



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment

## Supplementary Form C

- Threatened species & Ecological Communities
- Migratory species
- Listed marine species

(use Form A for Cetaceans)

*Use this supplementary form if you are applying for a permit to kill, injure, take, trade, keep or move a listed species or ecological community, a listed migratory species, or a listed marine species in a Commonwealth Area. You will also need to complete "The General Permit Application Form".*

*If you are proposing to take or send specimens out of Australia it is likely that you will also need an export permit. Import permits may also be necessary for taking specimens into an overseas country. For more information on imports and exports contact the Wildlife Trade Assessments Section on 02 6274 1900 or email [wps@awe.gov.au](mailto:wps@awe.gov.au).*

*Please note that it is a requirement under subsection 200(3) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 that details of this application (which may include the applicant's name) be provided to persons or bodies registered with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under section 266A of the Act, and to whom notice of applications is to be given, for the purpose of inviting submissions from those persons or bodies regarding permit applications.*

**1** Under which section(s) of the EPBC Act are you applying for this permit?

It will help you complete your application if you know which list in the EPBC Act the affected species/ecological community appears on.

Search the lists at: [www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl)

Please note some species appear on more than one list. For example, the Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* is a listed threatened species, a listed migratory species, and a listed marine species.

**Select all that apply**

Section 201 — Listed threatened species and ecological communities ☒

Section 216 — Listed migratory species ☐

Section 258 — Listed marine species ☐

**2** On the next page list details of species or ecological communities that will be affected by the action.

Use the following codes to enter details in columns 3, 4 and 5.

**Column 3 Conservation status of threatened species or ecological communities under EPBC Act**

EW Extinct in the wild  
EX Extinct  
CE Critically endangered  
EN Endangered  
VU Vulnerable  
CD Conservation dependent

**Column 5 Type of effect**

DE Death  
IN Injury  
TR Trading  
TA Taking  
KE Keeping  
MO Moving

Details of species or ecological communities that will be affected by the action.

| Common name of listed species/ecological communities, listed migratory species, or listed marine species. | Scientific name of species<br>Common and scientific names are available at the Department's website:<br><a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl">www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl</a>   | Conservation status under EPBC Act | Estimated number that will be affected. For ecological communities, provide estimate of the affected area   | Type of effect |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plan (NTGVVP)                                       | Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plan (NTGVVP) at the Site includes but may not be limited to:<br>Kangaroo grass ( <i>Themeda triandra</i> )<br>Wallaby grasses ( <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.)<br>Spear Grass ( <i>Austrostipa</i> spp.)<br>Tussock Grass ( <i>Poa</i> spp.) | CE                                 | One patch of NTGVVP (approximately 656 m <sup>2</sup> ) was identified during field vegetation survey in the Hart Precinct at Essendon Airport (location of proposed development) | DE             |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |
|   |  |                                    |   |                |

Where the project is of less than 1 km<sup>2</sup> in size, provide the location as a single pair of latitude and longitude references. Latitude and longitude references should be used instead of AMG and/or digital coordinates.

Locality: Essendon Airport, Victoria

|              |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Latitude:    | degrees: | minutes: | seconds: |
| 315487.5271  |          |          |          |
| Longitude:   | degrees: | minutes: | seconds: |
| 5822584.8815 |          |          |          |

Where the project area is greater than 1 km<sup>2</sup>, or any dimension is greater than 1 km, provide additional coordinates to enable accurate identification of the location of the project area.

Attach a map to show the boundaries of the area in which the action will be conducted.





3 Provide an attachment describing the action addressing the following points.

- A. The objectives and purposes of the action;
- B. The equipment and methods used;

Refer Attached.

4 What are the likely short and long term impacts of the proposed action on the species or the ecological community?

An ecological survey was completed across both airside and landside areas of Essendon Airport (Kleinfelder, 2020). The survey identified discrete patches of natural temperate grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains (NTGVVP).

