



Swift Parrot Offset, Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead 40399

Year 4 Audit Report

DRAFT REPORT

Prepared for Department of Transport and Planning

22 August 2024

Biosis offices

New South Wales

Albury

Phone: (02) 6069 9200
 Email: albury@biosis.com.au

Gosford

Phone: (02) 9101 8700
 Email: gosford@biosis.com.au

Newcastle

Phone: (02) 4911 4040
 Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

Sydney

Phone: (02) 9101 8700
 Email: sydney@biosis.com.au

Western Sydney

Phone: (02) 9101 8700
 Email: sydney@biosis.com.au

Wollongong

Phone: (02) 4201 1090
 Email: wollongong@biosis.com.au

Victoria

Ballarat

Phone: (03) 5304 4250
 Email: ballarat@biosis.com.au

Melbourne

Phone: (03) 8686 4800
 Email: melbourne@biosis.com.au

Wangaratta

Phone: (03) 5718 6900
 Email: wangaratta@biosis.com.au



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Prepared by:	Molly Farquharson
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Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past and present and honour their connection to Country and ongoing contribution to society.

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Glossary

DCCEEW	Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formerly DELWP)
DELWP	Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTP	Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning
EPBC Act	<i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
LGA	Local Government Area
Locality	Area located within 10 km radius from the subject land
OMP	Offset Management Plan
WHS	Work Health and Safety

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to undertake the fourth-year independent audit report for the Old Glenorchy Road offset site. The original project impact was conducted under Regional Roads Victoria (RRV), formerly VicRoads, is now a part of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP; previously Department of Transport - DoT). This report recognises RRV as the approval holder and authority for the project.

The Old Glenorchy Road offset site (Figure 1) was established as an offset area under a Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Approval 2016/7809 in relation to impacts associated with road safety works on the Pyrenees Highway in Green Gully, Victoria (Biosis 2017a).

The Department of the Environment and Energy (now the Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment – DCCEEW; previously the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment- DAWE) determined that the road safety upgrade project would have a significant impact upon Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, and therefore the project was determined to be a controlled action (EPBC Approval 2016/7809), and compensatory offsets were required.

A suitable offset site was identified near Deep Lead in western Victoria. Two offset management plans (OMPs) were established to guide the management of the site:

- An OMP for the BushBroker Credit Site BB-3018 (Brett Lane & Associates 2017). The site is 31.25 hectares in area; and
- An OMP for the 4.5 hectare portion of the site to be allocated for Swift Parrot offsets for compliance with EPBC Approval 2016/7809 (Biosis 2017b).

The BushBroker Credit site has been used for provision of a range of offsets, including offsets for threatened flora, and some sections of the site may be yet to be allocated. The 4.5 hectare portion will be referred to in this report as the 'Swift Parrot Offset Area'. The BushBroker OMP (Brett Lane & Associates 2017) was amended to be consistent with the approved EPBC OMP (Biosis 2017b), to ensure that management requirements for the site are clear, and all specified within the overall site OMP.

