarity in Sandiford and Barrett (2010). It is reported that four community types in the project area occur on greater than 1500 ha of land, whilst the remainder occur on less than 1500 ha. Nine of the communities are largely restricted to the ARVS area, with range limits within 10 km of the survey boundary area. One community type is restricted to the ARVS area, and four have unknown range as they go beyond the study area. Less than 10% of four community types occur on conservation reserves.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

Given the nature of the project, to develop well designed trails, a thorough site analysis of the AHP was undertaken in the early stages of developing the Concept Plan. The following attributes have been illustrated in the Concept Plan (Attachment 1; Pages 28-33):

- Topographic Relief (Figure 9)
- Slope (Figure 10)
- Ruggedness (Figure 11)
- Aspect (Figure 12)
- Elevation Loss (Figure 13)



3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.

The majority of vegetation within the project area is in excellent condition. However, there are many areas that have been heavily impacted upon by weeds, particularly near historical infrastructure and land uses. Particular areas have a long history of disturbance and use, with the top of Mount Adelaide being actively used as a fortress between 1893 and 1956, and a large area being cleared of native vegetation (which has now grown back). An area above the Albany Port was a quarantine/holding yard for the Port, and there are numerous scattered old resource (clay and gravel) pits usually near existing roads and tracks. Another area below Marine Drive is the site of an old sewerage outlet compound.

Detailed condition mapping has not been undertaken for the project area, with Sandiford and Barrett (2010) having mapped most of the project area as “Remnant”, with some large patches as “Modified”.

Environmental weeds, such as Sydney Golden Wattle, can be found across the entire project area, scattered within any area of vegetation, despite it's condition. However, the City along with the Friends of the Mounts, have been successfully tackling weeds in this area for approximately 20 years, with many areas looking fantastic. However, the City recognises that weed control will be on-going, especially given the current and future uses of the area. Mount Clarence and Adelaide is the number one priority management area within the Environmental Weeds Strategy for Land Managed by the City of Albany (2006).

Dieback has also impacted an unmapped amount of vegetation within the project area, by killing off susceptible species. In affected areas, the remaining vegetation now presents as being in excellent condition but is unlikely to represent the original species composition. However, there are many areas of vegetation that still support healthy susceptible species (e.g. banksia and hakea), and are believed to remain dieback free (Watson and Hopper *pers comm*). Despite the project area being assessed as dieback unprotectable, dieback hygiene practices will be applied when undertaking works. For example, machinery and equipment will be clean on entry and exiting the site, and dieback free material will be used on trail surfaces.

Another activity that influences vegetation condition in the AHP, is fire. A Fuel Management Plan was developed for the project area in 2015. The City is in the process of implementing this plan, which is fluid and adjusted as situations change and new information becomes available. The response of flora, fauna and vegetation communities was considered during the development of this plan, and continues to be considered when burn prescriptions are developed, burns are undertaken and post fire. A general aim is to have diversity in the fire regimes, with burns carried out at different times of the year, and the vegetation to vary in age



since a fire event. There is already quite a patchy mosaic of vegetation ages in the project area, and it is hoped that this will improve further as more fuel reduction burns are undertaken over the next 10 years.

The impact of the illegal construction of trails and inappropriate use of current trails are also current threats to the area's environmental values, which will be addressed by the implementation of a well designed and constructed trail network.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project area.

There are no Commonwealth Heritage Places within the AHP (*EPBC Act* Protected Matters Report (Attachment 22)).

Both Mount Clarence and Mount Adelaide are contained on the List of Heritage Places under the City's Local Planning Scheme No 1. In addition, there are a number of sites contained on the State Register of Heritage Places. As such, it is recognised that the trails will require development approval under the Scheme and approval under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990. It is recognised that such approvals will be sought following detailed design phases. Despite this, preliminary Planning Consent for the whole Concept Plan is currently being sought.

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.

There are Registered Aboriginal Sites within the AHP and the City is aware that there may also be unknown sites of cultural heritage significance in the vicinity. While preliminary consultation with the Noongar Community on this project has occurred, this consultation highlighted the need for more detailed investigation. As such, the City has commenced a full Aboriginal Heritage Survey in the AHP. This study may result in an application being made under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 or alternatively, will result in an agreement with the Noongar community on future trail work.

