

APPENDIX H

Greg Harewood Fauna Habitat Review 2022

Carbone Bros. Pty Ltd
C/- Lundstrom Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd
21 Sellen Court
LEEMING WA 6149

Attention: Mike Lundstrom

Dear Mike

RE: Habitat Review - Lot 5 Wellesley Road, Wellesley - CPS 8561/1 - Revised clearing area.

1. BACKGROUND

This report details the results of a fauna habitat review carried out within a section of Lot 5 Wellesley Road, Wellesley.

It is understood that the proponent Carbone Bros Pty Ltd applied for a clearing permit (CPS 8561/1) over a section of the Lot 5 to allow for an existing sand extraction operation to continue (the subject site). A fauna assessment of the subject site (and some adjoining areas making up a previous, now cancelled application area – ref CPS 8007/1) was undertaken in 2018 (Harewood 2018).

The proponent has however added an additional area of bushland to the new proposal that was not subject to survey previously. Upon review the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have requested a fauna habitat review be undertaken of this new section. This letter report details the results of this review.

2. SCOPE

DWER (2022) stated that to proceed with the assessment, survey data will be required for the additional area particularly in regard to:

- Black cockatoo habitat trees;
- Black cockatoo foraging habitat; and
- Western ringtail possum (WRP) habitat.



3. METHODS

The additional area was surveyed on the 6 May 2022 by Greg Harewood (Zoologist)

Fauna Habitat Assessment

A brief description of the vegetation communities, landforms and soils observed during the fauna assessment are provided.

Black Cockatoo Habitat Trees

The black cockatoo habitat tree assessment involved the identification of all suitable trees species within the subject site that had a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of equal to or over 50cm. The DBH of each tree was estimated using a pre-made 50 cm “caliper”.

Target tree species included marri and jarrah or any other *Corymbia/Eucalyptus* species of a suitable size that may have been present. Peppermints, banksia, sheoak and melaleuca tree species (for example) were not assessed as they typically do not develop hollows that are used by black cockatoos.

The size and nature of any potential or actual hollows with any habitat trees identified was noted.

Black Cockatoo Foraging Habitat

The location and nature of black cockatoo foraging evidence (e.g. chewed fruits around base of trees) observed during the field survey was noted. The nature and extent of potential foraging habitat present was also documented irrespective of the presence of any actual foraging evidence.

Western Ringtail Possum Assessment

The additional area was searched for evidence of use by western ringtail possums such as dreys (and other potential daytime refuge habitat), scats and individual WRPs.

The nature and extent of potential WRP habitat present was also documented irrespective of any actual evidence of presence.



4. RESULTS

Fauna Habitat Assessment

The subject site is continuous with the previously survey area of bushland and contains almost identical vegetation units and soils. The vegetation present is comprised of a jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) open woodland (with a very small number of marri (*Corymbia calophylla*)) over a low woodland dominated by peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) with occasional banksia (*Banksia attenuata* and *B. grandis*) on sand.

As with the other section of the proposed clearing area it appears that the area has been subject to significant historical/ongoing disturbance (fire, partial clearing and firewood collecting) with most trees being relatively small, indicative of relatively recent regrowth. Ground cover and low shrubs are very sparse, with the majority of the subject site containing a mosaic of open, highly degraded areas interspersed with occasional shrubs and grasses. An example image is provided below.

