



Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

| Application Details | |
|--|--|
| Ref. No. | SLA 2025-005 |
| Date of Application | 16 October 2025 |
| Date of Decision | 16 December 2025 |
| Processing time (in working days) | 43 |
| Fees | Waived |
| Decision on Access | Partial Release |
| Information Requested (summary) | Correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Suburban Land Agency regarding: - the koala sighted in the Jacka development in 2024 - and death of a koala. |
| Publication Details | |
| Original application | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Decision notice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Documents and schedule | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Decision made by Ombudsman | N/A |
| Additional information identified by Ombudsman | N/A |
| Decision made by ACAT | N/A |
| Additional information identified by ACAT | N/A |

From: no-reply@act.gov.au
To: [CMTEDD.FOI](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information request - CMTEDD01 2025-377
Date: Thursday, 16 October 2025 12:54:43 PM

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find online enquiry details below. Please ensure this enquiry is responded to within fourteen working days.

Your details

All fields are optional, however an email address OR full postal address must be provided for us to process your request. An email address and telephone contact number will assist us to contact you quickly if we need to discuss your request.

Title:
First Name:
Last Name:
Business/Organisation:
Address:
Suburb:
Postcode:
State/Territory:
Phone/mobile:
Email address:

A large grey rectangular area redacting the user's personal details in the form fields.

Request for information

(Please provide as much detail as possible, for example subject matter and relevant dates, and also provide details of documents that you are not interested in.)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 I want to access the following document/s (*required field):

All correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Surburban Land Agency regarding: - the koala sighted in the Jacka development in 2024, as reported here <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-26/act-first-wild-koala-sighting-in-three-years-canberra/104518106>: and - the recent death of a koala in the same area, as reported here: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiDhJ-TzqeQAxVrSmwGHV6oBpgQFnoECB8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc.net.au%2Fnews%2F2025-10-16%2Fact-dead-koala-found-as-new-suburb-development-on-hold%2F105896808&usg=AOvVaw2ho_K7TMi97qdGYvq4nXXo&opi=89978449.

I do not want to access the following documents in relation to my request::

Thank you.
Freedom of Information Coordinator



ACT
Government

Suburban Land
Agency

Our ref: SLAFOI 2025-005



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Suburban Land Agency on 16 October 2025.

Specifically, you have sought access to the following information:

“All correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Suburban Land Agency regarding: - the koala sighted in the Jacka development in 2024, as reported here <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-26/act-first-wild-koala-sighting-in-three-years-canberra/104518106>; and - the recent death of a koala in the same area, as reported here:

*[### **Authority**](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiDhJ-TzqeQAxVrSmwGHV6oBpgQFnoECB8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc.net.au%2Fnews%2F2025-10-16%2Fact-dead-koala-found-as-new-suburb-development-on-hold%2F105896808&usq=AOvVaw2ho_K7TMi97qdGYvq4nXXo&opi=89978449.”</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Suburban Land Agency under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days.

As this matter required third party consultation, the decision due date was extended by 15 working days, in accordance with section 40(2) of the Act.

Therefore, a decision is due by **18 December 2025**.

Decision on access

Searches of Suburban Land Agency and City and Environment Directorate records have identified 36 documents within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant **partial access** to 11 documents and **full access** to 25 documents.

The records identified as relevant to your application are listed in the schedule enclosed at **Attachment B**. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

Release of documents

The information being released to you is provided at **Attachment C**.

Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of the request
- third party views
- information that is publicly available
- *Human Rights Act 2004*

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per **Schedule 1** of the Act.
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the Act.

There are no Schedule 1 factors identified within the documents.

Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure (Section 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(iii) - inform the community of the government's operations, including the policies, guidelines and codes of conduct followed by the government in its dealings with members of the community.*

Disclosure of the requested information will promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability. Transparency in government decision-making is fundamental to maintaining public trust and ensuring that actions taken by public authorities are subject to scrutiny.

Providing access to these documents will contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest. Endangered native fauna is a topic of considerable relevance to the community and access to this information will enable

stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue based on accurate and complete information.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Section 2.2)

- *Section 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.*

Release of information concerning individuals working within the ACT Public Service is generally not considered to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy. However, where mobile phone numbers may be used for home and work purposes, this information is redacted as well as signatures, as it could or would reasonably be expected to prejudice an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Additionally, some information relating to third parties that is not publicly available has also been redacted to protect their right to privacy.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act and deciding that release of personal information contained in the documents is not in the public interest to release, I have chosen to redact this specific information in accordance with section 50(2). Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that I believe is not in the public interest to release will ensure that the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of the information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Charges

Under section 107(2)(e) of the Act, a fee must be waived if the applicant is a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, Suburban Land Agency maintains an online record of access applications called a [disclosure log](#).

Your original access application and my decision will be published on the SLA disclosure log. Your personal details will not be published.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact the CMTEDD FOI Team by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joey Lee', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Joey Lee
Information Officer
Suburban Land Agency

15 December 2025



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST

Reference NO.

All correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Surburban Land Agency regarding: - the koala sighted in the Jacka development in 2024, as reported here <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-26/act-first-wild-koala-sighting-in-three-years-canberra/104518106>: and - the recent death of a koala in the same area, as reported here: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiDhJ-TzqeQAxVrSmwGHV6oBpgQFnoECB8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc.net.au%2Fnews%2F2025-10-16%2Fact-dead-koala-found-as-new-suburb-development-on-hold%2F105896808&usg=AOvVaw2ho_K7Tmi97qdGYvq4nXXo&opi=89978449.

CMTEDDFOI 2025-377

| Ref No | Page number | Description | Date | Status | Reason for Exemption | Online Release Status |
|--------|-------------|---|-------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1-3 | FW_ Koala in Jacka | 30 Oct 2024 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 2 | 4-6 | RE_ Koala | 18 Oct 2024 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 3 | 7-8 | Screenshots of Teams Messages (SLA CEO + Conservator) Jacka koala | | Full | | Yes |
| 4 | 9-10 | Conservator Request -44444 Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey | 25 Oct 2024 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 5 | 11 | Jacka Koala Actions | 22 Oct 2024 | Full | | Yes |
| 6 | 12-13 | RE_ Follow-up monitoring of Gula (Koala) on Jacka site | 22 Oct 2024 | Full | | Yes |
| 7 | 14-17 | RE_ GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka) | 10 Jun 2025 | Full | Out of Scope | Yes |
| 8 | 18 | RE_ Group heading to Jacka | 24 Oct 2024 | Full | | Yes |
| 9 | 19-20 | RE_ Koala Studies | 3 Jul 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 10 | 21-23 | RE_ Koala vegetation mapping | 8 Jul 2025 | Full | | Yes |
| 11 | 24-25 | RE_ MEETING REQUEST - Coordinate EPSDD & SLA response to Jacka Koala sighting | 23 Oct 2024 | Full | | Yes |
| 12 | 26-29 | RE_ Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night | 29 Oct 2024 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-------|--|-------------|---------|--------------------|-----|
| 13 | 30-31 | RE_ Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala | 18 Oct 2024 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 14 | 32-33 | RE_ Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey#2 | 25 Oct 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 15 | 34 | DT email - Dec 24 - Jacka Koala | | Full | | Yes |
| 16 | 35 | DT email - Oct 25 FW_ SLA to review_ CED - QON 570 - Koala - Jacka | 1 Oct 2025 | Full | | Yes |
| 17 | 36-40 | QON 570 - EMERSON - Orr - Koala Sighting Jacka - EHP (SLA Input) | | Full | | Yes |
| 18 | 41 | Discuss next steps _ Koala sighting in Jacka#2 | 26 Mar 25 | Full | Out of scope | Yes |
| 19 | 42-43 | RE: Koala sighting in Jacka | 19 Mar 2025 | Full | | Yes |
| 20 | 44-45 | DA202341956 Koala sighting | 19 Mar 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 21 | 46-55 | Attach A Due Diligence Summary | | Full | | Yes |
| 22 | 56-58 | Due Diligence Survey Report_ Jacka Self-Assessment SoR#2 | 30 Jun 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 23 | 59-87 | ONC Gula Due Diligence Survey Report | | Full | | Yes |
| 24 | 88 | EHP INCIDENT ADVICE - Deceased Gula (Koala) | 18 Sep 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 25 | 89-91 | FW_ Jacka Gula Summary Report - Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence | 6 Jun 2025 | Partial | Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii) | Yes |
| 26 | 92-93 | RE_ Koala sighting in Jacka | 19 Mar 2025 | Full | | Yes |
| 27 | 94-95 | Joey Lee Team's Messages | | Full | | Yes |
| 28 | 96-97 | FW_ FOR INFORMATION - Self-Assessment Program and data timelines | 30 Jun 2025 | Full | | Yes |
| 29 | 98 | Appendix 1 – Background Documents | | Full | | Yes |
| 30 | 99 | FW_ Gula_ Koala Conservation Plans (both National and ACT plans) | | Full | | Yes |
| 31 | 100 | MS Teams Chat - DT and KT - Jacka Koala | | Full | | Yes |
| 32 | 101 | RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night | 29 Oct 2024 | Full | | Yes |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|---|--|------|--|------|
| 33 | 102-110 | Jacka Self-Assessment SoR | | Full | | Yes |
| 34 | 111 | Vegetation Types_Field Sheet. | | Full | | Yes |
| 35 | 112 | VegMapping_Field Sheet -Table 2. | | Full | | Yes |
| 36 | 113 | Figure A.PCT+Zone mapping in locality of 2024 Koala record | | Full | | Yes |
| 37 | Zip File | Gula Environmental Due Diligence Surveys – Drone Flight Paths | | Full | | Yes* |
| Total No of Docs | | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | | |

*Due to file type, these are available on request. Email cmteddfai@act.gov.au and reference CMTEDDFOI 2025-377 and document 37 to obtain a copy of these electronically.

From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 30/10/2024 10:55 AM
To: "Davey, Adam" <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Koala in Jacka

OFFICIAL

Hi Adam – FYI all sorted with the ANU.

From: Kara Youngentob <kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 10:45 AM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala in Jacka

You don't often get email from kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you,
Bren.

Kind regards,
Kara

Kara Youngentob
Senior Research Fellow

Fenner School of Environment and Society
ANU College of Science
RN Robertson Building
46 Sullivan's Creek Road
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

<https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/youngentob-kn>
[E kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au](mailto:kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au), [M](#) [Sch 2 2\(a\)\(i\)](#), [Skype](#) youngentob

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 5:44 PM
To: Kara Youngentob <kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au>
Cc: [Sch 2 2\(a\)\(i\)](#)
Subject: RE: Koala in Jacka

OFFICIAL

Dear Kara

Thank you very much for closing out this issue with me so quickly and for clarifying the circumstances of your attendance on-site. I will pass this along to the team.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any particular research interests that I may be able to help facilitate.

Kind regards

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobil **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Environment.act.gov.au

From: Kara Youngentob <kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 5:07 PM

To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Cc: **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**

Subject: Re: Koala in Jacka

You don't often get email from kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr
Burkevics,

Thank you for reaching out to share your concerns regarding my recent presence near the koala survey around Jacka. I apologize for any misunderstanding regarding my visit to the site with some fellow koala ecologists, and any perceived disruption to the survey.

To clarify, last night I travelled to Jacka intending to locate the koala on what I understood to be ACT land based on earlier invited visits to the site last week. We encountered a Parks officer who informed me that I was on a different land tenure, and that we could not walk through the area we were about to cross without permission. The officer kindly showed me on a map an alternative route that would allow me to reach the area where we knew the koala had been via ACT land without crossing SLA property. Following their directions, we exited the area as requested, drove to Taylor, and accessed the woodland from the west, maintaining a respectful distance from the survey team and their activities, which continued for several hours.

I appreciate your concern, and I fully understand the importance of minimizing any potential disruption to the important work of your office. I am committed to ensuring that my actions align with access protocols in the future and will take extra steps to verify land access requirements before entering sensitive areas. Again, I appreciate your feedback and the opportunity to address this matter. I remain fully supportive of the collaborative efforts underway to ensure thorough and respectful wildlife assessments in the ACT. Saul indicated that you were willing to help facilitate access approvals to SLA land for ongoing koala work. I appreciate the offer, but don't have an ongoing need to visit that area at the moment.

Warm regards,
Kara Youngentob

Kara Youngentob

Senior Research Fellow

Fenner School of Environment and Society

ANU College of Science

RN Robertson Building

46 Sullivan's Creek Road

The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

<https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/youngentob-kn>
E kara.youngentob@anu.edu.au, M [Sch 2 s 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) Skype youngentob

This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 18/10/2024 12:58 PM
To: "Davey, Adam" <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala

OFFICIAL

Absolutely wonderful news. We'll figure out what it's doing there.

Would definitely welcome a brew. Very busy times ahead under a new government I suspect.

Will set something up with your office. Have a good weekend.

From: Davey, Adam
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:57 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren
Subject: Re: Koala

OFFICIAL

On a positive note - great to see a koala!

I'm well, thanks. Hope you are too. We should coffee soon.

Adam Davey
Chief Executive Officer

m: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
suburbanland.act.gov.au

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:49:07 PM
To: Davey, Adam <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala

OFFICIAL

Most welcome.

The detection occurred during a tree survey apparently with PCS and SLA staff. Murphys law says the first koala spotted in decades would be in an area scheduled for development...

Hope all is well.

Bren

From: Davey, Adam <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Koala

OFFICIAL

Hi Bren

Thanks for the heads up on this, I did not have awareness yet.