As occurred during the construction of the Demo Trail, Aboriginal monitors are expected to be on site during all construction phases of the project to provide advice.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.

Attachment 23 is a list of land parcels and tenure for the land within the project area. The majority of land is Crown land managed by the City of Albany, including seven reserves and a number of internal and boundary road reserves. There is also one parcel of land on the south side that has been entrusted to the City as a Public Garden since 1883.



The City reserves within the project area, through which trails pass, have the following purposes and class levels:

- 1 R2682 - Public Park – Class A
- 2 R16746 - Parks and Recreation – Class C
- 3 R27068 - Recreation and Parklands – Class A
- 4 R38226 - Parklands, Recreations & Tourism - Class C
- 6 R26149 – Recreation – Class C
- 7 R51036 - Public Park and Lookout – Class C

The City has been advised by the Department of Lands (*pers comm*) that recreational trails are consistent with the intent of reserves set aside for recreation, tourism and parkland. The Class of the reserve only comes into play if the City wanted to change the purpose, tenure or boundary of the Class A reserves, which would then need parliamentary approval.

The other Crown land parcels within the project area include:

- 8 R29075 – Water Corporation – Class C
- 9 R27069 – Department of Education – Class C
- 10 R1327 – Unvested, managed by Department of Lands – Class C
- 11 R28506 – Unvested, managed by Department of Lands – Class C
- 12 R27069 – Department of Education – Class C

Permission will be sought from these other land managers if the final design of trails impact on these areas. This might comprise of a licence from the Department of Lands and the Water Corporation, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education. The City



already has a license with the Water Corporation for the Demo Trail to cross R29075. The Department of Education land is involved, as a section of existing trail already passes through a corner of this land.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.

Due to the increasing interest and uses of the AHP, and the many improvements that have been made over the past five years, the City is currently developing an Albany Heritage Park Master Plan to bring all of these aspects together under the one plan. The National Anzac Centre website at <http://nationalanzaccentre.com.au> describes many of the existing and proposed uses relevant to the project area. Some of these include:

- natural heritage;
- Aboriginal heritage;
- Anzac heritage;
- recreation such as walk/running and bike trails; and
- tourism i.e. cafe, visitors centre, interpretive signs.



Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

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.

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.

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.

Trail running and mountain biking are both now well established uses of the AHP, and as is the trend world-wide, these users are likely to increase making the need for a well-planned and designed trail network more urgent to ensure protection of the Park's environmental and cultural values.

Similar to the mitigation measures undertaken during the planning and construction of the demo trail, below are measures that will be undertaken for future trails. Suggested mitigation measures from the following documents have been considered and included where appropriate:

- 1 Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. 2009. *Significant impact guidelines for the vulnerable western ringtail possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis). In the southern Swan Coastal Plan, Western Australia.* There are no guidelines for the South Coast population.
- 2 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. 2012. *EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo (endangered) Calyptorhynchus latirostris, Baudin's cockatoo (vulnerable) Calyptorhynchus baudinii and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo (vulnerable) Calyptorhynchus banksii naso.*
- 3 2008. *Approved conservation Advice for Caladenia harringtoniae (Harrington's Spider-orchid).*

Specific mitigation measures that will be applied to the proposed action include:

- All known environmental and heritage values will be identified in the early stages of planning. This has already been completed, but is on-going as more surveys are completed. Trail corridors have been designed to go around / avoid impacting on these values. If previously unknown values come to light, then the trail will be realigned to also avoid impacting on these



values.