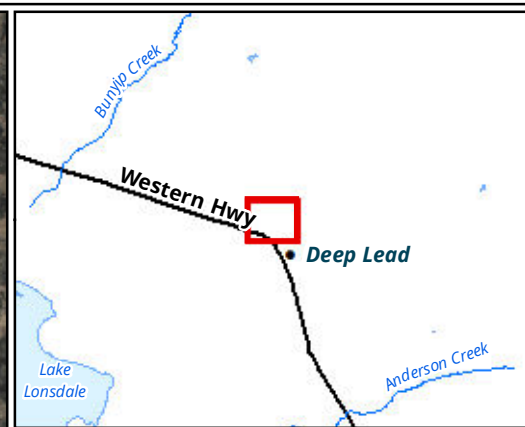
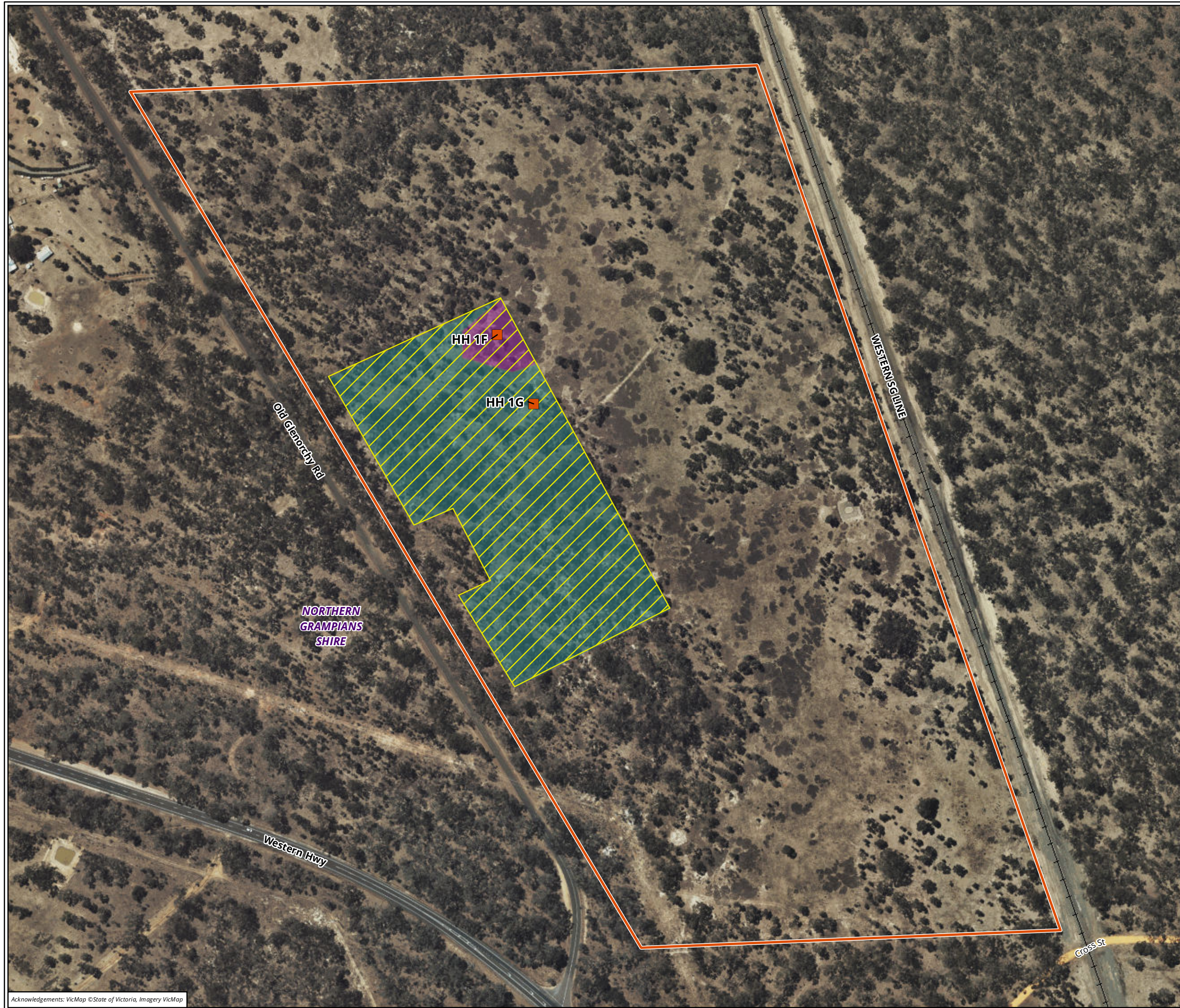
Under Condition 6 of the EPBC Approval 2016/7809, the RRV as the approval holder must ensure the Deep Lead offset site is managed in accordance with the Offset Management Plan for a period of at least 10 years commencing from 21 December 2018 the offset was secured. This includes the provision of audit reports at 1, 4, 8 and 10 year intervals to DCCEEW.

This Fourth-Year Audit Report has been prepared to meet EPBC approval and relates only to management of the Swift Parrot Offset Area, but may also consider external issues that have potential to impact upon the Swift Parrot Area, such as the condition of boundary fencing and prohibited activities.

1.2 Scope of assessment

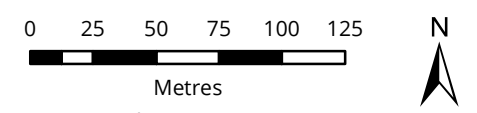
The objectives of this investigation are to:

- Desktop analysis of the following documents:
 - Year 1-4 Annual Offset Monitoring and Management reports.
 - On site work records.
 - Revegetation plant order lists.
 - Vegetation assessment report.
- A field inspection to:
 - Complete an independent assessment of the current conditions of Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
 - Undertake a native vegetation (habitat hectare) assessment of each habitat zone.
 - Record general observations regarding fence condition, exclusion of stock, herbaceous and woody weed occurrences, signs of pest animals, and signs of unauthorised access or activities.
 - Identify any non-compliances with management of the site.
 - Determine whether previous non-compliance actions have been rectified appropriately.
 - Take photographs of the study area to document current conditions and any notable observations.
- Prepare the Year 4 audit report that will document the findings of the desktop and field inspection. The audit report will be consistent with the Year 1 audit report.