All patches of NTGVVP identified were considered to be of low quality as they contain between 25-50% introduced weed species.

The proposed action will likely result in the permanent loss of up to 656 m<sup>2</sup> (0.066 hectares) of NTGVVP, which occurs adjacent to an existing development within the Hart Precinct at Essendon Airport.

5 Describe the steps that will be taken to minimise impacts on the listed species/ecological community, including contingency plans in the case of events that may adversely affect members of the species/ecological community.

As Essendon Fields comprises an operational airport and retail/business precincts, siting of the proposed development (laboratory) has been considered with respect to aviation safety requirements (i.e. Civil Aviation Safety Authority) and federal legislation (*Airports Act 1996*).

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to recent developments on Global Avenue within the Hart Precinct.

The development will be undertaken in accordance with approvals granted under the *Airports Act 1996*.

A project-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is yet to be developed, but will be implemented for the proposed development works and shall detail measures to minimise impacts to the affected patch of NTGVVP (where possible) and protect the surrounding land from indirect impacts, including erosion control and surface water management.

Control measures to be incorporated in the CEMP and implemented during the works are likely to include:

- Establishment of secure temporary fencing to clearly delineate construction areas
- Use of hoarding and barriers to protect retained vegetation (where applicable)

Implementation of measures to minimise the introduction and spread of weed species, including but not limited to the following:

- Defined traffic pathways for vehicles moving through the site
- Vehicle and machinery wash down prior to demobilising from site.
- Sediment and erosion control, including installation of silt fencing and stockpile management
- Implementing of bunding and establishment of chemical storage areas, where required
- Establishment of appropriately designed waste storage and handling areas to manage construction waste and to prevent uncontrolled release into the environment.

6 Attach a description of any research relevant to the affected species or communities that will be carried out in the course of or in conjunction with the proposed action, including:

- A. a copy of the research proposal;
- B. the names of the researchers and institutions involved in or supporting the research; and
- C. relationship of the researchers to the permit applicant, including any funding being provided by the permit applicant.

7 Will the action involve invasive techniques?

No ☒ **Go to next question**

Yes ☐ If permit relates to mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians, attach evidence that the proposed methods have been approved by an independent Animal Ethics Committee (this may include a State or Territory ethics committee, even if the action is conducted in a Commonwealth area).

**A permit can only be issued under one of the following criteria: the action**

- will contribute significantly to the conservation of a listed species/ecological community (go to Question 8); or
- will be incidental to, and not the purpose of the action (go to Question 12); or
- is of particular significance to indigenous tradition (go to Question 15); or
- is necessary to control pathogen(s) (go to Question 18).

8 Are you applying on the basis that the action will contribute significantly to the conservation of a listed species/ecological community?

No ☒ **Go to 12**

Yes ☐ **Go to next question**

9 Why do you believe that the action will contribute significantly to the conservation of listed species/ecological communities, listed migratory species or listed marine species?

- 10** Will the proposed action implement the recommendations of any recovery plan or wildlife conservation plan in force for the species or ecological community that may be affected by the action?

*Commonwealth recovery plans that are in force are available at*

*[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-list-common.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-list-common.html)*

*Commonwealth wildlife conservation plans that are in force are available at*

*[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory/publications/shorebird-plan.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory/publications/shorebird-plan.html)*

*State and territory recovery plans are available from state and territory environmental agencies.*

No ☐ **Go to next question**

Yes ☐ Describe how this will be implemented.

- 11** Will the proposed action respond directly or indirectly to recommendations of any national or international organisation responsible for management of the affected species?

No ☐ **Go to next question**

Yes ☐ Describe how the proposed action will respond.

- 12** Are you applying on the basis that the impact of the action will be incidental to, and not the purpose of, the action?

No ☐ **Go to 15**

Yes ☒ **Go to next question**

- 13** Why do you believe that the impact of the action will be incidental to and not the purpose of the action?