Adam Davey
Chief Executive Officer

m: [\(Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)\)](tel:Sch 2.2(a)(ii))

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
suburbanland.act.gov.au

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:09:18 PM
To: Davey, Adam <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Koala

OFFICIAL

Hi Adam

How are you?

The detection of a koala in an area scheduled for development is significant and will activate several of my Conservator functions.

I wanted to give you the heads up that I'll be asking the Conservator's office to formally engage with the SLA about this matter. I have more questions that answers at the moment, but I'll be looking to hold any immediate construction activities until we understand a bit more about what all this means.

Happy to chat more.

Regards

Bren

From: Watts, Michaela <Michaela.Watts@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Rutledge, Geoffrey <Geoffrey.Rutledge@act.gov.au>
Cc: De Hosson, Rachael <Rachael.DeHosson@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Koala
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

As discussed – here is the Koala, and a pin on it's location. It might be a dispersing adult male so we might not see it again. PCS and ONC people will head out for another look tomorrow.

We aren't making the information public as yet, the record is on Canberra Nature Map, but the location is suppressed to try and stop the masses heading out look at it.

[35°08'36.1"S 149°07'31.6"E - Google Maps](#) fyi – development in this section of Jacka scheduled for March 2025, Oman from SLA was on site when this was spotted so SLA will have knowledge of this significant siting already.



Michaela Watts

Executive Branch Manager

ACT Parks and Conservation Service

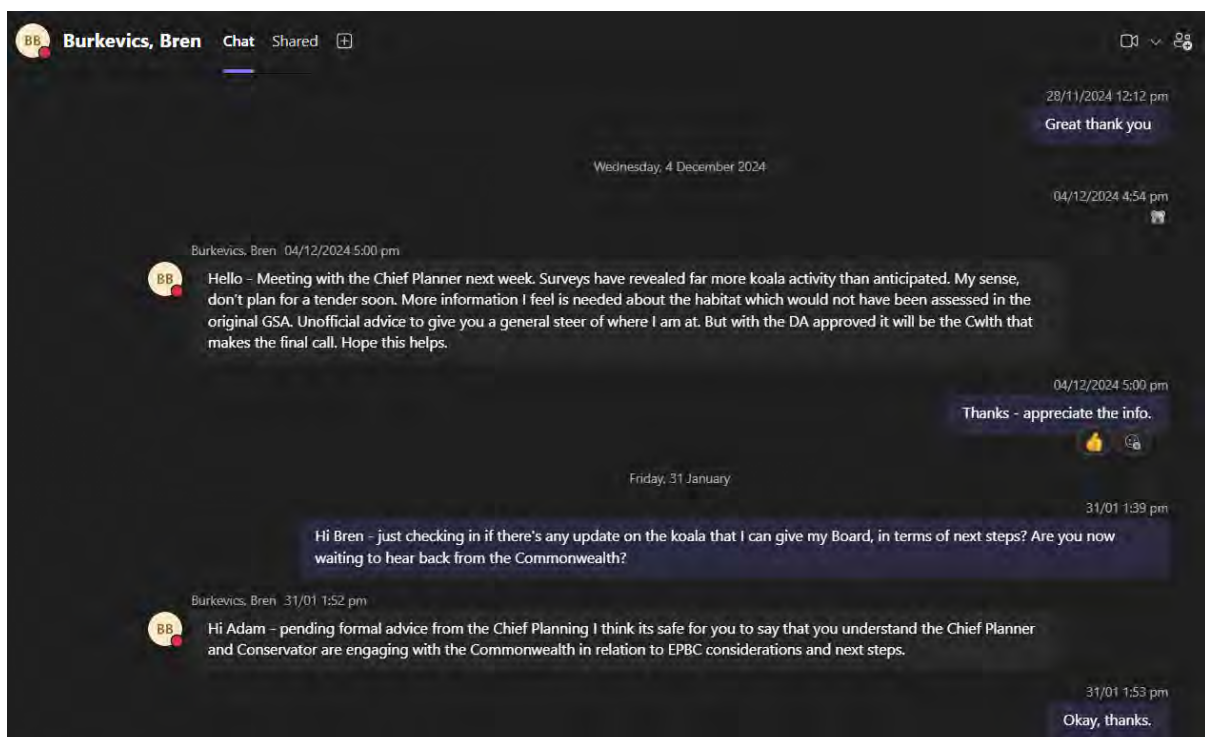
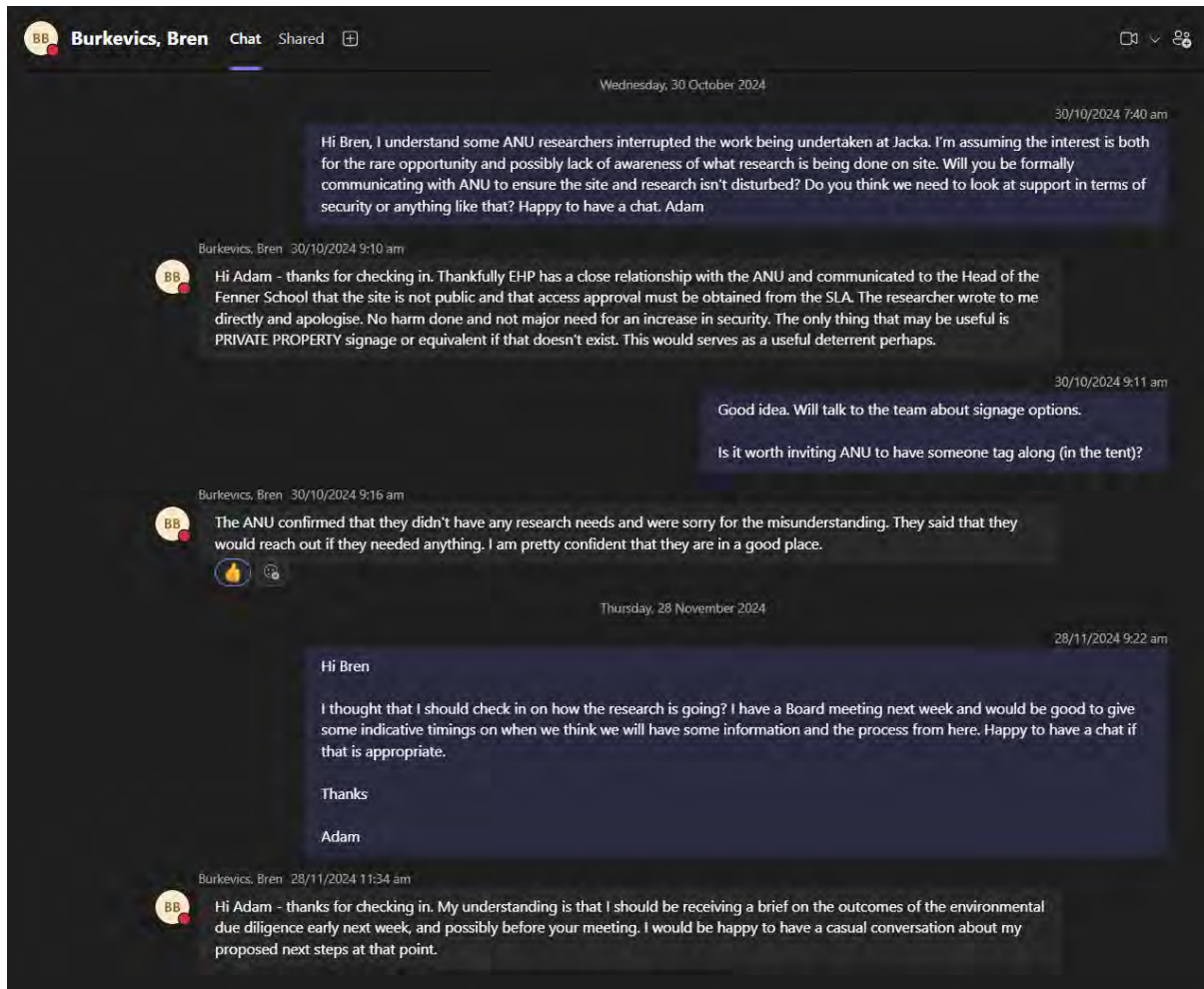
E: michaela.watts@act.gov.au T: (02) 6207 1831 M: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Dickson – Level 2 Naas, Northbourne Ave, Dickson

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

Screenshots of Microsoft Teams messages between CEO, SLA and Conservator that are about the koala found in the Jacka development in 2024.





Burkevics, Bren

Chat

Shared



Tuesday, 30 September

30/09 6:00 pm

Hi Bren - I have a quick gula question. Are there plans to DNA test the fur from the deceased gula and scats from Jacka?

Burkevics, Bren 30/09 6:02 pm



Hi Adam, that is the intention/plan but we are yet unclear if there is sufficient DNA from the scats, and the fur to provide a definite confirmation. I will seek an update for you. Cheers, Bren

30/09 6:03 pm

Great - that sounds like a potentially useful outcome if there is enough DNA. Fingers crossed.

Burkevics, Bren 30/09 9:24 pm



Hi Adam - FYI below. If you need anything more official please let me know.

↪ Malam, Chris 30/09/2025 7:12 pm

Hi Bren - Yes the intention is certainly to compare genetic samples between deceased gula and scats from Jacka. Currently awaiting a quote from a koala genetic expert. Once samples have been sent to lab, genetic testing is two-phases

- (1) DNA extraction and PCR test to assess quality and concentration of DNA, to determine feasibility of obtaining individual genotypes.
- (2) If multiple samples are considered feasible, then DNA will proceed to genotyping.

30/09 11:04 pm

Thanks. That's good to know. I assume this could be very useful to help inform our assessment.

From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 25/10/2024 11:50 AM
To: "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Seelan, Guna" <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; "Snape, Melissa" <Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au>; "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Subject: Conservator Request - Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey

Hi David, Andrew

Likewise, thank you for the SLAs positive response and support to this highly unexpected environmental issue.

Conservation Officers including Chris will work with the SLA to progress in a timely manner the surveys and monitoring we require to best guide and inform next steps.

I wanted to reaffirm with you in addition to the previous advice provided by my office through Conservator Liaison Karen Taylor that the Gula is a nationally endangered species. Future actions such as the development now has the potential to engage environmental and planning laws.

As we work through the environmental due diligence and surveys, I request that no development (potentially harmful) impacts are planned or conducted until we agree on next steps. I understand from the advice of the SLA that as the tender for the development has not been released, any potentially harmful impacts in the immediate future are unlikely.

We look forward to working with the SLA to better understand the significance of this find and next steps.

Thank you.

Bren Burkevics | Conservator of Flora and Fauna

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Sch 2 2(a)(i)

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Environment.act.gov.au

From: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:20 PM

To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>

Cc: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Seelan, Guna <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; Snape, Melissa <Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au>; Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Subject: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey

Hi Chris

Firstly, thanks for your time earlier this morning, we appreciate your efforts to expedite a path forward regarding the Jacka 2 Stage 2 Estate Development.

As per discussions this morning the SLA would like to assist your team where beneficial.

Could you please provide a scope for services required regarding the further site survey / acoustic monitoring including provision for:

- Specifics of monitoring required
- Liaising / collaboration with your team

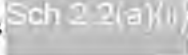
- Deliverables required (reporting etc)

As per discussion, the SLA would like to expedite this process where possible, without being detrimental in any way to the results / outcome of the study. To that end, the SLA is comfortable if this engagement is a stand-alone engagement or if it is supplementary to work completed in-house by your team and I would request your advice in this regard.

I would also request advice as to a suitable ecologist to complete these works although I have reached out to our lead design consultant (Stantec) who have provided contact details for their internal terrestrial flora and fauna team as there may be some benefits from a program and consistency of reporting perspective if Stantec were engaged to complete this work.

As per above, I would request your advice as the subject matter expert on who is best engaged but I would request that Stantec are considered. Link to website and contact details below.

Terrestrial Flora & Fauna

Best contact who does a lot of recent work for us is  Details below, but I'm happy to arrange a quote if we know what the scope is.

 Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thanks again, and look forward to progressing a resolution. Please reach out if you have anything you require from the SLA.

David Dexter

Senior Project Director – Infrastructure Services

T: 0420 749 144

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.suburbanland.act.gov.au



facebook.com/suburbanland



twitter.com/suburbanland

From: "Griffith, Andrew"
Sent: 22/10/2024 7:05 PM
To: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; "Sharp, Irena" <Irena.Sharp@act.gov.au>; "Seelan, Guna" <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Subject: Jacka Koala Actions

Karen,

Further the discussion Friday, have confirmed:

- We are not currently intending early works (pre-Christmas) that would impact the tree(s) the Koala was sighted in;
- Based on the forward Tender process – it is unlikely site establishment would commence until early 2025;
- We are treating this as an 'unexpected discovery' and will work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to navigate the best forward path.

Understand the Office of Nature Conservation are hoping deploy acoustic sound recorders in the next week or two – which we are supportive of.

As a further measure towards ensuring a coordinated approach we will look to schedule a meeting between SLA and the Conservator/EHP Group to consider:

- Agreeing to a coordinated approach for and additional studies, advice or mitigation that may be needed;
- Consider any risk of delay to SLA's construction program to inform the approach to a pending/active Tender
- Discuss any specific requirements that may need to be considered in the CEMP

I will ask our Exec Support Team to Coordinate this meeting,

- Andrew

Andrew Griffith
Development Director
Place Delivery
T: 02 6207 8724

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO
158 Canberra ACT 2601
suburbanland.act.gov.au



From: "Griffith, Andrew"
Sent: 22/10/2024 3:11 PM
To: "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Brawata, Renee" <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow-up monitoring of Gula (Koala) on Jacka site

Thanks Chris,

Supportive from my end, access to site can be facilitated as needed. To assist SLA would appreciate a meeting between relevant parts of SLA and the Conservator/EHP Group. I will ask our Exc Support Team to reach out to coordinate.