- Vegetation clearing will be minimised, through careful trail design and construction works. An Environmental Code of Conduct will be prepared for works. Construction crews will be trained on the Code of Conduct and works will be closely monitored by the City.
- Impact of works on surrounding vegetation will be also be minimised. Cleared material will be removed from work sites and placed on nearby rehabilitation sites. A rehabilitation plan for the AHP is being developed by the City's Reserves team, and will include trails that are surplus to needs (i.e. are not included in the Concept Plan or are not fire access tracks).
- Rehabilitation sites will be ripped, and covered with top soil and cleared vegetation from new trail areas of the same vegetation type. It is predicted that these areas will rehabilitate from the seed contained in the cleared material, or from adjacent areas. Where necessary, sites will be planted with seedlings, grown from seed that has already been collected from the project area for this purpose.
- No large hollow bearing trees will be removed. This measure will avoid impacting on any potential future nesting or night roosting sites for the black cockatoos.
- In most cases, no trees over 10 cm diameter will be removed. This will retain habitat for the western ringtail possum, and also minimise the creation of breaks in the existing canopy cover.
- Vegetation will be disturbed/shaken before clearing to make sure no animals will be injured during clearing works.
- Trail alignments will avoid existing possum dreys wherever possible.
- Where possible, trail alignments will avoid common food plants of the black cockatoos, such as marri and jarrah trees, and proteaceous trees and shrubs.
- Trail alignments will avoid known locations of plant species of conservation significance. In the case of the *Caladenia harringtoniae*, where the plant has not been seen since 1983, areas most likely to support this species (i.e. large granite outcrops) will be avoided where possible. However, due to these outcrops also being great view points for trail users, it is proposed that trails will go near (and in some cases over) at least some granite outcrop areas.
- All machinery and equipment will be clean upon entry to the project area, to minimise the risk of introducing diseases or weeds to the project area.
- All machinery and equipment will be cleaned before moving from one site to another within the project area, to reduce the risk of spreading disease and weeds within the AHP.
- All machinery and equipment will be clean upon exiting from the project area, to avoid spreading disease or weeds to areas outside of the project area.
- Dieback-free material will be used across the project. Crushed granite was used on the Demo



Trail, and may be used on other trails. The City of Albany is also close to having the first high confidence/low risk dieback-free gravel pit in the Great Southern Region of WA.

- Once the trails are built, any newly discovered plants of conservation significance near trails will be recorded and protected from trail users and maintenance works.
- Once trails are built, they will be monitored for any erosion or weed encroachments. The City has had discussions with Prof Barb Cook at the University of Western Australia (Albany Campus), about the possibility of the university designing up an environmental monitoring program for the Albany Heritage Park, with a focus on the trails. It is possible that university students may be involved in undertaking this monitoring, as well as City of Albany staff. However, monitoring works are dependent on funding.

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.

The City has made this referral at the request of the Department of Environment and Energy (dated 16th December 2016), and also due to the concerns raised by the community about the potential impact of the project on the western ringtail possum and the three black cockatoos. The City does not believe that the proposed action will have a significant impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance, and believes that the proposed action will actually help conserve the natural environment within the project area long-term, by gaining control over public access to the AHP.

It is known that if the trails within the AHP are not rationalised, upgraded and expanded, people will continue to uncontrollably damage the environment by making their own trails wherever they desire. Particular areas of conservation concern will continue to be at risk of these illegal activities.



Section 5 – Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.

Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorrectly identified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.

5.1.1 World Heritage Properties

No

5.1.2 National Heritage Places

No

5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)

No

5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community

No

5.1.5 Listed migratory species

No

5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment

No

5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land

No

5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

No

5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining

No



5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions

No

5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions

No

5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas

No

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.

Western Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Vulnerable)

The proposed action will not have a significant impact of the western ringtail possum.

This outcome has been determined primarily for the following reasons:

- 1 this species occurs in good numbers now within the AHP, despite there already being many trails. It is also known to occur within urban areas, where it is regularly spotted scaling back yard fences and utilising roof cavities;
- 2 the preliminary results of monitoring for this species along the Demo Trail indicates that this species has not reduced in numbers since trail construction;
- 3 the proposed mitigation measures to be implemented (listed in Section 4.1); and
- 4 the proposed action works will not meet any of the Significant Impact Criteria for Vulnerable species (listed in Department of Environment. 2013. Matter of National Significance. Significant Impact guidelines 1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).

Carnabys Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Endangered)

Baudin's Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Vulnerable)

Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (Vulnerable)

The proposed action will not have a significant impact on the three Black Cockatoo species.

This outcome has been determined primarily for the following reasons:

- 1 these species are wide ranging, and do not currently rely on the project area for nesting



or night roosting. All of these species are known to regularly forage in this reserve, along with any other suitable trees in the City of Albany.