The purpose of the action is to construct a laboratory on Global Avenue, within the Hart Precinct at Essendon Airport.

The siting of the proposed development has been driven by safety constraints and in accordance with the Essendon Airport Master Plan (2013) and approvals granted under the *Airports Act 1996*.

The potential impact (loss) to a patch of NTGVVP within the Hart Precinct (up to 656 m<sup>2</sup>) is incidental to, and not the purpose of the action.

A CEMP will be implemented for the proposed development works and shall detail measures to minimise impacts to the affected patch of NTGVVP (where possible).

- 14** Why do you believe that the taking of the action will not adversely affect the:

- i. survival or recovery in nature of the species or ecological community?
- ii. conservation status of a listed species or ecological community?

A significant impact assessment against the relevant EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 is provided below.

1. Possibility that the action will reduce the extent of an ecological community

The proposed action may result in the loss of up to 656m<sup>2</sup> (0.066 hectares) of NTGVVP. The ecological survey completed by Kleinfelder (2020) identified approximately 1.78 hectares of NTGVVP occurring across airside and landside areas.

Based on this, the loss of 0.066 hectares (approximately 4% of the total NTGVVP identified at Essendon Airport) of the community is considered minor and will not constitute a significant impact to the NTGVVP.

2. Possibility that the action will fragment or increase fragmentation of an ecological community, for example by clearing vegetation for roads or transmission lines

The proposed action is not likely to result in fragmentation of an ecological community. The patch of NTGVVP is isolated and in its current form would be considered fragmented and highly eroded by the last 70 years of urbanisation.

3. Possibility that the action will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of an ecological community

The area in which the patch of affected NTGVVP occurs (including the wider airport area) is subject to grass mowing (approximately 2-3 weekly schedule) to minimise safety risks to aircraft from bird strikes.

The airport provides limited fauna habitat due to the highly disturbed and cleared nature of the property and conditions within the airport are considered unlikely to form suitable habitat for species of flora and fauna listed under the EPBC Act.

The patch of NTGVVP that will be impacted by the proposed action is small, directly threatened by weeds of National significance, does not support threatened plants or animals and has minimal habitat features.

This patch of NTGVVP is therefore not considered to be an important example of NTGVVP and is unlikely to be critical to the survival of the NTGVVP ecological community.

4. Possibility that the action will modify or destroy abiotic (non-living) factors (such as water, nutrients, or soil) necessary for an ecological community's survival, including reduction of groundwater levels, or substantial alteration of surface water drainage patterns

The combination of historical agricultural practices (prior to development of Essendon Airport) and current airport management practices including grass mowing and pesticide application are likely to have resulted in a high level of disturbance/modification of the land surface, with vegetation considered to be highly

modified and compromised in terms of its quality and retention value. The ecological survey completed by Kleinfelder in 2020 concluded that the patches of NTGVVP at Essendon Airport were of relatively low quality, with low diversity of flora species and all areas impacted by exotic weeds.

The proposed action will result in minor indirect impact including minor changes to surface water flows however these will be managed by appropriate stormwater infrastructure to a legal point of discharge.

Any portions of the affected patch of NTGVVP that may be retained may be affected in the long term by shading from the development and changes in the surface water drainage which may otherwise result in the loss of retained NTGVVP.

5. Possibility that the action will cause a substantial change in the species composition of an occurrence of an ecological community, including causing a decline or loss of functionally important species, for example through regular burning or flora or fauna harvesting

The proposed action is not considered likely to cause a substantial change in the quality of functionally important species within retained NTGVVP. The proposed action does not include burning, emission of pollutants or application of herbicides, pesticides or fertiliser.

It is noted that on-going maintenance of grass (mowing to maintain a low vegetation profile for safety requirements) is likely to cause decline or loss of species in remnant NTGVVP.