- Legend**
- Study area
 - BushBroker Credit Site BB-3018
 - Swift Parrot Offset Area
 - Habitat Hectare Assessments
- Ecological Vegetation Class**
- Higher Rainfall Shallow Sands Woodland (EVC 882_61) - Zone 1G
 - Plains Sedgy Wetland (EVC 283) - Zone 1F

Figure 1 Old Glenorchy Road Offset Site



Scale: 1:3,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 30626/40399,
 Date: 23 July 2020,
 Checked by: MSG, Drawn by: AEDM, Last edited by: amurray
 Location: P:\30600s\30626\Mapping\30626_F1_OffsetSite.mxd

2 Methods

2.1 Information sources

This audit involves consideration of:

- The OMPs – Biosis (2017b) and Brett Lane & Associates (2017), focusing on the schedule of management actions and performance targets listed tables 8, 10 and 11 of Biosis (2017b).
- Approval conditions for EPBC Approval 2016/7809.
- The Year 1-3 monitoring reports for the offset site (Practical Ecology 2020, 2021a, 2021b).
- The Year 4 monitoring report for the offset site (Ecocentric 2023).
- Annual Monitoring / Management Action reports are to be prepared by the Offset site owner (Bush Blocks 2022).
- The Year 5 DELWP Landowners Report for the greater offset site area that includes the Swift Parrot habitat (DELWP 2022).
- Year 1 Ecological Audit report (Biosis 2020).
- Year 1 and Year 4 approval compliance reports (Regional Roads Victoria 2020, DoT 2023).

The annual monitoring report was prepared by Practical Ecology for Year 1, 2 and 3, and by Ecocentric Environmental Consulting for Year 4, on behalf of the offset site owner. See below for the timing of draft and final submission of the annual reports for the four years monitoring.

- Year 1: Draft submitted 23 January 2020. Final submitted 1 May 2020.
- Year 2: Draft submitted 14 January 2021. Final submitted 30 March 2021.
- Year 3: Draft submitted 29 November 2021. Final submitted 1 December 2021.
- Year 4: Final submitted 27 April 2023.

2.2 Site assessment

A site assessment for the Year 4 audit was conducted on 31 May 2024 by botanists Molly Farquharson and Tom Hewitt. The purpose of the assessment was to audit compliance with management actions specified in the site OMP (Biosis 2017b– tables 8, 10 and 11). Findings are summarised in Table 3 of this report.

The following information, listed below, was collected within the 4.5 hectare portion of the site allocated for Swift Parrot (Habitat Zones 1F and 1G), including the property boundary fences and adjoining areas of the total site:

- Habitat hectare assessment of each habitat zone;
- Site photographs; and
- Observations regarding fence condition, exclusion of stock, herbaceous and woody weed occurrences, signs of pest animals and signs of unauthorised access or activities.

2.3 Limitations

The site assessment was conducted in May 2024, following three years of relatively high rainfall and outside of the typical survey season for native vegetation. Despite this, the timing of the survey was suitable for assessing the general condition of the offset area and capturing photographs and observations for this audit report.

3 Results

3.1 Site observations

The site inspection involved walking the site, inspecting the condition of fences and looking for signs of weeds, pest animals and signs of unauthorised access or activities. The inspection was limited to the Swift Parrot Offset Area (Habitat Zones 1F and 1G), although the property boundary fences were also checked and photographed. Specific observations are based on assessing compliance with the objectives and standards to be achieved for the site in accordance with Table 8, 10 and 11 of the OMP (Biosis 2017b). Site observations are summarised in Sections 3.1.1 – 3.1.4.

3.1.1 Habitat Hectare Assessment

Habitat Hectare assessments were conducted in each Habitat Zone (refer to Section 3.2). Photographs of the zones are provided in Photo 1 (Plains Sedgy Woodland Habitat Zone 1F) and Photo 2 (Shallow Sands Woodland Habitat Zone 1G). Locations of the assessment areas are shown in Figure 1.

The Habitat Hectare assessment method is specified in the Biosis OMP as the method of monitoring general vegetation condition, including tree and shrub regeneration and overstorey condition. The current assessment shows that there has been little change in the condition of vegetation on the site following the first year of offset site management.