This would be primarily to:

- Agree to a coordinated approach for and additional studies, advice or mitigation that may be needed to inform the response
- Consider any risk of revenue or release (i.e possible delay to construction)
- Discuss any specific requirements that may need to be considered in the CEMP

- Andrew

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 12:27 PM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Cc: Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>
Subject: Follow-up monitoring of Gula (Koala) on Jacka site

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Following the recent observation of a Gula (Koala) within Block 17/9 in Jacka last week, there is a desire to carry out follow-up monitoring to determine whether there are potentially addition animals present in the vicinity and monitor the movement patterns of the animal seen last week.

We would like to request access for our team of ecologists within the Office of Nature Conservation to deploy acoustic sound recorders at strategic locations to enable a comprehensive coverage of Block 17/9. Use of sound recorders is the recommended monitoring technique for surveying Gula at low densities, which aim to record bellowing that the males produce in the lead up to breeding season (about Nov-Jan). Devices are attached to trees using a fabric strap and continuously record sounds within the landscape. We hope to leave recorders out for a fortnight, after which they will be retrieved and the audio extracted for analysis.

Given the short window of opportunity, we would ideally like to commence monitoring activities this week.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Chris.

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*).

Chris Malam (*he/they*) | Senior Faun Ecologist (A/g), Chief Remote Pilot
Phone: 02 6205 8100 | Email: Chris.Malam@act.gov.au

Fauna Ecology | Office of Nature Conservation

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | www.environment.act.gov.au

[Conservation Research Website](#) | [EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#) | View our story map collection [here!](#)

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

EPSDD Science Platform

Your one stop hub for EPSDD science related content.



From: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: 10/06/2025 11:23 AM
To: "Granger, Evelyn" <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Thanks Evelyn!

11:30 on Wednesdays or any time between 10 and 12pm Fridays work best for me.

Thanks,

Karen Taylor

A/g Conservator Liaison

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |

www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 8:51 AM

To: Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>

Cc: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Good morning Karen,

In relation to the email chain below here are a few times and dates that Andrew and Richard are both available for 30mins for a regular fortnightly catch-up.

10.30am on any Monday

3.00 on a Tuesday if it commences fortnightly on 17 June

11.30am or 3.30pm on a Wednesday if it commences fortnightly on 18 June and

they are both free 10-12pm on Fridays if it commences fortnightly on 13 June.

Please let me know who you would like invited from the conservator side and which dates you think will work best.

Regards,

Evelyn Granger
Project Administration Officer
Place Delivery Gungahlin
T: 6205 3073

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

suburbanland.act.gov.au



From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 3:16 PM

To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>; Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Thanks Andrew.

Best person to coordinate involvement from Conservator side would be [@Taylor, Karen](#) as the Conservator-Liaison.

Cheers,
Chris.

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 9:32 AM

To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Thanks Chris,

No problem – thanks for the update, sounds like it is close.

[@Binks, Richard](#) is now moving rapidly to complete a Environmental/Self-Assessment. The Conservator will be an important stakeholder and subject matter expert in guiding it.

[@Binks, Richard](#) and [@Granger, Evelyn](#) can we please see if we can establish a standing fortnightly standing catch-up with the Conservator team (only needs to be 30min).

[@Malam, Chris](#) if you are able to advise the key team from the Conservator side to include in the meeting, or connect us with the best person to coordinate with it would be appreciated.

Key agenda would start as:

- Procurement of consultants
- Self-Assessment Methodology
- Self-Assessment timeline

- Andrew

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 8:17 AM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Cc: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Sincere apologies for the slow reply here and appreciate the gentle follow-up.

We have prepared the summary report, and currently trying to progress through the review/clearance process to provide to Bren for sharing very soon.

Cheers,
Chris.

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 3:48 PM
To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Cc: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Afternoon Chris,

Hope you have been keeping well.

For information, SLA is working to engage a consultant(s) to help us navigate EPBC Self-Assessment for the Jacka Koala.

A valuable background document will be the referenced summary report of the Conservators prior environmental due diligence survey. Are you able to advise if this has been finalised and is available to share with SLA?

- Andrew

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 11:24 AM
To: Wangdi, Rinchen <Rinchen.Wangdi@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew, Rinchen,

I will be sending through information and data packets relating to the Jacka Gula environmental due diligence surveys today.

Please find attached to this initial email some background context to the surveys:

- a. ***Gula due diligence monitoring plan 2024.doc*** provides an outline of the surveys that were undertaken and some technical details on how they would be carried out.
- b. Email attachment is a listening summary of feedback received from the panel of Koala experts in relation to the monitoring plan.
- c. ***Gula Environmental Due Diligence Surveys – Drone flight paths.zip*** contains KML files that show all night drone flights that were undertaken. Let me know if you require further details about the drone flights or raw thermal video captures, as would need to organise a solution for you visualise these.

I have also been sharing data packets to the EHP ONC – SLA Data Share Collaboration Group as previously discussed – I will advise in separate emails which data packets are also available through ArcGIS Online.

We are currently finalising a summary report on these environmental due diligence survey, so will share this when ready.

Kind Regards,

Chris.

Out of Scope

From: "Cooney, Rosie" <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: 24/10/2024 2:13 PM
To: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; "Magee, Alexandra" <Alexandra.Magee@act.gov.au>; "EPSDD Communications" <EPSDDComms@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Brawata, Renee" <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Group heading to Jacka

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Just FYI - I just got a call from a previous staff member to let me know that he was approached by the ABC this afternoon for information/comment about the koala. ABC are apparently aware that Sen Pocock is engaged on the issue. (This person has heard about the sighting but does not know the exact location, and just shared general historical knowledge on koalas in the ACT with the reporter.)

Best Rosie

From: Cooney, Rosie
Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2024 1:05 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Magee, Alexandra <Alexandra.Magee@act.gov.au>; EPSDD Communications <EPSDDComms@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Cc: Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Subject: Group heading to Jacka

Hi Bren, Andrew, Alex,

We've just received a tip-off via a contact of our fauna ecologist that a group is heading to Jacka to search for koala. Apparently the group includes Senator David Pocock and a researcher from the ANU.

We don't know anything more as far as I am aware- about where exactly they intend to go or how they intend to look for koala. We don't believe they know the exact location of the sighting. Chris, please add any additional info if you can.

If our survey team encounters them on site, I have asked that they are very polite, make no comment about what they are doing, and refer any additional questions to Comms.

Please advise if you have any further advice/ direction.

Thanks R

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Sent: 03/07/2025 10:23 AM
To: "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; "Baines, Greg" <Greg.Baines@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala Studies
Attachments: Gula Environmental Due Diligence Surveys - Drone flight paths.zip, Gula_Detection_Dog_Survey.zip, Gula_Detection_Dog_Transects.zip, Acoustic_Results_Gula_Jacka.zip, Acoustic_Locations_Gula_Jacka.zip

OFFICIAL

Hi Richard!

Chris Malam has sent through the attached files that seems to cover the thermal surveys, scent detection dogs and passive acoustic recordings. I'll follow up regarding the Vegetation Assessment from Capital Ecology, if you haven't already got that one?

Thanks!

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | City and Environment Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
City and Environment Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 11:40 AM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; Baines, Greg <Greg.Baines@act.gov.au>
Subject: Koala Studies

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

We would like to request the following documents for the self assessment:

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 003 | Vegetation Assessment | Capital Ecology | Nov 2024 |
| 004 | Passive acoustic recording | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 005 | Scent detection dogs | ReconEco | Nov 2024 |
| 006 | Thermal surveys | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |

Apologies if these have already been sent, for any that have if these could be resent that would be warmly appreciated.

Richard Binks

Senior Place Manager Gungahlin | Place Delivery Group

T: [Sch 2 2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.suburbanland.act.gov.au

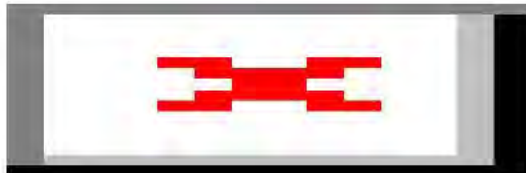


facebook.com/suburbanland

[nland](#)



twitter.com/suburbanland



This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

From: "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Sent: 08/07/2025 10:41 AM
To: "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala vegetation mapping

OFFICIAL

But, but.....does that mean I miss out on the eternal gratitude?

Damn!

☺ Glad you had the reports – I was still waiting to hear back from Chris.

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | City and Environment Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
City and Environment Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 July 2025 10:15 AM
To: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Koala vegetation mapping

OFFICIAL

Karen & Richard,

Think this close out the Veg assessment data. Chris had provided some time back

- Andrew

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 April 2025 11:52 AM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Wangdi, Rinchen <Rinchen.Wangdi@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Koala vegetation mapping

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew, Rinchen

Please find attached data and associated files relating to the basic vegetation assessment that was undertaken by Capital Ecology within the Jacka Block. This assessment included:

- Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping to determine what vegetation communities are present within the site, and
- Tree species present within a subset areas of the block, which can be compared against important feeding and resting tree species lists; I believe this data was actually the result of previous work undertaken for SLA.

Cheers,
Chris.

From: Robert Speirs <rob@capitalecology.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 3:26 PM

To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>

Cc: Sam Reid <sam@capitalecology.com.au>; Snape, Melissa <Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Koala vegetation mapping

UNOFFICIAL

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

G'day
Chris,

Happy New Year! I hope you've had a good start to 2025.

I'm just getting back to you on this as our GIS tech has now tidied up my PCT and zone mapping ready for submission. The mapping is shown in the attached PDF, and the attached zipped folder contains the shapefiles (GDA2020 MGA55).

Couple of points.

1. We mapped three PCTs in the study area - PCT-ACT16, PCT-ACT25, and PCT-ACT99 as detailed in the attached Veg Types Field Sheet.
2. The vegetation zones area defined as per Table 2 attached (consistent with the rest of our PCT and veg zone mapping for the ACT Gov).
3. I strongly believe that the Koala recorded in this site was likely attracted to the locality by the plantations of *E. viminalis* and *E. dalrymleana* in the adjoining blocks to the north, together with the few planted trees of these species in the study area (see attached Figure A). Whilst Koalas will certainly feed on several of the other Eucalyptus species in the study area, these two species are primary feed trees for the Koala populations in the broader Southern Tablelands region.

I trust that this mapping is useful for your purposes, however please let me know if you have any questions etc.

Kind regards,

Rob

Robert Speirs

BAppSc (Ecology), DipPM, MEIANZ, CEnvP-E, BAM Assessor

Director / Principal Ecologist

T 0412 474 415

E rob@capitalecology.com.au



PO Box 854, Gungahlin ACT 2912

www.capitalecology.com.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Emails sent by Capital Ecology Pty Ltd (Capital Ecology), including any attachments, may be confidential, protected by copyright, or subject to legal professional privilege. If you are not the intended recipient or have otherwise received this email in error, please inform the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not use, copy, or disclose any of the information in this email for any purpose.

Emails sent and received by Capital Ecology may undergo email filtering and virus scanning, however, Capital Ecology does not guarantee that any email or any attachment is secure, error-free, or free of viruses or other unwanted or unexpected inclusions.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: "Griffith, Andrew"
Sent: 23/10/2024 9:03 AM
To: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; "Granger, Evelyn" <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEETING REQUEST - Coordinate EPSDD & SLA response to Jacka Koala sighting

Thanks Karen,

Can do – preferably before 11am

- Andrew

From: Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 7:45 PM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>
Cc: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEETING REQUEST - Coordinate EPSDD & SLA response to Jacka Koala sighting

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Andrew!

Yes, I can get all the relevant people from EPSDD side. 😊 Thanks for organising! Having a quick look at calendars, it looks like Thursday morning until 1pm looks good for our side, if that works for you guys?

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 7:40 PM
To: Granger, Evelyn <Evelyn.Granger@act.gov.au>; Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Cc: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: MEETING REQUEST - Coordinate EPSDD & SLA response to Jacka Koala sighting
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Evelyn,

Can we please schedule a meeting between relevant EPSDD and SLA (stakeholders identified below) at the earliest available time. It is a priority given the matter impacts a pending construction tender, ILRP releases, and consideration of an endangered species sighting.

Happy to work towards EPSDD availability as SLA can likely adjust any prior commitments to suit.

@Taylor, Karen are you best placed to coordinate relevant stakeholders from EPSDD?

Meeting Specifics

- Time – 45min (preferably 1hr)
- Date – Ideally within the next week
- Attendance –
 - SLA:
 - David Dexter, Richard Binks, Andrew Griffith
 - **Optional:** Joey Lee, Irena Sharp Guna Seelan (possibly Hatch/Redbox)
 - EPSDD (**Karen to confirm best staff?**):
 - Karen Taylor, Chris Malam
 - **Optional:** Renee Brawata, Bren Burkevics

Draft Agenda:

1. Coordinated approach to and additional studies, advice or mitigation that may be needed;
1. Consider any risk of delay to SLA's construction program to inform the approach to a pending/active Tender
2. Discuss any specific requirements that may need to be considered in the CEMP

Andrew Griffith
Development Director
Place Delivery
T: 02 6207 8724

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO
158 Canberra ACT 2601
suburbanland.act.gov.au



From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 29/10/2024 5:12 PM
To: "Cooney, Rosie" <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; "SLA Place Management" <SLAPlaceManagement@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; "Brawata, Renee" <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night
Attachments: Re: Koala in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Rosie – please see the email that I have received from Dr Youngentob.