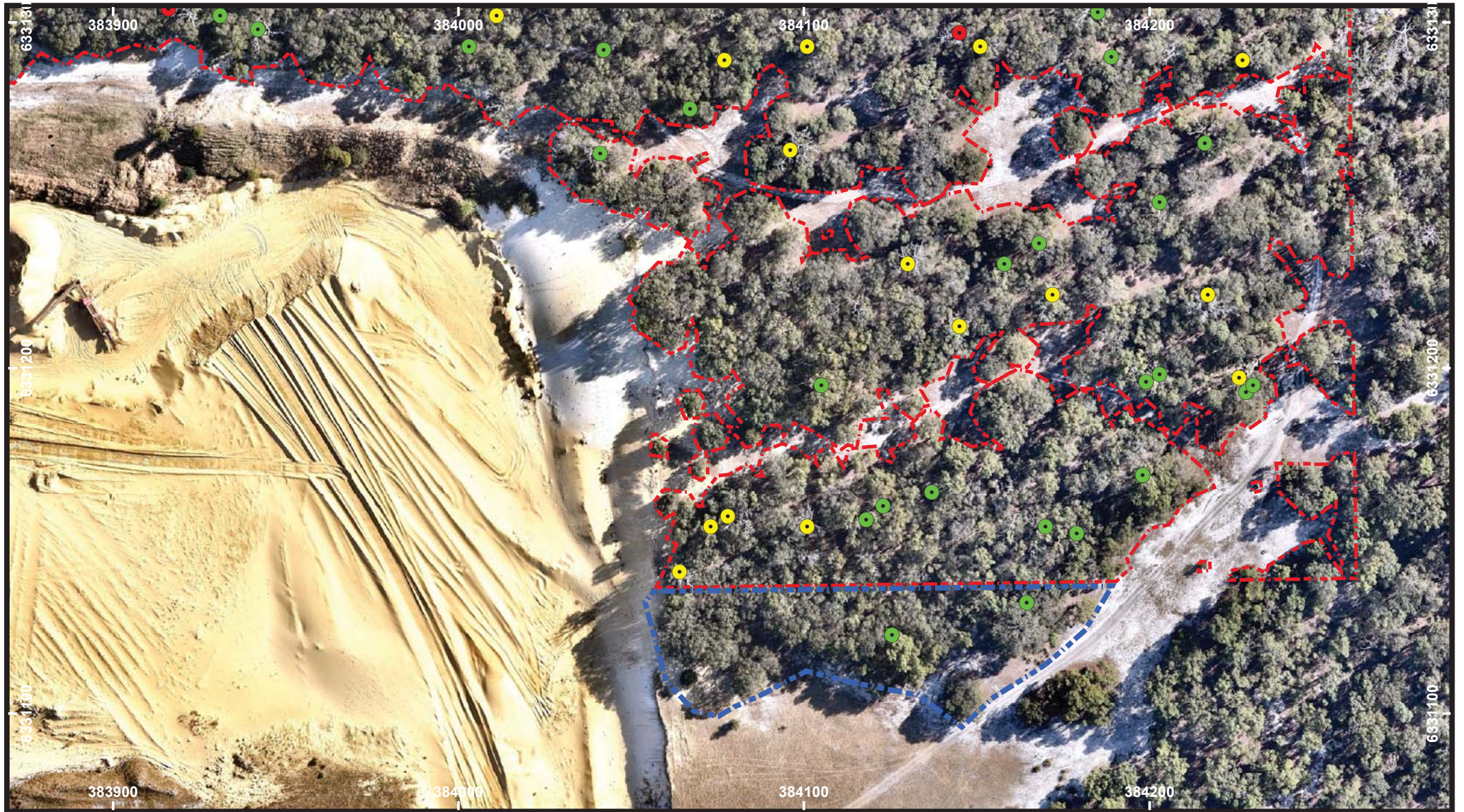


Black Cockatoo Habitat Trees

Two trees fitting the criteria for a “habitat tree” were located within the subject site, one marri and one jarrah. Neither tree appeared to contain hollows of any size. Details of each tree are provided below with their locations is shown in the attached figure.

Waypoint	mE	mN	Species
1	384164	6331132	Marri
2	384125	6331122	Jarrah





Legend



Subject Site



Area Previously Surveyed
(Harewood 2018)



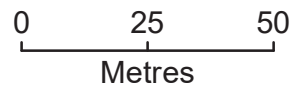
Habitat Tree - One or more large hollows possibly suitable for black cockatoos



Habitat Tree - One or more possible small/medium hollows



Habitat Tree - No hollows seen



Drawn: G Harewood
Date: May 2022
Scale: 1:1,500

Lot 5 Wellesley Road
Wellesley
**Area Surveyed &
Habitat Trees
(DBH >50cm)**

Black Cockatoo Foraging Habitat

Following is a list of the main flora species recorded within the subject site during the fauna assessment that are known to be used as a direct food source (i.e. seeds or flowers) by one or more species of black cockatoo:

- Jarrah - *Eucalyptus marginata*;
- Marri - *Corymbia calophylla*; and
- Banksia - *Banksia attenuata* and *B. grandis*.

Overall, the quality of the subject site as foraging habitat can be regarded as being low given the general absence of marri and banksia, sparse jarrah and the dominance of peppermint. This conclusion is supported by the fact that no recent foraging debris left by black cockatoos was observed within the subject site during the survey period.

Western Ringtail Possum Assessment

The subject site contains what superficially looks like suitable habitat for the species (i.e. peppermint trees) however no evidence of western ringtail possums utilising the subject site was found during the survey period i.e. no dreys, no scats and no individuals. This would suggest that they were either absent from the area surveyed or present in very low densities.

These observations and conclusion are consistent with the previous assessment carried out of the balance of the permit area (and some adjoining bushland).

5. CONCLUSION

The assessment reported on here was carried out to provide information on fauna habitat values within the additional area to be added to the existing application area (i.e. CPS 8561/1).

The additional area was found to be very similar to previously surveyed areas to the north similar with respect to vegetation composition and in broad terms can be described as a jarrah open woodland over a peppermint low woodland with occasional marri and banksia over a very open shrubland or very open grassland of introduced species or bare sand.

Two habitat trees (i.e. trees with a DBH >50cm) were recorded, neither appearing to contain hollows of any size. The quality of the subject site as foraging habitat for black cockatoos can be regarded as being low given the general absence of marri and banksia, sparse jarrah and the dominance of peppermint.

No evidence of western ringtail possums was found despite the presence of what superficially appears to be suitable habitat (i.e. peppermint trees). These observations are consistent with those made previously in areas to the north subject that WRP are either absent from the area or present in very low densities.



If you have any questions or queries relating the information provided here please contact the undersigned on 0402 141 197 / gharewood@iinet.net.au



Greg Harewood
Zoologist

References Cited:

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2022). Andre Schmitz Email to Mike Lundstrom. Subject: CPS 8561/1 - Revised area dated 27 April 2022.

Harewood, G. (2018). Fauna Assessment Lot 5 Wellesley Road (CPS 8007/1) Wellesley. Unpublished report for Carbone Bros. Pty Ltd.