2 no large hollow bearing trees will be cleared as part of this project. The aim is to not clear any trees over 10 cm diameter at breast height (a mitigation measure for the ringtail possum).

3 food trees and shrubs will be avoided, where possible.

4 the proposed action will not meet any of the Significant Impact Criteria for Vulnerable or Endangered species (listed in Department of Environment. 2013. Matter of National Significance. Significant Impact guidelines 1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).

Pink Spider Orchid *Caladenia harringtoniae*

The proposed action will not have a significant impact on *C harringtoniae*.

This outcome has been determined primarily for the following reasons:

1 flora surveys undertaken of proposed trail corridors during the planning stage will detect any actively growing plants. Any detected plants will be avoided. Any plants that remain as underground tubers, will obviously not be detected.

2 given plants may not always be actively growing, the most likely habitat of this species (i.e. large granite outcrops) will be avoided during trail design and construction where possible. However, it is proposed that some trails will go near (and in some cases over) at least some of these outcrops due to their value as view points. Not knowing where any plants of this species is located, does make it a challenge to protect.

3 gaining control over public access within the project area through the proposed action, will in itself, help protect suitable habitat for this species, by encouraging people to stick to official trails.

4 the proposed action will not meet any of the Significant Impact Criteria for Vulnerable species (listed in Department of Environment. 2013. Matter of National Significance. Significant Impact guidelines 1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).



Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.

The City of Albany has a good environmental record, and a very dedicated and enthusiastic Reserves Team. Prior to 2000, the City of Albany only had an Environmental Planner, who addressed environmental issues and developed management plans for City reserves. In 2000, the City of Albany received a Natural Heritage Trust Bushcare grant to develop an Environmental Weeds Strategy for City of Albany Reserves. This involved the employment of a person to work with the community to develop the Strategy. The Bushcarers Group (which still meets on a monthly basis) was born out of this process, to provide a forum for the small friends of groups around the City to raise and discuss common issues, and for the community to have input into the development of the Weeds Strategy.

The Weeds Strategy was adopted by Council, and two part time Bushcare Assistants and a Bushcare Coordinator position was funded by the City. In 2017, the City now has a Reserves Department, with a Reserves Manager, Reserves Planning Officer, Natural Reserves Coordinator, Reserves Fire Officer, Natural Reserves Leading Hand and four full time Natural Reserves Maintenance Workers. All vegetation management responsibilities have come across to the Reserves Department, to ensure that it is undertaken in accordance to the City of Albany's Environmental Code of Conduct.

City staff have a good working relationship with relevant State Departments, such as the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Department of Water and Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Staff also work closely with South Coast Natural Resource Management, Green Skills and numerous other friends of reserves and community groups.

Under the City's Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, all new works on Council land are assessed by the Reserves Officers prior to being undertaken. Reserves Officers (one of which is preparing this application) both have university degrees with honours in environmental science, with over 20 years-experience (each) working in the natural resource management field.

As a result of environmental assessment, projects might be modified to avoid or minimise impacts on the environment. All necessary approvals are sought. All maintenance works also need to be undertaken in accordance with the City's Environmental Code of Conduct. City works staff are trained on components of these documents that are relevant to them.



If an incident occurs (which is not very often) where works were not approved or not undertaken in accordance with these Procedures or Code of Conduct, the situation is investigated, the damage rectified (as best as possible) and the person responsible is given a written warning. Dismissal would be considered if the person repeats the offence.

The City also has a dedicated and enthusiastic Community Recreation Team, who are working with the Reserves Team to plan and implement the Trails Hub Strategy. The Officer primarily responsible for the planning and construction of the proposed action is the former CEO of South Coast Natural Resource Management, who previously worked for the Department of Conservation and Land Management (currently Department of Parks and Wildlife) as a park ranger.

The City wants this project to be successful, not only from a recreational opportunity perspective, but from a natural resource management, tourism and health perspective. The City of Albany Community Strategic Plan (Albany 2023) includes the following relevant objectives:

- 1.3 To develop and promote Albany as a unique and sought after visitor destination.
- 2.4 To protect and enhance our natural environment.
- 4.3 To develop and support a healthy inclusive and accessible community.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (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.