Dr Youngentob appears apologetic for any misunderstanding or disruption.

Thanks

Bren

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:19 PM
To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; SLA Place Management <SLAPlaceManagement@act.gov.au>
Cc: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Dear Bren and Andrew,

That sounds good - we agree it would be helpful to share both our monitoring program and to let our academic colleagues know that results of the surveys will be made available. I suspect that will allay concerns considerably.

We can do that directly- if we don't hear otherwise we'll go ahead and do that tomorrow.

Best Rosie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:59:20 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; SLA Place Management <SLAPlaceManagement@act.gov.au>
Cc: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Thanks Bren,

Yes supportive of your team asking people to leave the site where they are comfortable they can do so without risking altercation. This reinforces the clear messaging for the Canberra community to avoid specifically searching for the Gula as this may cause harm and disrupt sensitive monitoring activities.

Would further appreciate your group leveraging the rapport with the ANU/Fenner school to reinforce the area is not public land, SLA are the Custodian and permission to access the land is required. Further, permission will not be granted where there is risk it could disrupt sensitive monitoring activities.

Suggest there is value (if it has not already happened) sharing the indicative program of monitoring (timing and activities) with the academic community. If there are no sensitivities to doing so – I would also be happy to commit to making the findings and data available to academic institutions and researchers. Hopefully that would mitigate the interest in ad hoc research or searches.

[@SLA Place Management](#) can we please discuss with Chris and [@Dexter, David](#) if there is value implementing some of the following to discourage unauthorised access:

1. Additional mobile CCTV positioned around primary access points;
2. Installing signage prohibiting trespass (and possibly flagging sensitive monitoring activities are underway);
3. Engaging a security patrol for the period of any more sensitive activities to mitigate the Office of Nature Conservation staff having to interact with unauthorised access

- Andrew

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:05 AM

To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>

Cc: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>;

ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Rosie - thanks for letting the SLA and I know of the occurrence last night. It is such a shame that it caused a disruption to survey and monitoring activities. ONC staff handled the incident well by the looks of things.

Hi Andrew - my group has a strong relationship with the ANU and I know the head of the Fenner school (Professor Cunningham) quite well. I'd be happy, if the SLA are comfortable, to gently raise the issue with him noting it was a person from within his school. I can remind them that the land is the responsibility of the Suburban Land Agency and that they need approval to enter.

Also, to give Rosie's people reassurance are you comfortable for them to be able to ask people to leave the site on behalf of the SLA?

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | **Mobile** Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Environment.act.gov.au

From: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:03 AM

To: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Cc: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>;
ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>

Subject: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Dear Bren and Andrew ,

Our fauna monitoring teams encountered an unauthorised group on the SLA Jacka 2 site last night. They were spotlighting for the Gula (Koala), and were led by an ANU researcher known to us (summary report below).

Obviously this is very concerning. Among other serious concerns, this disrupted survey activity, which needed to be abandoned.

We look forward to your advice. The field team will need to continue to access the site uninterrupted to be able to continue surveys.

Regards
Rosie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Cc: Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>
Subject: Jacka Incident - High-level Points

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Hi Rosie,
CC: Renee for visibility

Here are the high-level points from the Gula surveys at Jacka last night:

- ONC ecologists and a PCS ranger undertook thermal spotlighting surveys on the night of 29 October 2024
- Surveys were located on SLA block 17/9 in Jacka – there were two field teams, of two people.
- Shortly after 9pm, Jaimie & Heather observed a group of people with spotlights within the SLA block
- Jaimie & Heather approached the group – consisted of 5-7 people searching for Gula. Leader of the group identified as [redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
- Jaimie & Heather explained that the location was SLA land – the group was aware that permission is needed to access, and they did not have permission to be there
- [redacted] indicated that the group with her were from the 'National Koala Monitoring Program'
- [redacted] expressed a reluctance to leave the site, indicating that it was public land and they had a right to be present.
- Jaimie & Heather suggested that they could search for Gula in neighbouring woodlands on public land instead, as they are disrupting systematic survey of the area – the group then left the site
- Later that evening, the other field team (Jenna & Kelzang) encountered the same group, which had re-entered the SLA block from a different entry point
- Kelzang approached the group and explained that it is SLA land and permission will need to be sought.
- [redacted] again expressed a reluctance to leave the site.
- Field teams abandoned surveys and left the site around 11:20pm.

I will follow-up with the team for a full debrief once they come off rest relief.

Cheers,
Chris.

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*).

Chris Malam (*he/they*) | Senior Fauna Ecologist (A/g), Chief Remote Pilot

Phone: 02 6205 8100 | Email: Chris.Malam@act.gov.au

Fauna Ecology | Office of Nature Conservation

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | www.environment.act.gov.au

[Conservation Research Website](#) | [EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#) | View our story map collection [here!](#)

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



EPSDD Science Platform

Your one stop hub for EPSDD science related content.

From: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: 18/10/2024 3:17 PM
To: "Overall, James" <James.Overall@act.gov.au>; "Collard, Leith" <Leith.Collard@act.gov.au>; "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; "Fuller, Wade" <Wade.Fuller@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala

Thanks James, (and David for the contact!),

I reached out and had a chat to Andrew Griffiths today about the koala sighting. He told me that is having a meeting with his executive and the construction team this afternoon to discuss the implications of the koala sighting, and is going to reach out to me early next week to discuss their thought process on the pathway forward.

Andrew confirmed that it is highly unlikely that any tree removal will take place until after Christmas, which is where our major concern lies at the moment. I informed him that we would need to undertake survey and due diligence activities to identify the presence of any additional koalas and/or the level of importance of this habitat to this nationally threatened species, prior to any tree removals being allowed. He stated that he would confirm with his team this afternoon that there is no intent to undertake any early works that may require tree removal. He will again confirm this with me early next week.

That's where things stand at the moment. We might need to create an email distribution list of all the key stakeholders to provide any major updates/decision points/discussions etc, so everyone who needs to be, is kept in the loop.

Thanks! Happy to chat!

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |
www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Overall, James
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2024 3:10 PM
To: Collard, Leith ; Dexter, David ; Fuller, Wade
Cc: Taylor, Karen
Subject: RE: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala

Hi David,

Your best contact for this is Karen Taylor the Conservator Liaison (CC'd).

Cheers,

James Overall

A/g Director – Urban Reserves

Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email james.overall@act.gov.au

ACT Parks and Conservation Service |

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Collard, Leith <Leith.Collard@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 18 October 2024 2:00 PM

To: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; Fuller, Wade <Wade.Fuller@act.gov.au>; Overall, James <James.Overall@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala

Thanks for yesterday David. I have included James Overall who should be able to get you in touch with the right people.

Leith Collard
A/g Ranger in Charge
Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary

Please note I do not work Fridays

From: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 1:46:37 PM

To: Collard, Leith <Leith.Collard@act.gov.au>; Fuller, Wade <Wade.Fuller@act.gov.au>

Subject: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala

Hi guys

Thanks for your time yesterday.

I'm just following up on where we got regarding our discovery. I'm interested in knowing what happened or is happening with the koala but I also have to report up the line what the potential impacts are on the development once we have an understanding.

Thanks

David Dexter

Senior Project Director – Infrastructure Services

From: "Dexter, David"
Sent: 25/10/2024 5:04 PM
To: "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Seelan, Guna" <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; "Snape, Melissa" <Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au>; "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey

Hi Chris

Apologies for the delayed response.

Could you please follow up on the quotes for the scent dogs and proceed with the in-house thermal and acoustic surveys.

I will be in touch regarding the tree survey early next week as I'm just double checking that we don't already have any information around this.

Thanks

David Dexter

Senior Project Director – Infrastructure Services

T: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.suburbanland.act.gov.au



facebook.com/suburbanland



twitter.com/suburbanland

From: Malam, Chris

Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 10:59 AM

To: Dexter, David

Cc: Griffith, Andrew ; Seelan, Guna ; Snape, Melissa ; Taylor, Karen ; Burkevics, Bren ; Lee, Joey

Subject: RE: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi David,

Thank you for your time yesterday morning.

Here is an outline of our thoughts on an appropriate monitoring response to understand whether additional koalas are actively using the area.

I recommend a multi-pronged approach, as this is best practice for monitoring low-density populations, and should put us in a good position for due diligence on whether additional animals are present in the area:

1. Scat searches using scent dog
 - We recommend a scent dog trained on koala scat – this will be far more efficient than a people-based survey
 - Evidence of koala presence available immediately
 - Surveys to encompass Jacka block and buffer areas (good quality habitat within 2km).
 - Cost = External consultant will need to be engaged – I can scope options and circulate quotes?
2. Thermal Surveys

- Vehicle-based thermal surveys along tracks
 - Capability availability in-house
 - Koala detections recorded at time of survey
 - Two surveys across all tracks to ensure good representation
 - Jacka block = 2 ATVs x 1 night
 - Broader landscape = 2 ATVs x 2 night
 - Cost = staff overtime (4 ppl) per night (1900-0200h) (approx. \$9,000)
- Drone-based thermal surveys
 - Capability is available in-house
 - Any Koala detections would be confirmed by ground crew
 - Jacka block = 1 night
 - Buffer areas = 2 nights
 - Cost = staff overtime (4 ppl) per night (0300-0700) (approx. \$5,000)
- 3. Tree survey -- *this will help us understand the quality of this area as Gula habitat*
 - Plant Community Type (PCT) survey within Jacka block to inform on presence/distribution of locally important Gula trees and habitat condition.
 - *Capital Ecology* (consultant) is already familiar with this survey and has local experience – confirmed they are able to survey this site in the next week or two (~\$2,500)
 - We already have a good picture of Gula habitat in surrounding areas
- 4. Sound recorders
 - These are available in-house and can be deployed immediately.
 - I have asked my team to start deploying these – expected to finish today.
 - We will deploy additional recorders in strategic locations in corridor areas (Monday).
 - Processing of audio will take some time, hence above methods are prioritised.

To expedite the program of monitoring, the main avenue is the overtime cost for additional staffing due to re-prioritisation of work, plus sourcing external consultants for the scent dog work and vegetation survey. I did also reach out to Stantec, but they do not have capacity until mid-November, and are unable to assist the acoustic monitoring anyway.

Cheers,
Chris.

From: Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:20 PM

To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>

Cc: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; Seelan, Guna <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; Snape, Melissa <Melissa.Snape@act.gov.au>; Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Subject: Jacka 2 Stage 2 Koala Survey

Hi Chris

Firstly, thanks for your time earlier this morning, we appreciate your efforts to expedite a path forward regarding the Jacka 2 Stage 2 Estate Development.

As per discussions this morning the SLA would like to assist your team where beneficial.

Could you please provide a scope for services required regarding the further site survey / acoustic monitoring including provision for:

- Specifics of monitoring required
- Liaising / collaboration with your team
- Deliverables required (reporting etc)

As per discussion, the SLA would like to expedite this process where possible, without being detrimental in any way to the results / outcome of the study. To that end, the SLA is comfortable if this engagement is a

From: "Thornhill, David"
Sent: 18/12/2024 2:08 PM
To: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Subject: Jacka Koala

Hi Karen,

I'm hoping you can assist me. I need to provide an update to my DLO on the Jacka Koala.

I know there was a verbal briefing a couple weeks back between Bren and my CEO Adam, but Adam has asked me to touch base to see if there is any further updates.

If possible could you get back to me by early tomorrow – happy to chat if easier.

Thanks

David

David Thornhill
Program Director
Place Delivery

T: 6207 7037

Suburban Land Agency | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO

158 Canberra ACT 2601

suburbanland.act.gov.au



This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

From: "Thornhill, David"
Sent: 01/10/2025 11:25 AM
To: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: SLA to review: CED - QON 570 - Koala - Jacka
Attachments: QON 570 - EMERSON - Orr - Koala Sighting Jacka - EHP (SLA Input) copy.docx

Hi Karen,

This is the SLA input version, please let me know if you have any questions.

Apparently out timeframe is to get them to our DLO today.....

DT



Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans
Member for Yerrabi

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 09
05 September 2025
Question No. 570

Thomas Emerson MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment Energy and Water

1. What investigations and surveys were done after a koala was seen in an area being marked out for development in Jacka.
2. What were the results of those surveys, and can the Minister provide the survey results.
3. Has the Suburban Land Agency paused their plans to expand the suburb into the forested areas the koala was seen in, including what role the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna has had in this process.
4. Can the Minister provide all correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Suburban Land Agency regarding the koala referred to in part (1) and subsequent actions.
5. Has the ACT Government received any federal funding for koala conservation in the ACT; if so, what has the funding been spent on.

SUZANNE ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Note: The Koala is known in the Ngunnawal language as 'Gula' (Winanggaay Ngunnawal language group), and this term is appropriate to use when referring to animals on Ngunnawal Country.

~~1. What investigations and surveys were done after a Koala was seen in an area being marked out for development in Jacka. Conservation Officers acting on behalf of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Conservator) developed a best-practice environmental due diligence survey plan, which was reviewed by an independent panel of Koala experts. Surveys commenced on 24 October 2024.~~

~~1.~~

- ~~• The Conservator for Flora and Fauna tasked Conservation Officers to undertake environmental due diligence activities following the confirmation of a Gula (Koala) in the scheduled development area. Activities commenced on 24 October 2024.~~

act.gov.au

ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit, GPO Box 1020,
Canberra ACT 2601

+61 2 6205 1439
orr@act.gov.au

SuzanneOrrMLA
 SuzanneOrrMLA

• The Office of Nature Conservation prepared a best-practice due diligence survey plan, which was reviewed by an independent panel of Koala experts to ensure a robust approach.