3.1.2 Weed Infestations (Herbaceous, Woody and New and Emerging Species)

No woody weeds were observed within the Zones 1F (Photo 1) or 1G (Photo 2).

Herbaceous weeds noted when undertaking the habitat hectare assessments include:

- Plains Sedgy Woodland Habitat Zone 1F (Photo 1)
 - Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
 - Onion Grass *Romulea rosea*
 - Common Centaury *Centaureum* sp.
- Shallow Sands Woodland Habitat Zone 1G (Photo 2)
 - Onion Grass *Romulea rosea*
 - Lesser Hawkbit *Leontodon saxatilis*
 - Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*

Cover of herbaceous weeds have dropped significantly in comparison to levels observed prior to establishment of the offset site. The OMP requires management to ensure that weed cover does not exceed current (prior to commencement of the OMP) levels. For habitat zones 1F and 1G, initial herbaceous weed levels were estimated at 20% and 25% respectively.

In the current assessment, it is estimated that herbaceous weed cover for zone 1G and 1F is approximately 5%.

3.1.3 Fence Boundaries - Exclusion of Stock, Unauthorised Activities and Vehicle Access

The fences have been replaced and appear to be effective at excluding stock and unauthorised vehicle access and are constructed to BushBroker (DSE 2012a) fencing standards. There appears to be possible unauthorised access via foot due to evidence of a pile of broken glass wine bottles observed during the May 2024 visit (Photo 5). Fencing is discussed further in Section 3.3.3.

3.1.4 Pest Animals – European Rabbit, Red Fox and European Hare

Signs of rabbit occupation were observed, including many latrine sites (Photo 3, Photo 4) throughout the offset site. Warrens that have been noted previously also had scats and scratching. Scats may have been deposited in the latrine site within 12 months of the site assessment, although it is difficult to be definitive regarding the age of the scats. Rabbit scats are known to persist for significant periods of time, potentially over 12 months in relatively dry environments (Mutze et al. 2014).

3.2 Habitat Hectare Assessment

A Habitat Hectare assessment was conducted by Biosis on 28 May 2024. The condition of the two habitat zones was assessed according to standard methods provided by DSE (2004) and pre-determined EVC benchmarks. The assessment is presented in Table 1. The purpose of this assessment is to provide a basis for comparison with the Habitat Hectare assessment conducted by Ecocentric for the Year 4 annual report (Ecocentric 2023). The Year 4 Habitat Hectare Assessment is discussed in Section 3.3.6.

Habitat Zone 1G (Photo 2), which covers the majority of the offset area, represents an area of very high quality vegetation, achieving a Habitat Hectare score of 71. The number of large trees in this zone exceeds the EVC benchmark requirement however the health of the canopy is less than 30%. The understorey is in good condition, but there are three missing life-forms (understorey trees, large herbs and medium non-tufted graminoids) and although one species of medium herb was recorded the cover was not sufficient for it to be considered as present. This lack of herbs is likely due to the timing of the visit. Total weed cover is <5% within this zone and at the time of assessment no “high-threat” weeds were recorded. Cover of organic litter meets and slightly exceeds the benchmark cover for this EVC but is within the upper margin of greater than 150% of the benchmark cover. Logs were present at greater than 50% of the benchmark cover but large logs are effectively absent.

Habitat Zone 1F (Photo 1) is in poorer condition (Habitat Hectare score of 47), as sections appear to have been cleared in the past. No large trees are present and few fallen logs were observed. Weed cover has significantly decreased (<5%) however the majority of the weed cover consists of “high-threat” weeds. Several life-forms are missing (immature trees, medium shrubs, large herbs, large tufted graminoids, large non-tufted graminoids and medium non-tufted graminoids) and like habitat zone 1G medium herbs are effectively absent despite a couple of species being recorded. No recruitment of woody species was observed. One fallen log was present in this zone.

Table 1 Habitat Hectares Assessment May 2024

Site ID		SPOQ1	SPOQ3
Habitat Zone ID		IF	IG
EVC #: Name		283 - Plains Sedgy Woodland	882_61 - Shallow Sands Woodland
		Max Score	Score
Site Condition	Large Trees	10	0
	Tree Canopy Cover	5	5
	Lack of Weeds	15	13
	Understorey	25	5
	Recruitment	10	0
	Organic Matter	5	3
	Logs	5	4
Total Site Score			30
Landscape Value	Patch Size	10	8
	Neighbourhood	10	5
	Distance to Core Area	5	4
	Total Landscape Score		17
Habitat points = #/100		100	47
CONDITION SCORE		1	0.470
			0.710

3.3 Compliance with management actions

The schedule of management actions is provided in Table 8 (Section 4) of the Biosis OMP (Biosis 2017b). Notes regarding compliance or non-compliance with these actions are addressed in Table 2 below. Where further information is required regarding compliance or non-compliance with OMP requirements, this is presented in the following sections.