Not applicable.

6.3 Will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?

Yes

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

Included in 6.1 above.

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

Yes



6.4.1 EPBC Act No and/or Name of Proposal.

- 1 EPBC 2013/6798 - Prescribed Burn of Cells 6 and 8 of Crown land reserve 35381, City of Albany, WA.
- 2 EPBC 2013/6903 - Anzac Interpretive Centre Development, Albany, WA.
- 3 EPBC 2013/7087 - Track Stabilisation and Rehabilitation within Bettys Beach Reserves (R2031), City of Albany, Western Australia.



Section 7 – Information sources

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
Bio Diverse Solutions. 2016a. Targeted Threatened Flora Survey. Proposed Mountain Bike (Demo Trail) Trail Mount Clarence. Report prepared for City of Albany. Bio Diverse Solutions. 2016b. Updated Report – Version 2. Targeted Threatened Flora Survey. Proposed Mountain Bike (Demo Trail) Trail Mount Clarence. Report prepared for City of Albany. Department of the Environment. 2013. Matters of National Environmental Significance. Significant Impact guidelines 1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Canberra. Department of Environment. 2017. Caladenia harringtonae in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of Environment, Canberra Department of Environment and Energy 2013. Approved Conservation Advice for Pseudocheirus occidentalis (western ringtail possum). From Department of Environment and Energy Website. Department of Environment and Water. 2008. Approved conservation Advice for Caladenia harringtoniae (Harrington's Spider-orchid).	All reliable.	None.



Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
From Department of Environment and Energy Website. Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. 2009a. Significant impact guidelines for the vulnerable western ringtail possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) in the southern Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. 2009b. Background Paper to the EPBC Act Policy Statement 3:10 – Significant impact guidelines for the vulnerable western ringtail possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) in the southern Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. Department of Parks and Wildlife. 2014. Western Ringtail Possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) Recovery Plan. Wildlife Management Program No. 58. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. 2012. EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo (endangered) <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> , Baudin's cockatoo (vulnerable) <i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i> and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo (vulnerable) <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i> . Gilfillan S. 2016a. Monitoring changes in the abundance of Western Ringtail Possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) after construction of the Albany Heritage Park Demonstration Mountain Bike Trail. Pre		



Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
Construction Monitoring Session - Preliminary Results. Report prepared for the City of Albany. Gilfillan S. 2016b. Monitoring changes in the abundance of Western Ringtail Possum (<i>Pseudocheirus</i> <i>occidentalis</i>) after construction of the Albany Heritage Park Demonstration Mountain Bike Trail. Immediately Post Construction Monitoring Session - Preliminary Results. Report prepared for the City of Albany. Great Southern Bio Logic. 2016. Phytophthora dieback Hygiene Survey of the proposed Mt Clarence/Cordarup and Mt Adelaide/Irrerup Mountain Bike Trails Area. Report prepared for Common Ground. Hearne RW, Meissner R, Brown AP, Macfarlane TD and Annels TR. 2006. Declared Rare and Poorly Know Flora in the Albany District. Western Australian Wildlife Management Program No. 40. Department of Conservation and Land Management. Leighton S and Gilfillan S. 2012. Distribution and Fire Response of Threatened and Significant Fauna Species within the Mount Clarence/Mt. Adelaide Bush Reserves. Report prepared for the City of Albany. Leighton S. 2012. Mount Clarence & Mount Adelaide Bush Reserve Fauna Survey 2002 – 2011. Land for Wildlife, Department of Environment and Conservation, Albany. Robinson CT and Coates DJ. 1995. Declared Rare and		



Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
Poorly Know Flora in the Albany District. Western Australian Wildlife Management Program No. 20. Department of Conservation and Land Management. Sandiford L and Barrett S. 2010. Albany Regional Vegetation Survey: Extent, Type and Status. Report funded by Western Australian Planning Commission, South Coast Natural Resource Management and City of Albany for Department of Environment and Conservation.		



Section 8 – Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

Given the level of planning and consultation that has gone into this project, and with the AHP being identified as the top priority out of nine locations for trail development, alternative sites have already been analysed, and dismissed. The Concept Plan has been developed specifically to suit the attributes of the AHP, so cannot be transferred to another site. Any suitable alternative site for trail development would already have been identified and included as one of the other eight priority sites in the Trails Hub Strategy.