• The survey plan was designed to assess the conservation and ecological value of the scheduled development area for Gula, and the importance of this area within an ACT landscape context.

Survey activities occurred across the scheduled development area and the adjoining Northern Gungahlin Woodlands and included Due diligence surveys included acoustic monitoring, scent detection dogs, thermal drone flights, ground-based surveys (spotlighting and thermally-assisted ground surveys), and vegetation assessment.

• The surveys were undertaken across the scheduled development area and adjoining Northern Gungahlin Woodlands.

2. What were the results of those surveys, and can the Minister provide the survey results.

2. Due diligence surveys confirmed that:

a. One or more Gula were using, to an undetermined extent, the broad area from the North-West boarder of the ACT to (and including) the development area; and

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) should need to undertake a Self-Assessment to determine if a further referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is required. This self-assessment is underway and involves further surveys.

On 18 September 2025, ACT Wildlife reported a deceased Gula in the suburb of Taylor to the ACT Government. The deceased Gula was taken into the possession of Conservation Officials and a Veterinarian working on behalf of the Conservator. No cause of death could be determined, nor whether it was the same Gula identified in the same area in 2024.

b.

• one or more Gula were present in the scheduled development area for at least four weeks.

• Evidence of Gula presence was found by scent scat and sign detection detected across a broad corridor of habitat found to contain important koala tree species, confirming the scheduled development area and the adjoining Northern Gungahlin Woodlands constitutes occupied Gula habitat.

• This area may act as an important habitat corridor across northern ACT and into neighbouring NSW.

• No evidence of Gula was found in the Gungahlin Eucalypt Plantation immediately north of the scheduled development area, despite containing important koala tree species. Secure rural fencing around the plantation may be acting as a barrier to Gula movements.

On 18 September 2025, ACT Wildlife reported a deceased Gula in the suburb of Taylor to the ACT Government. The deceased Gula was taken into the possession of Conservation Officials and a Veterinarian working on behalf of the Conservator. No cause of death

Commented [CM1]: NB. The survey report was finalised in June 2025 and is available for circulation if appropriate.

Commented [RC2R2]: Report has now been added to Objective folder marked as tentative, to be removed if not appropriate to share.

Commented [JL3]: Not sure this should be added. It isn't answering the question on notice.

Commented [AG4]: From the reports and evidence I have sighted elements of this are speculative. I would cull to align with the TPA's letter to SLA for consistency.

The main consideration is if the Conservator is planning to release their final report, as it includes a lot of findings based on a relatively sparse evidence base over a very narrow time period.

could be determined, nor whether it was the same Gula identified in the same area in 2024.

1.3. The SLA, acting on the advice of the Conservator and the Territory Planning Authority, has paused the development whilst an environmental self-assessment under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is undertaken. The self-assessment (EPBC Act) is to determine whether development could proceed without adversely impacting potential koala habitat. The self-assessment includes an engagement of an independent ecologist to provide further advice on the habitat of the area. The self-assessment process is expected to conclude early 2026.

4. As the Conservator and the SLA are statutory entities, the release of correspondence is a matter for them.

• In 2023, investigations will be undertaken into the cause of death and to see whether this is the same Gula detected in Jacka in 2024. Conservation Officers are working closely with ACT Wildlife to support this process.

3. Has the Suburban Land Agency paused their plans to expand the suburb into the forested areas the koala was seen in, including what role the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna has had in this process.

2. Following the sighting of a koala, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) suspended planned works in the area, and informed The Office of the Conservator of Fauna and Flora.

• The Conservator engaged with the responsible land custodian to ensure development activities did not start until the environmental due diligence and survey activities were completed.

• The Conservator has written to the Territory Planning Authority to provide advice on the outcomes of the environmental due diligence and recommended next steps.

The Authority notified the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) about the sighting. They requested further information once the environmental due diligence and survey activities are completed.

5. Following the sighting of a koala, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) suspended planned works in the area, and informed The Office of the Conservator of Fauna and Flora.

The Conservator of Flora and Fauna led the initial environmental due diligence and monitoring program, incorporating a range of methodologies including passive acoustic monitoring, scent detection dogs, drone-based thermal surveys, and vegetation assessments. The program aimed to determine the presence of koalas and inform appropriate next steps.

The results of the initial assessment were inconclusive. The Territory Planning Authority and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna then advised SLA to undertake an environmental self-assessment under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to determine whether development could proceed without adversely impacting potential koala habitat.

The self-assessment process is expected to conclude early 2026.

Commented [A55]: Andrew can you please review - I don't think this is actually correct? Grateful for your advice

• 205 dwellings were identified for release in Jacka in the 2025–26 Indicative Land Release Program. Of these, 189 dwellings are on hold pending the outcome of the self-assessment.

Commented [CW6]: SLA Input

4. Can the Minister provide all correspondence between the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Suburban Land Agency regarding the koala referred to in part (1) and subsequent actions.

• All relevant correspondence has been included in the Objective file.

Commented [KT7]: I have included the emails regarding ANU gaining unapproved access to the site, but have marked them as tentative for easy reference.

5. the ACT received an Australian Government Has the ACT Government received any federal funding for koala conservation in the ACT; if so, what has the funding been spent on.

Unsure if these need to be included.

• 6. ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) received a grant totalling \$97,000 from the Australian Government in 2023 for a Gula (Koala) conservation project, to support building capacity in the Ngunnawal community to engage with in Gula conservation. The funding was used to support on Country days, a community workshop and habitat plantings.

• ACT NRM delivered the project in partnership with the Office of Nature Conservation (ONC), to enable Ngunnawal and western science values to guide delivery of the 2023 Gula (Koala) Native Species Conservation Plan.

• In March 2024, Ngunnawal Community visited neighbouring Yuin Country on the NSW south coast, for a traditional knowledge exchange with the Yuin Community on managing Gula habitat, including the use of fire.

• In August 2024, the ACT NRM First Nations Kick Start program undertook 3 days of familiarisation of faunal field monitoring techniques with ONC ecologists. This included a visit to the Googong Foreshores Gula habitat to investigate scats, identify habitat, feed tree species, and examine survey equipment.

• In October 2024, the project hosted the Gula Gathering at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, with the Ngunnawal community, including Elders and children, invited guests, koala experts and key ACT Government officers. The Gula Gathering event fostered significant collaboration and cultural exchange, becoming one of the most attended community events in the ACT.

• In May 2025, the project supported a Ngunnawal community planting activity at Urambi Hills Nature Reserve. Thirty participants planted 250 trees and shrubs during the event, contributing to the development of knowledge and capacity for the community to undertake conservation activities for threatened species.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water **Date:**

This response required ~~1~~hrs ~~25~~mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$~~137.17~~XXX.

From: "Burkevics, Bren"
Sent: 26/03/2025 9:51 AM
To: "Thornhill, David" <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Dexter, David" <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>
Subject: Discuss next steps | Koala sighting in Jacka
Attachments: RE: Koala sighting in Jacka.msg, DA202341956 Koala sighting.pdf, Attach A_Due Diligence Summary alias.pptx

Sorry for the short notice folks please attend if you can.

Cheers,
Joey

From: Burkevics, Bren
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 2:46:49 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren ; Lee, Joey ; Taylor, Karen ; Malam, Chris
Cc: Cooney, Rosie ; Brawata, Renee
Subject: Discuss next steps | Koala sighting in Jacka
When: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 11:00 AM-11:30 AM.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Hi all,
Please find time to meet and discuss next steps.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Out of Scope

Dial in by phone

Out of scope Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: [Out of scope](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)



ACT
Government

[Org help](#) | [Privacy and security](#)

From: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: 19/03/2025 9:00 PM
To: "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>; "Patience, Tegan" <Tegan.Patience@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; "Kim, Sarah" <Sarah.Kim@act.gov.au>; "Brawata, Renee" <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala sighting in Jacka
Categories: Need to book appointment

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Joey,

Thanks for reaching out and we'd be happy to meet with you and discuss where things are up to and what the next steps are likely to be. I've CC:d Renee Brawata and Chris Malam from the Office of Nature Conservation as the team who have been undertaking the surveys of the area.

[@Patience, Tegan](#), are you able to advise Joey of some calendar availabilities for Bren over the coming week?

Thanks and talk soon!

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2025 3:52 PM
To: Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Cc: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Kim, Sarah <Sarah.Kim@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Koala sighting in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Karen,

I have received the attached letter from George Cilliers regarding Jacka. I am hoping to set up a meeting with Bren and yourself to discuss next steps. In the meantime, could I please request a copy of any surveys and reports from the due diligence undertaken by the conservator's office on this matter.

Cheers,

Joey

From: Barrett, Lucy <Lucy.Barrett@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 3:32 pm

To: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Cc: Larson, Eliza <Eliza.Larson@act.gov.au>

Subject: Koala sighting in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon Richard and Joey,

Please find attached a letter from EGM George Cilliers regarding the Koala sighting in Jacka.

Kind regards,
Lucy

Lucy Barrett

Executive Assistant;

Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, George Cilliers

Executive Branch Manager, DA Services and Support – Craig Weller

Executive Branch Manager, Statutory Assessments - Alix Kaucz

Phone 02 620 51182 | Email lucy.barrett@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Richard Binks
Senior Development Manager
Suburban Land Agency

richard.binks@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Binks

DA202341956, BLOCKS 2&4 SECTION 17 JACKA: KOALA SIGHTING IN JACKA STAGE 2

I am writing to provide you with an update on the due diligence work undertaken to date and likely next steps following the sighting of a Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in the Jacka Stage 2, Part 2 development area.

The Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Conservator) has undertaken monitoring activities which has included the use of passive acoustic recorders, scent detection dogs, drone thermal surveys and vegetation assessments of both the development block and the broader Northern Woodlands. A summary of the preliminary survey results is provided at [Attachment A](#).

Based on the results to date, the Conservator has advised that:

- one or more Koalas are using, to an undetermined extent, the broad area from the North-West border of the ACT to the development area.
- one or more Koalas are using, to an undetermined extent, the woodland habitat that exists on the development area.
- the information obtained from the environmental due diligence is insufficient at this time to determine whether the proposed development will have a significant adverse environmental impact.

The Conservator and I also met with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in February to discuss the preliminary results and any potential legislative implications. Both DCCEEW and the Conservator have recommended the SLA undertake a [self-assessment](#) to determine whether an additional referral is needed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* prior to commencement of construction activities.

Guidance on what further monitoring work may be required to complete a self-assessment can be provided by the Conservator's office and I encourage you to continue to engage with them on this matter.

Once a self-assessment has been completed it may also be useful to discuss the conclusions with DCCEEW to ensure compliance with Commonwealth requirements. The Impact Assessment team is available to assist in facilitating such a meeting.

If you require any further information, please contact the Impact Assessment team at epdimpact@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Sch 2 2(a)(ii)

George Criers
Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

19 March 2025



GULA (KOALA) ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE RESPONSE

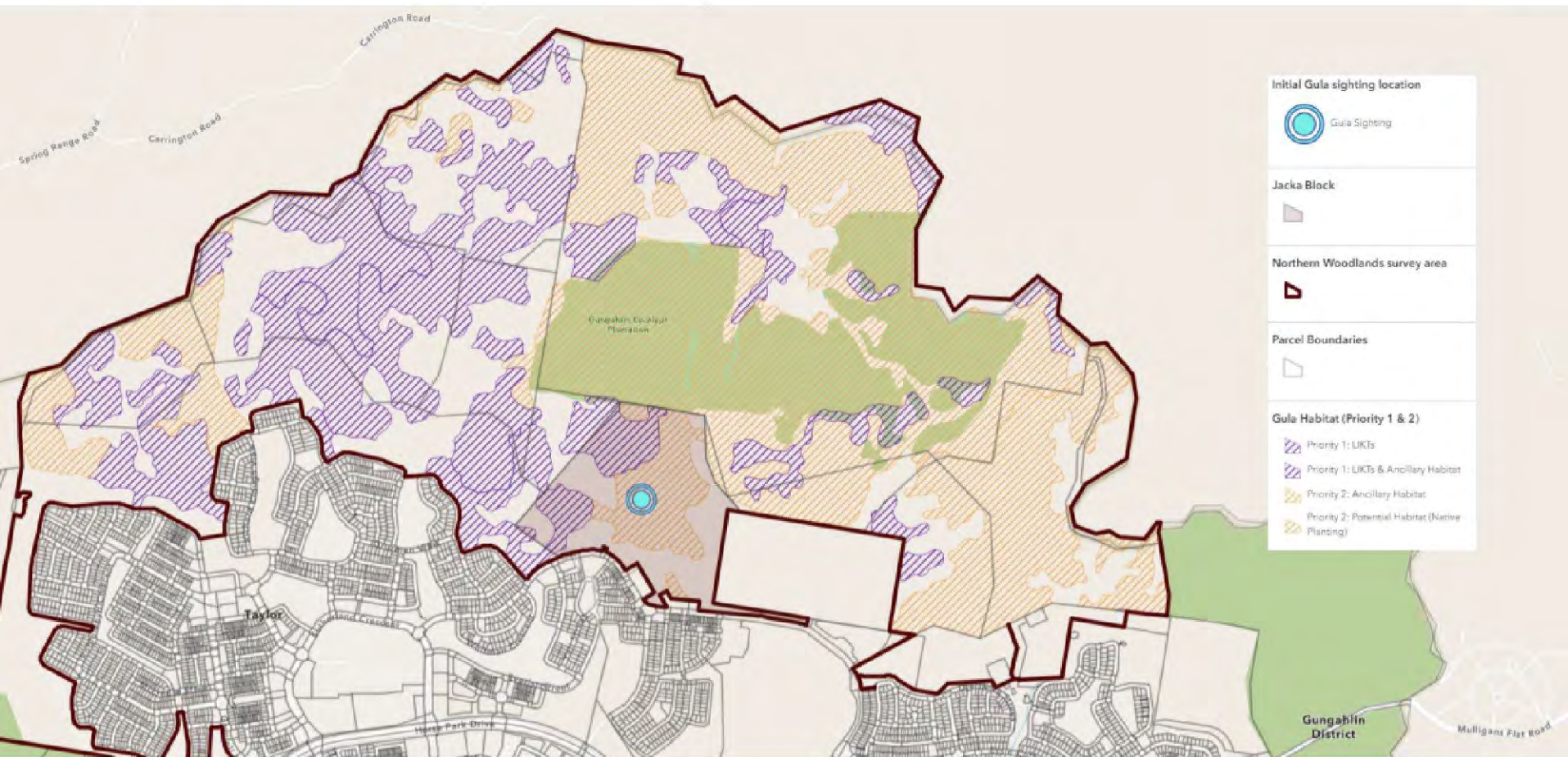
Preliminary survey results (updated February 2025)