3.3.1 Landholders annual report

The monitoring reports are titled:

- Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 1: Oct 18 – Oct 19. Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead (Practical Ecology 2020).
- Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 2: Oct 19 – Oct 20. Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead (Practical Ecology 2021a).
- Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 3: Oct 20 – Oct 21. Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead (Practical Ecology 2021b).

- Monitoring of Tree and Shrub Recruitment and Canopy Condition for Swift Parrot Offsets. 237 – 240 Old Glenorchy, Deep Lead (EPBC 2016/7809) Spring 2022 – Year 4 (Ecocentric 2023).
- Annual Management Report - Summary (EPBC 2016/7809) Swift Parrot Offsets Year 4 October 2021-October 2022. Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead (Bush Blocks 2022).

These reports present the findings of the monitoring and summarises inspections and works undertaken within the offset area.

The OMP requires that the Annual Report is to be submitted by October 4th each year.

For all years the monitoring report has been submitted to RRV after the due date of 4 October.

3.3.2 Monitoring schedule by the landholders

The annual monitoring report was prepared by Practical Ecology, on behalf of the offset site owner for years 1-3. Listed below are the section within each respective report where details of visits that had occurred for surveillance, land management or monitoring purposes:

- Year 1: Table 2 on page 12.
- Year 2: Appendix 2 on page 19.
- Year 3: Appendix 2 on page 22.

The Year 4 Monitoring Report was completed by Ecocentric Environmental Consulting and this only included details of monitoring visits. The Annual Management Report Summary by BushBlocks provides details on surveillance and land management visits.

3.3.3 Exclusion of stock, unauthorised activities and vehicle access

The OMP specifies that the offset area must be protected from stock, unauthorised activities and vehicle access, and that perimeter fencing of the property should be maintained to the standard detailed in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 (DSE 2012a).

Fencing was one of the items identified in the Year 1 Audit that was non-compliant. During Year 2 the north-west corner of the property was accessed and firewood collection occurred. This prompted the improvement of fencing with temporary star picket fencing. In response to the non-compliance from the Year 1 Audit and this unauthorised access the landholder agreed to install new fence around the boundary in line with the standards. This fencing was completed in December 2021 according to the RRV Compliance Assessment Report (DoT 2023).

During the visit by Biosis in May 2024 an unusual pile of broken glass was observed within the offset site (Photo 5). Based on this people may still be accessing the offset site by foot from either Old Glenorchy Road or the rail reserve. It is entirely possible that the glass pile has been present in the site since before the offset site was established but has not previously been noted due to its pre-existing establishment.

Fencing and exclusion of stock and unauthorised activities or vehicles is compliant with OMP and BushBroker requirements.

3.3.4 Weed control

The Year 1 Audit identified that weed monitoring had not been conducted in spring as stipulated in the OMP (Biosis 2017b) but in July 2019. The logbooks entries for Year 2 indicate that weed control was undertaken in September 2020 for understory species and that monitoring for woody and herbaceous weeds was undertaken on 5 and 6 October 2020. The Year 3 logbook shows that treatment of Stinkwort *Dittrichia graveolens* was conducted in April 2021 with follow up treatment in September 2021. The first round of treatment was not conducted at the optimal time in spring or summer for this species, as it was conducted in autumn, as specified in the OMP. The logbook for Year 4 shows that weed control was conducted three times, once each in spring 2021, autumn and winter 2022 (DELWP 2022). The daily works reports indicate that weed control for Stinkwort was conducted in February 2022, which is within the appropriate treatment time for this species.

It is recommended that in future years spring weed inspections should continue, to highlight areas where annual grassy weeds may require treatment. This is a requirement of the OMP. It is also recommended that weeds be noted during regular site inspections and treated as soon as possible as specified in Table 7 of the Biosis OMP (Biosis 2017b).

For woody weeds, the target in the OMP specifies elimination to less than 1% cover. The annual reports for all four years state that there have been no woody weeds observed on the site. This is supported by the Biosis inspections conducted in November 2019 and May 2024.