6. Possibility that the action will cause a substantial reduction in the quality or integrity of an occurrence of an ecological community, including, but not limited to:

- assisting invasive species, that are harmful to the listed ecological community, to become established; or
- causing regular mobilisation of fertilisers, herbicides or other chemicals or pollutants into the ecological community which kill or inhibit the growth of species in the ecological community

The potential for the proposed action to introduce or spread weed species will be managed by the CEMP in order to protect the retained NTGVVP from further decline. The proposed action is not expected to cause a substantial change in the species composition of the retained patch of NTGVVP.

The project-specific CEMP will include measures for weed control, pollution prevention, management of surface water drainage, sedimentation and dust management.

7. Possibility that the action will interfere with the recovery of an ecological community

The patch of NTGVVP that will be impacted by the proposed action is small and unlikely to be important for the recovery of the community given

its location adjacent within an area of historical land disturbance, including more recent soil stockpiles and developments on Global Avenue. The proposed action will not interfere with the recovery of an ecological community.

- 15 Are you applying on the basis that the action is of particular significance to indigenous tradition?

No ☒ **Go to 18**

Yes ☐ **Go to next question**

- 16 Explain why do you believe that the proposed action will be of particular significance to indigenous tradition?

- 17 Why do you believe that the proposed action will not adversely affect the:

- i. survival or recovery in nature of the listed species or ecological community; or
- ii. conservation status of the listed species or ecological community.

- 18 Are you applying on the basis that the action is necessary to control a pathogen(s), and is conducted in a way that will, as far as is practicable, keep to a minimum any impact on listed species/ecological communities, listed migratory species or listed marine species?

No ☒ **Continue to Payment Section**

Yes ☐ **Go to next question**

- 19 Why do you believe that the action is necessary for the control of pathogen(s)?

- 20 Explain how the action will be conducted in a way to minimise impacts on the species/communities affected.

**If you have answered NO to Questions 8, 12, 15 and 18, it is unlikely that a permit can be issued under the EPBC Act.**

## 21 Fees

The following fees apply:

- permits relating to listed threatened species or ecological communities - \$100
- permits relating to listed migratory species - nil
- permits relating to listed marine species – nil

Please note that exemption from fee payment may apply under circumstances as set out in EPBC Regulation 18.04.

## 22 Method of Payment

To make a payment, the department's preferred methods of payment are by credit card, bank cheque or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). A tax invoice can be arranged prior to payment, but you should allow up to five business days to process the transaction.

Please contact [EPBC.permits@awe.gov.au](mailto:EPBC.permits@awe.gov.au) if you would like to request a tax invoice.

### Credit Card

Please submit your permit application to the Department to obtain a permit reference number. This reference number will be required when you contact the Department to make the payment.

Contact the Collector of Public Money (Accounts)  
on (02) 6274 1151

### EFT Payments

EFT Payments can be made to:

BSB: 092-009

Bank Account No. 115859

Amount: See applicable fee in section 21 above.

Account Name: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Department address: GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601

Bank: Reserve Bank of Australia

Bank Address: 20-22 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2601

Description: Part 13 permit application fee [Include name of project]

Reference: [include Permit reference number (if known)]

## 23 Attachments

Indicate below which documents are attached.

Description of proposed action

**See question 3** ☒

Description of relevant research

**See question 6** ☐

Evidence of approval of invasive techniques

**See question 7** ☐

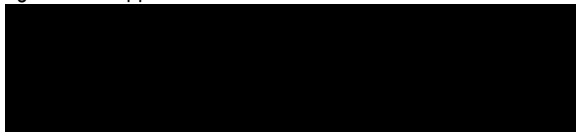
Details for payment of fee

**See question 22** ☒

## 24 Declaration

I declare that the information contained in this supplementary form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of applicant



Name of person signing



Date

22 December 2021

### Send this application and fee to:

EPBC Referrals  
Environment Approvals Division  
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [EPBC.Permits@awe.gov.au](mailto:EPBC.Permits@awe.gov.au)