Chris Malam

Senior Fauna Ecologist

Office of Nature Conservation | Environment Planning and Sustainable
Development

Situation Recap



Preliminary survey results



Passive acoustic recorders



Scent detection dogs



Drone thermal surveys



Vegetation assessment

| | Jacka block | Northern Woodlands |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Search area | 10 locations (300m apart) | 30 locations (500m apart) |
| Search period | 4 weeks from 24/10 <i>Recording between sunset & sunrise</i> | 2 weeks minimum during December or January. <i>Recording between sunset & sunrise</i> |
| Findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gula 'bellows' detected at 8 locations across six nights (28 Oct. - 13 Nov.) A total of 25 unique bellows were detected from at least one male <i>Acoustic processing now completed</i> | <i>Processing is currently underway – due to be completed early 2025.</i> |

Preliminary survey results



Passive acoustic recorders



Scent detection dogs



Drone thermal surveys



Vegetation assessment

| | Jacka block | Northern Woodlands |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Search area | 5 x 1ha transects (50 x 20m) | 65 x 1ha transects (50 x 20m) |
| Search period | 7 days (18 – 25 Nov.) 170 kilometres total distance covered by the dogs | |
| Findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 x Gula scat locations• 3 x Gula points of interest (e.g. scratched trees) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 x Gula scat locations• 3 x Gula points of interest (e.g. scratched trees) |

Preliminary survey results



Passive acoustic recorders



Scent detection dogs



Drone thermal surveys



Vegetation assessment

| | Jacka block | Northern Woodlands |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Search area | Full coverage (47ha) | 114ha – <i>targeting scat corridor</i> |
| Search period | 4 morning flights week of 18 Nov. (02:00 – 07:00) <i>Additional flights ceased due to poor thermal conditions</i> | |
| Findings | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zero Gula detected• 78 thermal hotspots were verified by ground team – incl. possums, cockatoos, magpies, macropods. | |

Preliminary survey results



Passive acoustic recorders



Scent detection dogs



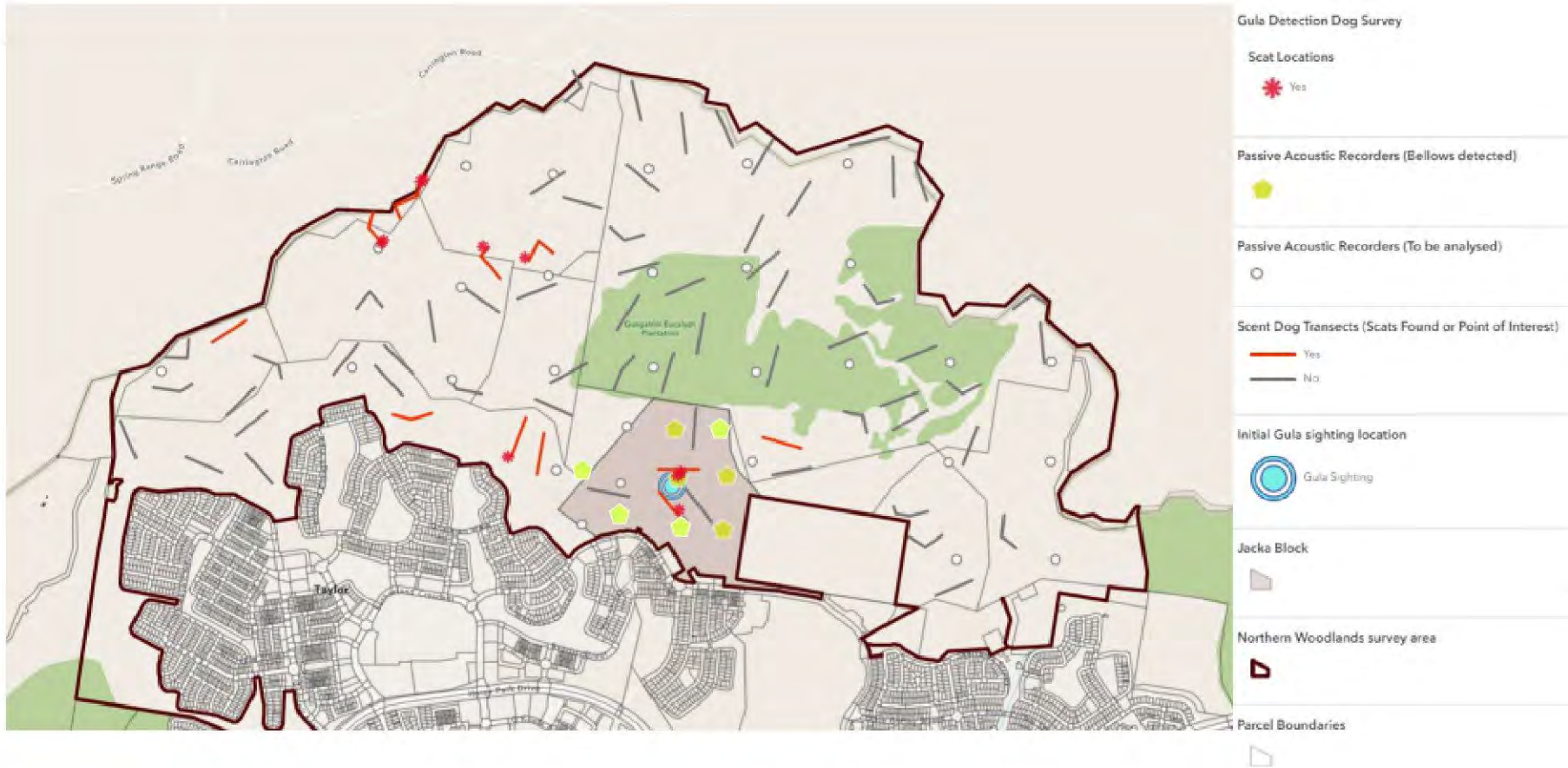
Drone thermal surveys



Vegetation assessment

| | Jacka block | Northern Woodlands |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Search area | Gap-filling existing PCT map and assess eucalypts for important Gula tree species | NA |
| Search period | Vegetation surveys undertaken by <i>Capital Ecology</i> . | |
| Findings | Primary feed/resting tree species located that are important to southern tableland region Gula populations. | |

Preliminary survey results (spatial)



Key outcomes

- Gula are using a broad area from the northwest ACT border to the Jacka block, across more open woodland.
- Prolonged use of the Jacka block by Gula since initial sighting reflects importance of the habitat patch – 28 days (13 Nov.).
- Vegetation assessments confirm presence of locally important koala tree species.
- It is not known whether more than one Gula is using this landscape.
- Secure fencing around Gungahlin Eucalypt Plantation to north of the Jacka block may be acting as barrier to movement.

Other ecological values found

- Scarlet Robin habitat surveys in Northern Woodlands found six nests; demonstrates use of lowland woodlands.
- Other threatened bird species found in the area include White-winged Triller, Southern Whiteface, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Speckled Warbler.
- 20% of trees assessed* within Jacka block are locally-important koala trees (DBH = 32 – 212cm).
- Vegetation assessments within Jacka Block identified 16.6ha of EPBC-listed BGGW (high groundcover diversity).

Potential next steps?

- Collaboration with ANU to deploy GPS collars on future animals (*currently unfunded*). Pre-emptive ethics approval obtained.
- Passive acoustic recorders from Northern Woodlands are currently being analysed.
- To determine if multiple individuals are in the landscape, more detailed investigation needed -- e.g. drone surveys (winter), ongoing audio monitoring, opportunistic DNA analysis.

From: "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Sent: 30/06/2025 4:42 PM
To: "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Thornhill, David" <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; "Cooney, Rosie" <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>
Subject: Due Diligence Survey Report: Jacka Self-Assessment SoR
Attachments: ONC Gula Due Diligence Survey Report.pdf
Categories: FOR INFORMATION/READING

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Yuma Joey!

Please find attached the Jacka Gula Due Diligence Survey Report completed by the Office of Nature Conservation. This detailed report should be of great assistance to you and your consultant ecologists in progressing the next steps of this due diligence and potential referral process.

Please reach out if you have any questions,

Kind regards.

Karen Taylor

A/g Conservator Liaison

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |

www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: ConservatorFloraFauna
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 1:14 PM
To: Lee, Joey
Cc: ConservatorFloraFauna ; Thornhill, David ; Binks, Richard ; Griffith, Andrew ; Burkevics, Bren
Subject: RE: Jacka Self-Assessment SoR

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Joey!

Thank you for providing this Statement of Requirements for us to review. Chris Malam has informed me that the final report for the due diligence work is finalised and should be cleared by early next week. Please find below our comments on the SoR:

- We note that the indicative timeline for a draft report is September 2025, which predates the next breeding season, and therefore seems to be inconsistent with the objectives of expected surveys gaps (i.e. passive acoustic surveys highlighted in document is needing to be deployed, processed and analysed to BAM standards). Breeding season in Canberra region is October – February.
- Outcomes from the due diligence surveys suggest that further detailed vegetation assessments is likely to be of marginal additional benefit. PCT mapping is already available within the Jacka Block, and individual tree assessments for at least the NE part of the block – i.e. we know that there are important koala trees throughout the site. Nutrition quality assessments of individuals trees could be done (though this can be time-consuming and expensive), but we're unsure of the benefit this would give in regard to this process.
- Will the approach to market be shared in an open/public environment, or only provided to select suppliers? Whilst this is obviously a decision for SLA, from a transparency point of view it might be good optics to open this up to a broad range of potential suppliers.
- If passive acoustic surveys are to be undertaken, are we able to embed into the contract that results are shared with EPSDD/CED?
- Section "3.5.10 No dogs or other pets are permitted on site." – It would be good to generalise to 'pets' rather than explicitly state dogs, given the use of working dogs is a highly effective survey technique.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks!

Karen Taylor

A/g Conservator Liaison

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |

www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 June 2025 9:43 AM

To: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Cc: ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Thornhill, David <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Jacka Self-Assessment SoR

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Joey

Thanks for checking. Karen as Conservator Liaison will be able to assist navigate the draft across the relevant areas in EHP.

We are most happy to help review and provide finer points.

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 15 June 2025 9:14 AM

To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Cc: ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Thornhill, David <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>

Subject: Jacka Self-Assessment SoR

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Bren,

I've attached the draft SoR that we have prepared for the Jacka Self-Assessment. We are planning to discuss with the Conservator Liaison later this week however please let me know if we should be engaging with others within your portfolio for review of the SoR.

Cheers,

Joey



ACT
Government

Gula (Koala) Environmental Due Diligence Survey Results

Office of Nature Conservation

June 2025



Executive Summary

On 17th October 2024, an adult male Gula (Koala)¹ was sighted on Block 9 Section 17 in Jacka, ACT. This observation is significant because Gula are listed as **Endangered** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and are rarely seen in the ACT. The area where the Gula was observed is scheduled for development as part of Jacka Stage 2.

Following confirmation of the sighting of the Gula, the Conservator for Flora and Fauna engaged Conservation Officers from the Office of Nature Conservation to undertake due diligence surveys. The purpose of these surveys was to determine the conservation and ecological value of Jacka Block 9 to the local Gula population, and the importance of this area within the landscape context.

Environmental due diligence surveys were undertaken during October 2024 – February 2025. Surveys were conducted across the proposed development area in Jacka and adjoining Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. A best practice approach was developed in accordance with the NSW *Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) Biodiversity Assessment Method*¹ guidelines, using multiple methods. The draft survey plan was reviewed by an independent panel of Koala experts prior to finalisation to ensure that a robust approach was taken.

Acoustic survey results indicate that at least one bellowing male occupied Jacka Block 9 for at least four weeks. Localised Gula scat and scratch marks indicated one or more Gula also occupied areas of the adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Habitat and vegetation assessments indicated that Jacka Block 9 and the broader Gungahlin Woodlands area contain Gula feed trees.