For herbaceous weeds, the target in the OMP specifies that cover should not exceed levels recorded at the beginning of the offset management period (December 2017), and that herbaceous weeds will not interfere with shrub and canopy recruitment. Large infestations of Stinkwort noted in annual reports and the Year 1 Audit were not evident during the May 2024 Biosis visit to the offset site.

Table 2 detail where information about weed management can be found in each year's annual report.

Table 2 Annual report weed management details.

Report Title, Authoring Company	Page number/s
Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 1: Oct 18-Oct 19, Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead. Practical Ecology	12-13
Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 2: Oct 19-Oct 20, Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead. Practical Ecology	10, 19
Swift Parrot Offset Monitoring Year 3: Oct 2020-Oct 2021, Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead. Practical Ecology.	10-11, 22
Monitoring Of Tree & Shrub Recruitment & Canopy Condition for Swift Parrot Offsets, 237 – 240 Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead (EPBC 2016/7809) Spring 2022 – Year 4. Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	2
Annual Management Report – Summary (EPBC 2016/7809) Swift Parrot Offsets, Old Glenorchy Road, Deep Lead Year 4: October 2021- October 2022. BushBlocks	5

Report Title, Authoring Company	Page number/s
DELWP Annual Report Form, Year 5*: August 2021-September 2022. DELWP	6-7, 29-34

*This corresponds to Year 4 referenced in this report

No obvious signs of weed control were observed within the Swift Parrot offset area during the November 2019 or May 2024 site inspection.

Monitoring of weeds is compliant with OMP requirements.

3.3.5 Pest animal control

Section 3.6 of the Practical Ecology 2020 Year 1 Report states that observations of pest animals were recorded in the property logbook, and that while there are signs of old rabbit warrens, none were active at the time of monitoring. Pest animal control and management has been compliant with the requirements of the OMP. Observations made in November 2019 by Biosis support this assessment.

The Year 2 Report states that observations of rabbit activity, including fresh scats and scratching of the ground, had increased but that old warrens remained inactive (Practical Ecology 2021a). In Year 3 indirect evidence increase again, particularly around the previously inactive warrens (Practical Ecology 2021b). Practical Ecology recommended that inspections of rabbit warrens for occupancy be conducted occur at the regular site inspections and then proceed with baiting and collapsing of warrens. The BushBlocks (2022) annual management report states that pest control was undertaken in Year 4 as recommended and this is confirmed in the logbook entries which state the control occurred in September 2022 (DELWP 2022).

Old warrens were still present during the May 2024 inspection by Biosis, as was relatively recent looking scats both near old warrens and throughout the site. There had been rain just before this visit so scats may have been perceived as fresher than they were.

As required by the OMP, the property owner/manager should continue to monitor for fresh signs of all pest activity and undertake management action if required.

Pest animal control is currently assessed as compliant with the OMP requirements (Table 3).

3.3.6 Habitat Hectare Assessment

Annual habitat hectare assessments for Years 1, 2 and 3 were conducted in January 2020 and September 2020 and 2021 respectively by Practical Ecology and Year 4 was conducted in October 2022 by Ecocentric Ecology. One plot was assessed in Habitat Zone 1F and five plots in Habitat Zone 1G.

Biosis conducted an assessment in both zones (single plots) in November 2019 and May 2024 (Section 3.2).

The habitat scores calculated by these assessments are relatively consistent, and are well within the range of variation normally expected when assessments are undertaken by different observers. Over the four years of annual monitoring quadrats SPOQ1, SPOQ2, SPOQ4 and SPOQ5 have increased in score and SPOQ3 and SPOQ6 have only decreased slightly between Year 3 and Year 4 but this is again consistent with the assessments being undertaken by different assessors. At the end Year 4, for Habitat Zone 1F, Ecocentric Consulting calculated a site score of 59, and Biosis calculated a site score of 47. For Habitat Zone 1G, Ecocentric Consulting site scores ranged from 59 to 76, and Biosis calculated a site score of 71.

The Annual Monitoring Habitat Hectare Assessments indicate that the condition of the vegetation within the site has increased slightly since the implementation of the OMP at this site. The assessment by Biosis in May 2024 indicates that the quality of vegetation in Habitat Zone 1F may have decreased slightly and Habitat Zone 1G has remained stable. However, these observed variations are likely to be attributable to the timing of the Biosis visit.

A Habitat Hectares assessment has been conducted every year and this item is considered compliant.

