

Appendix F

Fauna Spotter Catcher Procedure

The following will be implemented prior to and during clearing works.

Pre-clearing

A Fauna Spotter Catcher Survey will be completed to confirm MNES habitat to be cleared or disturbed within 72 hours of the commencement of the works. The survey will be carried out by a Fauna Spotter Catcher with demonstrated experience in conducting threatened fauna species surveys to ensure potential impacts to MNES fauna are avoided.

The Fauna Spotter Catcher Survey will confirm the presence of any MNES within the Stage 1 Clearing Footprint, as follows:

- Survey will be carried out on foot to ensure the entirety of the area to be cleared or disturbed is surveyed.
- Any potential breeding places will be inspected for activity and presence of MNES fauna through active observation (including listening for characteristic vocalisation and watching for visual signs of nest attending behaviour) and use of inspection cameras to assist inspection of nests, unless unsafe to do so (e.g. extreme heights or hazards limiting access).
- Destructive inspection of habitat (i.e. raking leaf litter, removing loose tree bark, lifting logs and rocks) will be conducted to find and relocate any fauna within the Stage 1 Clearing Footprint to suitable habitat outside of the Stage 1 Clearing Footprint.
- Soil cracks that contain signs of fauna activity (e.g. burrowing, scratches, tracks, scats) will be visually inspected for Julia Creek dunnarts.

If MNES are located:

- The location of MNES individuals or breeding places will be recorded with GPS
- The status (active/inactive) of breeding places will be recorded with both written and photographic evidence
- An Exclusion Zone (50 m radius) will be established around the individual or the active breeding place until:
 - the Fauna Spotter Catcher safely relocates the individual or confirms the individual is no longer known to be present in the area; or
 - breeding in the breeding place has ceased, and the Fauna Spotter Catcher confirms the breeding place has become inactive; or
 - the Fauna Spotter Catcher safely removes the eggs or young for transport to a suitably qualified wildlife carer or vet (only if avoiding the active breeding place is not possible)
- The location of any individuals or active breeding places will be provided to the Project Environmental Representative
- The Fauna Spotter Catcher will check potential breeding places to ensure that they are inactive before clearing commences in the area

Any habitat features that are identified as potentially inhabited by MNES species, but cannot be confirmed, will be clearly delineated marked (such as flagging tape) and location recorded with GPS.

No red goshawk nest will be directly cleared and/or impacted. This will be managed by installing an Exclusion Zone around the nest.

Clearing Works

A Fauna Spotter Catcher will be present during all vegetation clearing works. The Fauna Spotter Catcher will inspect any unconfirmed habitat features as marked up during the Fauna Spotter Catcher Survey immediately before and after it has been felled or disturbed.

All clearing in fauna habitat areas must be undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified Fauna Spotter Catcher, who must remain within line-of-sight of clearing operations

The suitably qualified Fauna Spotter Catcher shall be empowered to halt clearing activities where unapproved impacts to breeding places or sensitive fauna may occur, or where additional time is required to safely relocate fauna.

In the event that an active MNES breeding place is identified during clearing that was not identified during the Pre-construction Fauna Survey or Fauna Spotter Catcher Survey, works in the area will be suspended immediately. An Exclusion Zone (50 m radius) will be established around the breeding place. Where possible, micro-siting will avoid MNES breeding places, if this cannot be achieved, the exclusion zone will be maintained until the eggs or young have been safely removed. The location of the threatened fauna and active breeding places will be provided to the Project Environmental Representative. Once the breeding place has been confirmed to be inactive, the Fauna Spotter Catcher will remove the breeding place and the Exclusion Zone will be removed and clearing activities within the zone will commence.

Any MNES fauna displaced by disturbance to the habitat feature will be relocated by the Fauna Spotter Catcher to a suitable habitat outside of the Stage 1 Clearing Footprint.

MNES fauna that appears to be injured will be assessed by the Fauna Spotter Catcher and if required transported for assessment and care by a suitably qualified vet or wildlife carer as soon as possible. Rehabilitation of protected wildlife will be undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice – Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland* (DES, 2020).