Jacka Block 9 clearly contains suitable and occupied Gula habitat, and likely forms part of at least one male Gula home range. Koala research in other contexts has highlighted that in fragmented landscapes (like this one) home ranges can be large and core areas may be patchily distributed throughout an individual's home range, with even very small patches providing significant components of foraging resources. Although it could not be determined how many individuals were using the proposed development block, Gula home ranges often overlap, meaning it is possible that the block may support multiple individuals.

¹ Gula is the Ngunnawal name for Koala, and the term is used to refer to animals on Ngunnawal Country. Koala is used when referring to the species more generally.

While Koalas have complex habitat needs and determining “suitable” habitat is not straightforward, Jacka Block 9 may be part of a broad area of continuous suitable Gula habitat connecting across northwestern ACT and into neighbouring NSW. This area may be important as a movement corridor for dispersing individuals and for maintaining gene flow across the wider landscape.

Gula have complex habitat requirements, meaning predicting occupancy across a landscape is difficult. Furthermore, very few Gula have been observed in the ACT in recent decades, so the distribution of suitable habitat across the ACT is largely unknown. This means conserving known occupied connected habitat is vitally important to meet conservation goals, and also means that finding or creating appropriate offset habitat is likely to be very challenging.

To meet ACT and Commonwealth statutory commitments for Gula conservation and recovery, clearing of this habitat should be avoided.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Gula (Koala) Environmental Due Diligence Survey Results | i |
| Executive Summary | i |
| Background..... | 1 |
| Gula in the ACT | 1 |
| Gula discovery at Jacka..... | 2 |
| Purpose of environmental due diligence surveys | 3 |
| Methods | 3 |
| Survey framework | 3 |
| Survey area | 4 |
| Survey Method 1: Ground-based thermal and spotlighting surveys | 4 |
| Survey Method 2: Thermal drone surveys (aerial)..... | 5 |
| Survey method 3: Passive acoustic surveys | 7 |
| Survey Method 4: Scent detection dogs | 8 |
| Survey Method 5: Habitat assessment..... | 9 |
| Results | 10 |
| Survey Method 1: Ground-based thermal and spotlighting surveys | 10 |
| Survey Method 2: Thermal drone surveys (aerial)..... | 11 |
| Survey method 3: Passive acoustic surveys | 11 |
| Survey Method 4: Scent detection dogs | 13 |
| Habitat assessment | 13 |
| Discussion | 17 |
| The Jacka Gula | 17 |
| The population | 18 |
| The habitat..... | 19 |
| Summary & Next Steps..... | 20 |
| References | 22 |

Background

Gula in the ACT

The Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), or Gula in Ngunnawal language, has experienced significant declines in the ACT since the late 1800s. Landscape scale bushfires of the 2019-2020 summer impacted large areas of Koala habitat throughout eastern Australia, contributing to the Commonwealth decision to list Koalas as endangered in QLD, NSW and the ACT. Under the [Common Assessment Method](#), the Gula was listed as endangered in the ACT in 2023. To improve conservation outcomes for the species, the ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna prepared the *Native Species Conservation Plan - Gula (Koala)* (hereafter, the NSCP)³. The NSCP was developed in consultation with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.

The first objective of the NSCP is to determine the status of the Gula in the ACT, including distribution and population strongholds, to help inform decision making at the territory level. While single individuals are occasionally spotted, no wild populations of Gula are known to persist in the ACT. Implementing a robust monitoring plan that detects Gula at low densities is therefore critical to meeting the first objective of the NSCP. The Office of Nature Conservation has thus far undertaken two cycles of Gula monitoring. Audio recorders were deployed to potential Gula habitat over the Spring/Summer of 2022-23 and 2023-24. The recordings were then analysed for male bellows, which are produced during the species' breeding season. Of the 150 sites surveyed prior to October 2024, Gula were detected at one site in the ACT and two sites in Googong Foreshores, which is managed by ACT Government (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Locations of audio recorders that have been deployed and processed prior to October 2024 as part of Gula monitoring in the ACT. Gula icons show the location of confirmed bellow detections.

Gula discovery at Jacka

On 17 October 2024, an individual male Gula was discovered on Block 9 of Section 17 of the planned Jacka suburban development (hereafter, Jacka Block 9; Figure 2). Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is the current land custodian of Jacka Block 9. The Gula discovery was incidental, and did **not** occur as part of NSCP monitoring. While the forested parts of this area are predominantly *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* dry sclerophyll forest, the individual was observed occupying and eating the leaves of a known food tree, *E. rossii*, which are scattered through the area.

An anecdotal report suggests that Gula were once abundant in Jacka. Mr Lyall Gillespie (OAM), a public servant and president of the Canberra Historical Society ⁴, made the report in 1986. In relation to “Elm Grove near Ginninderra”, Mr Gillespie as quoted as saying “[his] father saw a koala at the turn of the century” and “the koalas were in their hundreds when [Mr Gillespie’s father] was small” ⁵. “Elm Grove near Ginninderra” refers to the homestead built by the Gillespie family in the mid-1800s, where Lyall Gillespie’s father, William (born 1886) grew up ⁶. It is located approximately 1.4km south-east of the Jacka discovery in 2024 (Figure 2).

Other recorded Gula sightings within the general vicinity include:

- Woodstock Nature Reserve – 1986 (22km away)
- Kowen Escarpment Nature Reserve – 1992 (25km away)
- Nanima, NSW – 1980 (7km away)
- Sutton, NSW – 2023 (12km away)

Given the scarcity of Gula records in northern ACT and nearby NSW, the incidental finding of the Jacka Gula on 17/10/24 is significant for the ACT.

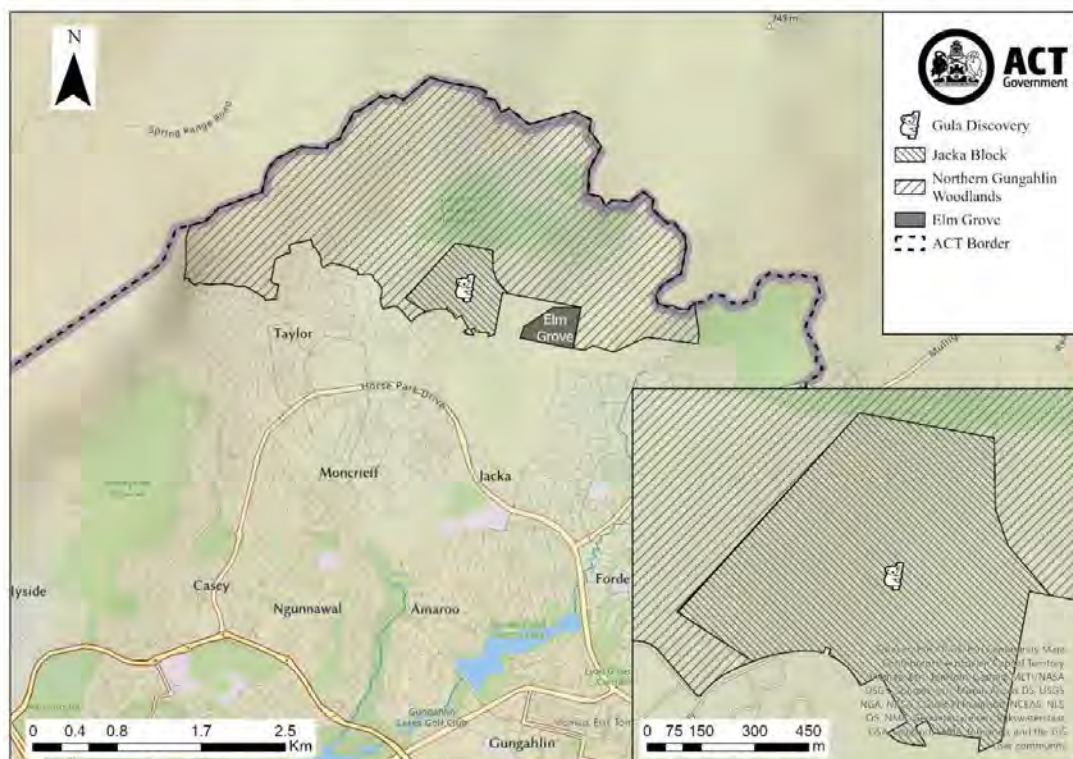


Figure 2: Location of Gula discovered on Jacka Block 9 and extent of survey area including both Jacka Block 9 and adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands.

Purpose of environmental due diligence surveys

Following the sighting in Jacka Block 9, the Conservator for Flora and Fauna (hereafter, the Conservator) was notified. Section 21 of the [Nature Conservation Act 2014](#) outlines that a function of the Conservator is to oversee plans for the effective management of nature conservation in the ACT, including native species conservation plans. Furthermore, Section 124 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* stipulates that the Conservator and the custodian of the land on which a native species conservation plan is in force must take reasonable steps to implement the plan. As identifying and protecting key Gula habitat across the ACT are main objectives of the Gula NSCP, it is appropriate for the Conservator to work with the land custodians (the Suburban Land Agency; hereafter SLA) to assess the conservation value of Jacka Block 9 for Gula and, subsequently, determine which future development actions (if any) are appropriate. The Conservator engaged with the SLA to ensure that no development activity occurred until further assessment had been completed.

Pursuant to Section 22 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, the Conservator tasked Conservation Officers in the Office of Nature Conservation to undertake environmental due diligence surveys. Conservation Officers in the Office of Nature Conservation are ecologists with subject matter expertise in Gula ecology and conservation. The surveys commenced in October 2024 and were conducted across Jacka Block 9 and adjoining Northern Gungahlin Woodlands (Figure 2). The purpose of these surveys was to provide advice to the Conservator on the ecological and conservation value of Jacka Block 9 to the local Gula population, and the importance of this area within the landscape context of potential habitat across the adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. To inform this advice, the following attributes were assessed:

- Density of Gula across different parts of Jacka Block 9 and adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands
- Frequency and duration of occupancy across different parts of Jacka Block 9 and adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands
- Extent of suitable habitat within Jacka Block 9 and adjacent Northern Gungahlin Woodlands
- Value of Jacka Block 9 as part of connectivity with broader landscape context

Methods

Survey framework

Environmental due diligence surveys were designed to align with best practice approach as outlined in the *Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) Biodiversity Assessment Method Survey Guide*¹. This survey framework was circulated to a panel of Koala experts on 12 November 2024 for feedback on the design and scope, to ensure a robust survey approach. Experts consisted of two New South Wales Government ecologists and three academics. Responses were received by two of the academics, both from the Australian National University. Where appropriate, the responses were used to modify the survey framework, for example, changes to vegetation (i.e., a proxy for habitat) prioritisation, clearer terms regarding suitable conditions for drone use and stating the requirement for experienced scent detection dogs to undertake surveys. Experts were then provided with a listening report outlining the applied changes and justification where suggestions were not incorporated.

Survey area

Surveys were undertaken in Block 9 of Section 17 of the planned Jacka suburban development and the surrounding area of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands (Figure 2). Jacka Block 9 is 55.5 hectares, and characterised by box-gum grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and native grassland. Northern Gungahlin Woodlands consists of approximately 744 hectares of box-gum grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest, and native and exotic grasslands. Survey site selection is described below for each respective survey method.

Survey Method 1: Ground-based thermal and spotlighting surveys

Ground-based thermal and spotlighting surveys were planned with the aim of assessing Gula abundance across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Estimates of animal abundance can be generated from ground-based surveys analysed with a distance sampling method; however, this method relies on a high number of detections (i.e., high abundance) to be effective. Therefore, a limitation to this method is that sampling low-density populations may yield unreliable results.

Using ArcGIS Pro (version 3.1.3) developed by ESRI Inc, the ACT Plant Community Type Zone Map⁷ and ACT Vegetation Map 2023⁸ were overlaid on a map of Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, and filtered to show the distribution of vegetation communities containing locally important koala trees and ancillary habitat across the area (i.e., potential Gula habitat). Survey transects were placed in areas of potential habitat within Jacka Block 9 and SLA land directly west of Jacka Block 9 (Figure 3). On 28 October 2024, surveys were conducted between 20:30 and 22:50. To maximise the efficacy of thermal vision, additional surveys were conducted on 30 October 2024 between 03:40 and 05:15, i.e., during the coolest part of the night.

Vehicle transects were surveyed along tracks from a side-by-side ATV using a vehicle-mounted thermal forward-looking infrared (FLIR) system. The vehicle was driven slowly (< 20 km/h) along tracks, and the monitor attached to the FLIR system was observed for heat signatures. When animals were detected, species and location were recorded. If detected animals were unable to be identified from the displayed image, hand-held HIKMICRO Raptor RQ50LN thermal binoculars were used for species confirmation. The same route was surveyed twice over two nights.

Walking transects were surveyed on foot in treed areas inaccessible via vehicle tracks. The primary detection method used was spotlighting for arboreal mammal eyeshine. In denser patches of woodland where spotlighting was unfeasible, HIKMICRO Raptor RQ50LN thermal binoculars were used to scan trees for heat signatures of animals. Walking transects were each surveyed once over two nights.

Although there was initially an intent to conduct ground-based surveys across the entire Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, the tall and dense nature of vegetation inhibited access and detectability, making it infeasible to continue with the method. Following the surveys undertaken on 28 and 30 October, ground-based surveys ceased, and survey efforts were instead focussed on alternative methods.



Figure 3: Map showing the location of side-by-side ATV transects (thermal), and walking transects (spotlighting and thermal) within Jacka Block 9 and adjoining Suburban Land Agency land.