3.3.7 Tree and shrub regeneration and overstorey condition

For Year 1, Practical Ecology have undertaken the specified monitoring of tree and shrub regeneration and overstorey condition. The assessment was undertaken in January 2020 which was not within the Year 1 monitoring period and not the recommended time (Autumn) for the monitoring. The monitoring should have been undertaken in Autumn 2019, and therefore this item was considered non-compliant with OMP requirements in the Year 1 Audit. At the end of the same year Practical Ecology (2020) have suggested that the monitoring methods specified in the OMP do not provide sufficient resolution or appropriate information to guide on-ground management. The additional monitoring methods were proposed in Section 5 of the same Practical Ecology report.

These additional monitoring methods were implemented in Year 2 and 3 by Practical Ecology and the percentage of sample points in each Vegetation Structure Score category (Good, 1, 2, 3, Poor) remained consistent over these years. These additional methods were not conducted in Year 4 by Ecocentric Ecology. In their annual report they suggested that the more intensive methods did not need to be conducted annually due to “the slow pace of detectable change” in the EVCs present.

The cohort monitoring has been conducted every year and is considered compliant.

Table 3 Compliance with management actions

Year No.	Objective – Habitat Zones 1G & 1F	Timing of activity – month(s)	Standard to be achieved	Compliance
1 and ongoing	<p>1. Exclusion of stock, unauthorised activities and vehicle access.</p> <p>Ensure the offset site is appropriately fenced from neighbouring land and road reserves.</p> <p>Fences to be monitored and maintained in functional condition.</p>	Within 1 month of commencement of agreement.	<p>Exclusion of domestic stock from offset area.</p> <p>Exclusion of vehicles from offset area.</p> <p>Exclusion of unauthorised access or unauthorised firewood collection.</p> <p>Maintain fencing around the perimeter of the property to the standard detailed in BushBroker Information Sheet 12 – Standards for Management – Fencing (DSE 2012a) (sheep fencing standard). Any new fences, if required to control threats to ecological values, will be constructed to this standard.</p>	<p>An incident of unauthorised access and firewood collection was noted during Year 2. This prompted the replacement of the fencing around the greater offset site which was completed in October 2022.</p> <p>There are no other signs of recent access by vehicles or stock.</p> <p>Compliant.</p> <p><i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.3.</i></p>
1 and ongoing	<p>2. Remove all woody weed infestations within the offset area.</p> <p>Weeds to be managed in accordance with BushBroker Information Sheet 8 – Standards for Management – Weeds (DSE 2012b).</p>	Within 1 month of commencement of agreement.	<p>No woody weeds present within offset area (< 1% cover).</p> <p>Woody weeds not to interfere with shrub and canopy recruitment.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage (avoid all native plants)</p>	<p>No woody weeds observed within the offset site by Practical Ecology, Ecocentric Ecology or Biosis in any year.</p> <p>Practical Ecology and Ecocentric Ecology have both noted Sugar Gums <i>Eucalyptus cladyocalyx</i> in the greater site area.</p> <p>Compliant.</p> <p><i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.4.</i></p>

Year No.	Objective – Habitat Zones 1G & 1F	Timing of activity – month(s)	Standard to be achieved	Compliance
Annual	<p>3. Monitor and control herbaceous weeds.</p> <p>Control methods and timing specified in Table 6 and in accordance with (DSE 2012b).</p>	Refer to Table 6.	<p>Herbaceous weed cover to not exceed current levels.</p> <p>Herbaceous weeds not to interfere with shrub and canopy recruitment.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage (avoid all native plants)</p>	<p>Formal monitoring has occurred at the same time as the vegetation and cohort monitoring for Years 2, 3 and 4. Informal notes also continued to be taken during site visits. Not all weed control has been conducted in line with the OMP.</p> <p>Herbaceous weed cover has remained fairly consistent over the four years of monitoring. Higher levels detected during the Year 4 audit visit is likely due to the timing of this particular assessment.</p> <p>Partially compliant.</p> <p><i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.4.</i></p>
Ongoing	<p>4. Monitor and control new and emerging woody weeds.</p>	Ongoing	<p>New outbreaks of woody weeds to be removed as soon as detected.</p> <p>No woody weeds present within offset area.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage (avoid all native plants).</p>	<p>No new outbreaks of woody weeds require treatment.</p> <p>Compliant.</p> <p><i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.4.</i></p>
Ongoing	<p>5. Monitor and control Rabbits, Hares and Foxes.</p> <p>Rabbits to be managed in accordance with BushBroker Information Sheet 7 (DSE 2012c).</p>	Ongoing	<p>No fresh ground disturbance by pest animals (particularly rabbits) observed in the offset area.</p> <p>No active rabbit warrens within offset area, minimal surface harbour for rabbits and hares present (but excluding natural harbour such as logs and rocks).</p> <p>No active fox dens within offset area, if present they are to be destroyed through fumigation and hand collapse.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and control rabbits and foxes all year round.</p>	<p>Rabbit activity has been increasing since Year 1 but particularly in Year 3. Fresh scratchings and latrines have been noted by Practical Ecology, Ecocentric Ecology and Biosis over Year 3 and 4.</p> <p>Warrens appear to be remaining inactive, but control actions should be continued.</p> <p>Compliant.</p> <p><i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.5.</i></p>