One alternative would be to reduce the number of proposed trails. However, that would reduce the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the whole trail network. Eighteen trails (some existing and most new) are proposed in the AHP Concept Plan. These trails have been identified to fill the needs of trail users, potential user types and to resolve user conflict on trails. With mountain bike riding increasing with popularity, the existing length and type of trail dedicated for this user group, was not considered adequate, and it was identified in the Trails Hub Strategy, that to cater for the needs of different skill level sets, a minimum of 25 km of mountain bike trails were required within the AHP. Walk trails have also been planned to cater for the more adventurous and fit people, right down to the person who has never been on a bush trail before.

Minor adjustments to alignments of trails is possible, and is occurring, at the detailed design stage of each trail. Although not ideal, and as demonstrated by the Demo Trail, the realignment of trails can also happen after the detailed design stage, if new significant environmental and heritage values are discovered. The proposed trail corridors (20 m wide) have been identified as a result of analysing the topographic (amongst other things) attributes of the AHP, whilst being aware of constraints and key linkages with surrounding infrastructure, natural features and popular destinations (e.g. Albany CBD, Middleton Beach and viewpoints). The needs of local residents has also been taken into account, whilst trying minimise entry points to the AHP.

8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

8.27 Do you have another alternative?



No



Section 9 – Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

Chief Executive Officer

9.2.2 First Name

Andrew

9.2.3 Last Name

Sharpe

9.2.4 E-mail

andrews@albany.wa.gov.au

9.2.5 Postal Address

PO Box 484
ALBANY WA 6331
Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

94717875167 - CITY OF ALBANY

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone

08 6820 3000

9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

staff@albany.wa.gov.au

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

Not applicable

Small Business Declaration

I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.

Signature:..... Date:

9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

No


9.2.9.3 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

Declaration

I, Andrew Sharpe, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral 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: 9 May 2017

I, ANDREW SHARPE, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of _____ as the proponent of the purposes of the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature:  Date: 9 May 2017.

9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.5 Organisation

9.5.1 Job Title

CEO

9.5.2 First Name

Andrew

9.5.3 Last Name

Sharpe

9.5.4 E-mail

andrews@albany.wa.gov.au

9.5.5 Postal Address

PO Box 484
ALBANY WA 6330
Australia

9.5.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

94717875167 - CITY OF ALBANY

9.5.7 Organisation Telephone

6820 3000

9.5.8 Organisation E-mail

staff@albany.wa.gov.au

Proposed designated proponent - Declaration

I, ANDREW SHARPE, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: 

Date: 9 May 2017

9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.8 Organisation

9.8.1 Job Title

CEO

9.8.2 First Name

Andrew

9.8.3 Last Name

Sharpe

9.8.4 E-mail

andrews@albany.wa.gov.au

9.8.5 Postal Address

PO Box 484
ALBANY WA 6330
Australia

9.8.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

94717875167 - CITY OF ALBANY

9.8.7 Organisation Telephone

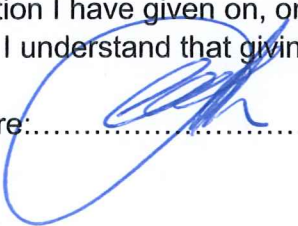
08 6820 3000

9.8.8 Organisation E-mail

staff@albany.wa.gov.au

Referring Party - Declaration

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

Signature:  Date: 9 May 2017 .



Appendix A - Attachments

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

1. attachment_1.pdf
2. attachment_2.pdf
3. attachment_3.pdf
4. attachment_4.zip
5. attachment_5.pdf
6. attachment_6.pdf
7. attachment_7.pdf
8. attachment_8.pdf
9. attachment_9.pdf
10. attachment_10.pdf
11. attachment_11.pdf
12. attachment_12.pdf
13. attachment_13.pdf
14. attachment_14.pdf
15. attachment_15.pdf
16. attachment_16.pdf
17. attachment_17a.pdf
18. attachment_17b.jpg
19. attachment_18.pdf
20. attachment_19.pdf
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24. attachment_23.pdf