



BushBlocks

Annual Management Report - Summary

(EPBC 2016/7809)

Swift Parrot Offsets

Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead

Year 4: October 2021- October 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

Deep Lead Property Pty Ltd, as the property owner, is required to undertake monitoring and associated annual reporting for Swift Parrot Habitat Offsets located at Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead, as outlined in the site Offset Management Plan (Biosis 2017), hereafter referred to as the OMP,

The offset was created as part of infrastructure works undertaken by VicRoads requiring removal of vegetation that was identified as foraging habitat of critically endangered Swift Parrot (EPBC 2016/7809). A report summarising annual monitoring and works is required to be submitted to VicRoads, now recognised as Regional Roads Victoria, and to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), as directed by the OMP.

The broader property is protected by a Section 69 agreement with DELWP. Annual reporting for the broader site also includes information relating to the Swift Parrot offsets and includes evidence of works. The DELWP landowner report is therefore submitted along with this summary report.

1.1 Subject Site

This site is located within the Wimmera Bioregion, with vegetation types having strong associations with the Goldfields Bioregion due to the proximity of the site. The Swift Parrot Offset Site lies within the larger Offset Property at 237-240 Old Glenorchy Road in Deep Lead (Bush Broker Credit Site BB-3018), and is owned by Deep Lead Property Pty Ltd. The property contains a mosaic of EVC 882_61 Higher rainfall Shallow Sands Woodland and EVC 283 Plains sedgy Woodland, dominated by Yellow Gum and Grey Box. The understory of the woodland has sparse shrub cover and a mosaic of indigenous ground storey, with natural litter dominated surface. Small areas of herbaceous weeds occur on site, mostly on the western boundary adjacent to Old Glenorchy Road.

2. COMPLETED WORKS

2.1 Record Keeping

The site logbook is an online record of times and dates that landowners, contractors, consultants, or other relevant parties have visited the site for the purposes of management or monitoring actions and plays an important role in recording completed works on the site. The logbook is maintained by the landowners through regular correspondence with contractors to record important information relating to site management or monitoring. Typical entries include date, name of personnel on site, activities being completed, general observations of flora or fauna, weather, presence of standing water, comment on biomass etc. A summary of the Property Logbook for Year 4 is provided in the DELWP landowners report.

2.2 Quarterly Site Visits

The Offset Area is required to be visited at least quarterly by the landowner. The following activities are undertaken at each quarterly visit;

- walk of boundary fencing to assess any signs of damage or unauthorised entry of people or stock
- general observations. This includes locations and notes as appropriate regarding;
 - woody or herbaceous weed infestations- species and location
 - estimates of percentage cover of inter-tussock space
 - signs of pest animals, or other tracks scats, or signs of predation
 - signs of erosion, general vegetation condition, other general observations
- Detailed observations from quarterly site visits are available on request

2.3 Fence Condition

Fences are to be maintained and in working order and must remain so for the term of the plan- and in perpetuity – if required for the purposes of exclusion of stock, prevention of unauthorised access- particularly for firewood collection, minimising soil disturbance and compaction, and to reduce the spread of weeds and pathogens. The OMP states that any fencing in place must be in good condition according to the standards detailed in *BushBroker Information Sheet 12- Standards for Management – Fencing* (DSE 2012c).

Surveys of the property boundary and existing fence are conducted at each site visit and observations recorded in the property logbook.

In response to findings of the Year 1 Independent Audit of Offset Management (Biosis 2020), Deep Lead Pty Ltd agreed to install new boundary fencing in order to meet the requirements for effective protection of the site, and in line with *BushBroker Standards for Management – Fencing* (DSE 2012c). Threats relate primarily to unpermitted access by the public, with occurrences of illegal firewood collection noted within the broader offset site in 2019.

As stock prevention is not required, alternative fencing specifications for the property were agreed upon by DELWP. Installation of the new property fencing was completed in October 2022, including removal of the old boundary fence.

2.4 Weed Control

2.4.1 Woody Weeds

No woody weeds have been identified within the Swift Parrot Offset Site at any time, including during initial assessments of the broader property conducted by Brett Lane and Associates (2017) and assessments conducted by Biosis for the establishment (2017) and subsequent audits (2020, 2021) of the Swift Parrot Offset area.

Sugar Gum **Eucalyptus cladocalyx* have been identified as the only woody weed within the broader offset site and does not occur within the Swift Parrot offset area.

2.4.2 Herbaceous Weeds

Weeds controlled include large patches Stickwort *Dittrichia graveolens* (second year of treatment), Capeweed *Arctotheca calendula*, and Spear thistles *Cirsium vulgare*, Chickweed *Stellaria media*, and Annual veldt grass *Ehrharta longifolia*.

Refer to DELWP landowners report for evidence of works and estimated weed cover.

2.5 Pest Animals



In response to an increase in rabbit activity observed in Year 3, fumigation works were completed, with staged hand collapsing of warrens in progress. No rabbits were observed in Year 4. Similarly, no observations of foxes, direct or indirect, or of other pest animals have been recorded.

2.6 Vegetation Condition Survey

Monitoring of vegetation condition as per the requirements of the OMP was completed by Ecocentric Environmental Consulting. This included the Weed Assessment, Habitat Hectare Assessment, cohort monitoring and photopoints. Results are provided by Ecocentric in report submitted for the Year 4 management period.

3. Summary of Management Actions – Year 4

Objective	Standard to be achieved	
1- Exclusion of stock, unauthorised activities and vehicle access	Exclusion of domestic stock from offset area	
	Exclusion of vehicles from offset area	
	Exclusion of unauthorised access or unauthorised firewood collection	
	Maintain perimeter fencing to BushBroker Information Sheet 12 (DSE 2012c)	
2- remove all woody weed infestations	No woody weeds present within offset area (<1% cover)	
	woody weeds not to interfere with shrub or canopy recruitment	
	minimise off target damage to all native plants during weed control works	
3- monitor and control herbaceous weeds	Herbaceous weeds cover not exceed current levels	
	herbaceous weeds not to interfere with shrub or canopy recruitment	
	minimise off target damage to all native plants	
4- monitor and control new and emerging weeds	New outbreaks of woody weeds to be removed as soon as detected	
	no woody weeds present within offset area	
	minimise off target damage to all native plants	
5- monitor and control Rabbits Hares and Foxes	no fresh ground disturbances by pest animals observed in the offset area	
	no active rabbit warrens within offset area	
	minimal surface harbour for rabbits and hares present	
6- monitor and control all new and emerging pest animals	control numbers of any new and emerging pests	
7- Monitor tree and shrub regeneration and overstorey condition	tree layer continues to regenerate and provide habitat for swift parrot	
	Maintain cover of immature canopy trees and understory trees or large shrubs to a level < 20% higher than the EVC benchmark. If cover levels exceed 20% then they will be thinned to achieve a cover of ~5%. if the cover is significantly <5% than action to encourage generation of yellow gum and other shrubs will be implemented by addressing threats or planting tube stock to achieve cover closer to 5% (Vegetation Structure methodology is used to measure)	

not achieved	
partially achieved	
achieved	