Year No.	Objective – Habitat Zones 1G & 1F	Timing of activity – month(s)	Standard to be achieved	Compliance
Ongoing	6. Monitor and control all new and emerging pest animals.	Ongoing	Control numbers of any new and emerging pests.	Monitoring for rabbits and foxes should continue and management actions should occur as required. Compliant.
Annual	7. Monitor tree and shrub regeneration and overstorey condition and undertake supplementary planting or ecological thinning if required (section 3.3.6, 3.3.7).	Autumn	Tree layer continues to regenerate and provide foraging habitat for Swift Parrot. Maintain cover of immature canopy trees and understorey trees or large shrubs to a level of not greater than 20% higher than the EVC benchmark (Appendix 6). If cover levels of the relevant species exceed 20% then they will be thinned to achieve a cover of approximately 5%. If the cover of either group is significantly less than 5% then action to encourage regeneration of Yellow Gum and other shrubs will be implemented by either addressing threats to regeneration or planting nursery stock to achieve a cover closer to 5%.	Since Year 1, where the monitoring was undertaken in January 2020 and was considered non-compliant, monitoring has been undertaken in Spring. Due to a discrepancy in the OMP (Biosis 2017b), this is compliant. The additional monitoring methods suggested by Practical Ecology (2020) were implemented in Year 2 and 3. Compliant. <i>Further detail provided in Section 3.3.6 and 3.3.7.</i>
All (annually)	Prepare and submit an annual report.	Submit 2 months prior to agreement anniversary date. Annual reporting under this OMP will be aligned with the reporting requirements of the BushBroker Agreement.	Annual report is signed, dated and submitted by the landholder at least 2 months prior to the anniversary date of the agreement, as specified in the BushBroker agreement.	The annual report is to be completed by 30 November each year. The report has been submitted late every year. Below are the final version dates for all years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1: 1 May 2020 Year 2: 30 March 2021 Year 3: 1 December 2021 Year 4: 27 April 2023 Non-compliant.

Note: Section, table and appendix number references within the first four columns relate to the (Biosis 2017b).

4 Conclusion

Management and monitoring of the Old Glenorchy Road Offset site has been managed in accordance with most requirements of the OMP (Biosis 2017b), however there are several items of non-compliance or partial compliance highlighted in this report. Items where action is required to ensure future compliance are noted in Table 4.

Table 4 Summary of non-compliance items and recommended action

OMP requirement	Compliance	Recommended action
Annual control and monitoring of woody and herbaceous weeds	Partially compliant	Weeds should continue to be monitored at any and all site visits made, and any infestations are noted. Follow up and treatment should occur with the timings recommended on page 28 of the Biosis (2017b) OMP.
Prepare and submit an annual report	Non-compliant	Submit future monitoring reports within the required timeframe.

During the writing of this audit report a discrepancy was discovered in the appropriate timing for monitoring to occur. Table 8 on page 33 of the OMP states that monitoring should occur in autumn, however, table 10 on page 41 states that monitoring should occur in spring (Biosis 2017b). Our recommendation on this matter is to continue to conduct monitoring in spring so that comparisons can remain consistent in future years. We also recommend that future audits occur in spring as well.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Photos of the study area



Photo 1 Plains Sedgy Woodland – Habitat Zone 1F; SPOQ1.



Photo 2 Shallow Sands Forest – Habitat Zone 2G; SPOQ3.



Photo 3 Evidence of rabbit activity, latrine site.



Photo 4 Evidence of rabbit activity, latrine site.



Photo 5 Possible evidence of unauthorized access by foot, pile of broken wine bottles.



Photo 6 Fence condition along Old Glenorchy Road.



Photo 7 Recruitment of wattles and eucalypts in habitat zone 1G.



Photo 8 Recruitment of eucalypts in habitat zone 1G.