Survey Method 2: Thermal drone surveys (aerial)

To assess Gula density and distribution, and to determine whether the individual sighted on October 17 had remained in the area, drone-based aerial thermal surveys were carried out across Jacka Block 9 and north-western parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Drone flights were prioritised for Jacka Block 9 to maximise the likelihood of re-locating the first Gula and determine whether other individuals could be detected on the block. In Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, drone flights were prioritised across areas containing potential Gula habitat (refer *Survey Method 1*) to provide the greatest opportunity to estimate Gula abundance and distribution.

All flight operations were subject to the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101*. EPSDD holds a Remote Operator Certificate and is approved to undertake night operations. The drone must be within visual line of sight of the pilot at all times, and only operated in conditions that would otherwise constitute day visual meteorological conditions (VMC). Flights were conducted using a DJI Matrice 300 RTK drone mounted with a Zenmuse H20T thermal sensor. Flight operations occurred during 19 – 22 November 2024 and between 02:00 and 07:00, which was the coldest part of the night and therefore ideal time for finding thermal signatures. The drone operated 30-40 metres above the tree canopy within each flight parcel, flying less than 8 m/s and maintaining a minimum 30% front and side overlap. Whilst operating the drone, the pilot scanned the real-time thermal video feed for thermal ‘blooms’ or hotspots indicative of mammals. When an animal was sighted, a ground-based search crew navigated to the detection location to identify the

species. Still thermal images were also collected for each potential detection. If the ground crew was unable to verify a detection during night hours, the site was revisited during daylight, either on foot or using the drone.

A total of 47 ha in Jacka Block 9 and 114 ha in the north-western part of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands were surveyed with the thermal drone (Figure 4). Drone surveys were not undertaken across other parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands due to unfavourable weather conditions. Elevated ambient temperatures, humidity and rain events over subsequent weeks resulted in conditions outside the standards prescribed in *Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) Biodiversity Assessment Method Survey Guide*¹. This decision was also consistent with feedback received from koala experts on the proposed Gula due diligence survey plan. Experts recommended that the ideal time to use thermal aerial surveys to detect koalas is during the cooler months.

Even in suitable weather conditions, thermal drone surveys may fail to detect some individuals. This may be due to an animal being obscured from view by a physical object (e.g. tree branch or hollow) or difficulty in detecting a moving animal. These limitations highlight the importance of using multiple methods when surveying cryptic species, and that non-detection by one method does not necessarily mean the target species is absent.

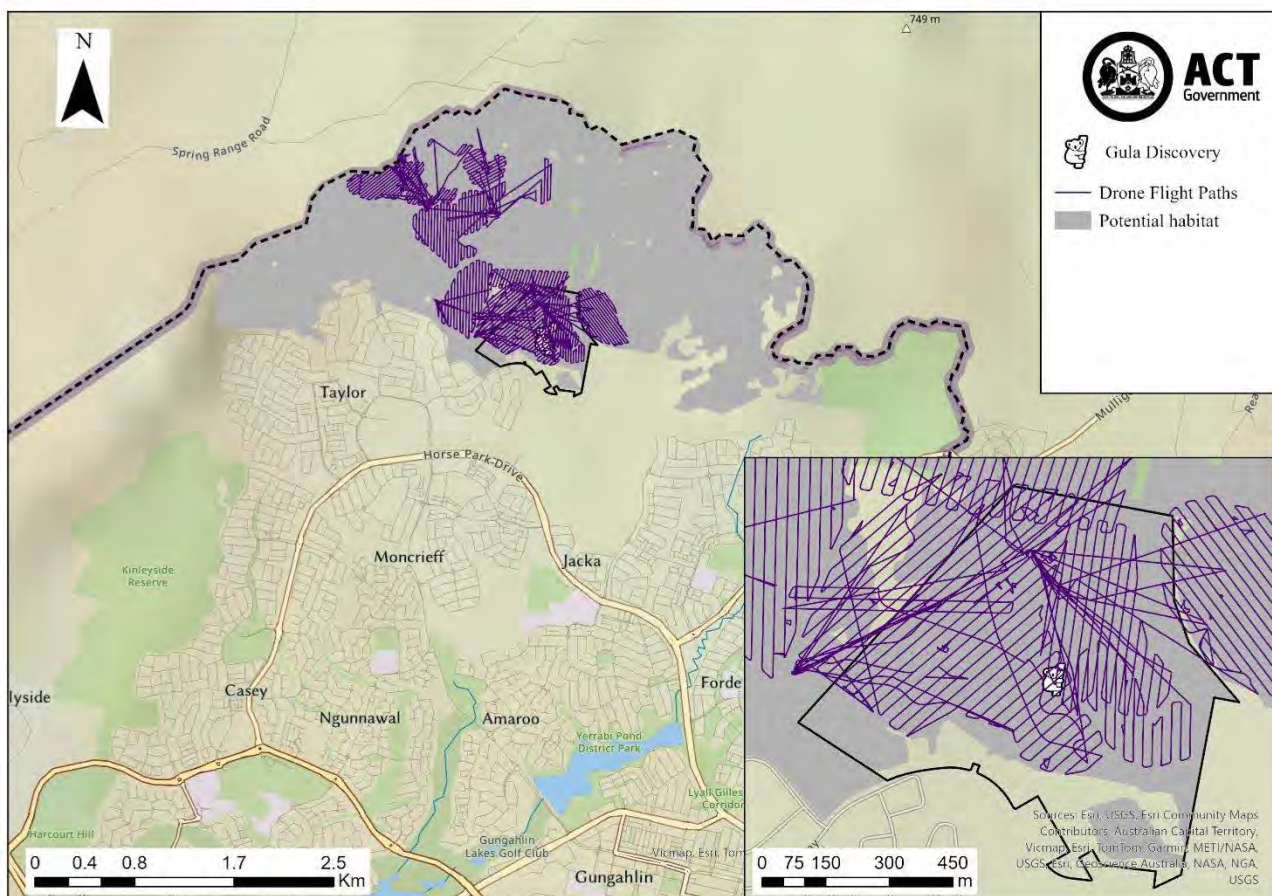


Figure 4: Map showing flight path covered by thermal drone across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands

Survey method 3: Passive acoustic surveys

Male Gula produce distinctive “bellows” during the breeding season, which occurs from October to February in the ACT and region. Passive acoustic monitoring targeted towards male bellows was used to identify locations of high Gula activity and assess the frequency and duration of Gula occupancy across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. One limitation of passive acoustic monitoring is that absolute abundance can rarely be determined. In other words, when multiple signals are detected, it is usually difficult to determine how many individuals have produced the signals. Furthermore, because only adult male Gula bellow, this method is ineffective at detecting females and juveniles.

Thirty-nine Song Meter (SM4) audio recorders (produced by Wildlife Acoustics Inc.) were deployed across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands in a grid array. Each device was mounted to a suitable tree about 1.5 – 1.8 metres above the ground, ideally in an open position where no branches or foliage would interfere with the recording. They were programmed to record continuously between sunset and sunrise (approx. 10.5 hours) with a sampling rate of 24 kHz.

Song Meters have an estimated detection range of up to 300 metres for Gula bellows⁹. Spacing Song Meters at 300 metre intervals in a grid array is therefore ideal, to enable cross-checking of bellow detections between Song Meters to provide insight into whether bellows are produced by one male or more than one male. Song Meters were installed 300 metres apart in a grid array on Jacka Block 9 on 25 October 2024 and remained in situ for one month (Figure 5). Due to limitations in the number of recording units available and staff time, Song Meters could not be deployed to Northern Gungahlin Woodlands concurrently with Jacka Block 9. Furthermore, the size of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands meant that Song Meters were installed in a grid array at 500 metre intervals, in two batches, and deployed for two weeks each during December 2024 and January 2025 (Figure 5).

Song Meter audio was processed with Kaleidoscope software (version 5.4.2) produced by Wildlife Acoustics Inc. A cluster file that was previously developed as part of NSCP baseline monitoring was used to extract potential detections. The detections were then checked by an ecologist to confirm whether they were male Gula bellows. Bellows detected on Jacka Block 9 Song Meters were cross checked at other Jacka Block 9 Song Meters to determine whether the same bellow was detected across multiple locations.

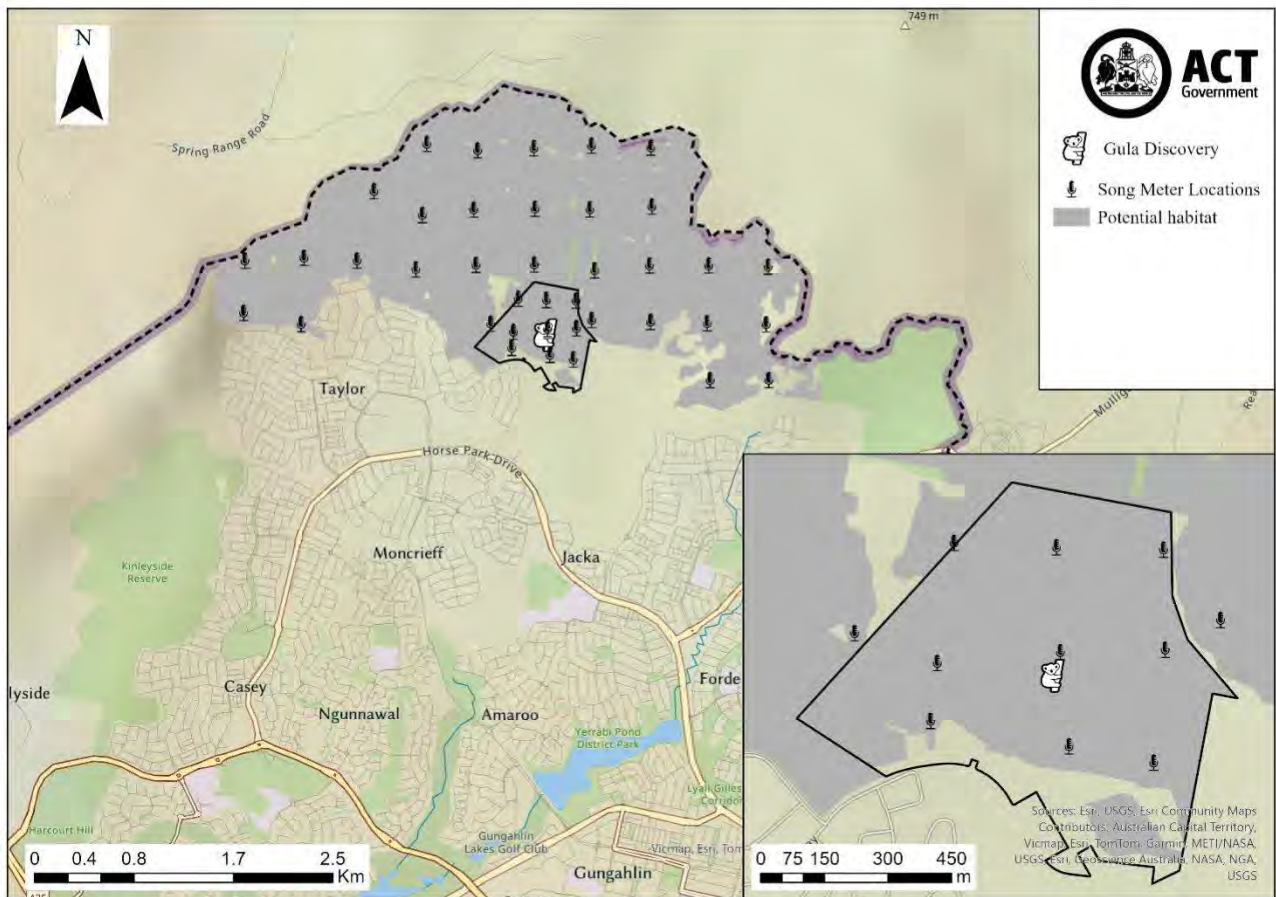


Figure 5: Map showing locations of Song Meters (SM4) deployed across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands

Survey Method 4: Scent detection dogs

To identify areas of Gula activity across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, scent detection dog surveys were undertaken. Trained scent detection dogs often outperform human counterparts in locating scat, and are assumed to increase the likelihood of detecting a live Gula compared to surveys undertaken with human observers alone^{2,10}. Trained dogs can detect scents from male, female and juvenile Gula, making them a useful complementary tool to the adult male-focussed method of passive acoustic monitoring.

Scat detection dog surveys were undertaken using four experienced dogs trained in Gula scent detection. Scat samples collected from the Gula sighted on Jacka Block 9 were used to focus the dogs to local scent profiles. Following the standardised approach outlined in the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) Biodiversity Assessment Method Survey Guide¹, surveys were conducted along transects in potential habitat over four days in late-November between the hours of 07:00 and 15:00. Each transect was approximately 200 x 50 metres and spaced at least 100 metres apart (Figure 6). Due to dog availability, a total of 70 transects were surveyed. Survey locations were prioritised to ensure an even spatial distribution across potential habitat (refer *Survey Method 1*). During each survey, detection dogs traversed the length of the transect twice, in opposite directions. Each pass occurred about 25 metres apart with the dogs freely moving through the area. During each search, the dog handler monitored the dog for behaviours associated with detection and examined potential detection areas for Gula scat and/or scratch marks. Total search time varied with

terrain, vegetation, and individual dogs, but generally the dog handler aimed to walk the transect at about 10 metres per minute.

One limitation to detection dog surveys is their limited to determine Gula abundance and density within an area because it is unclear whether signs of presence indicate one or more animals. The condition of Gula scats (e.g., fresh or desiccated) can however provide some indication of when different signs were produced.

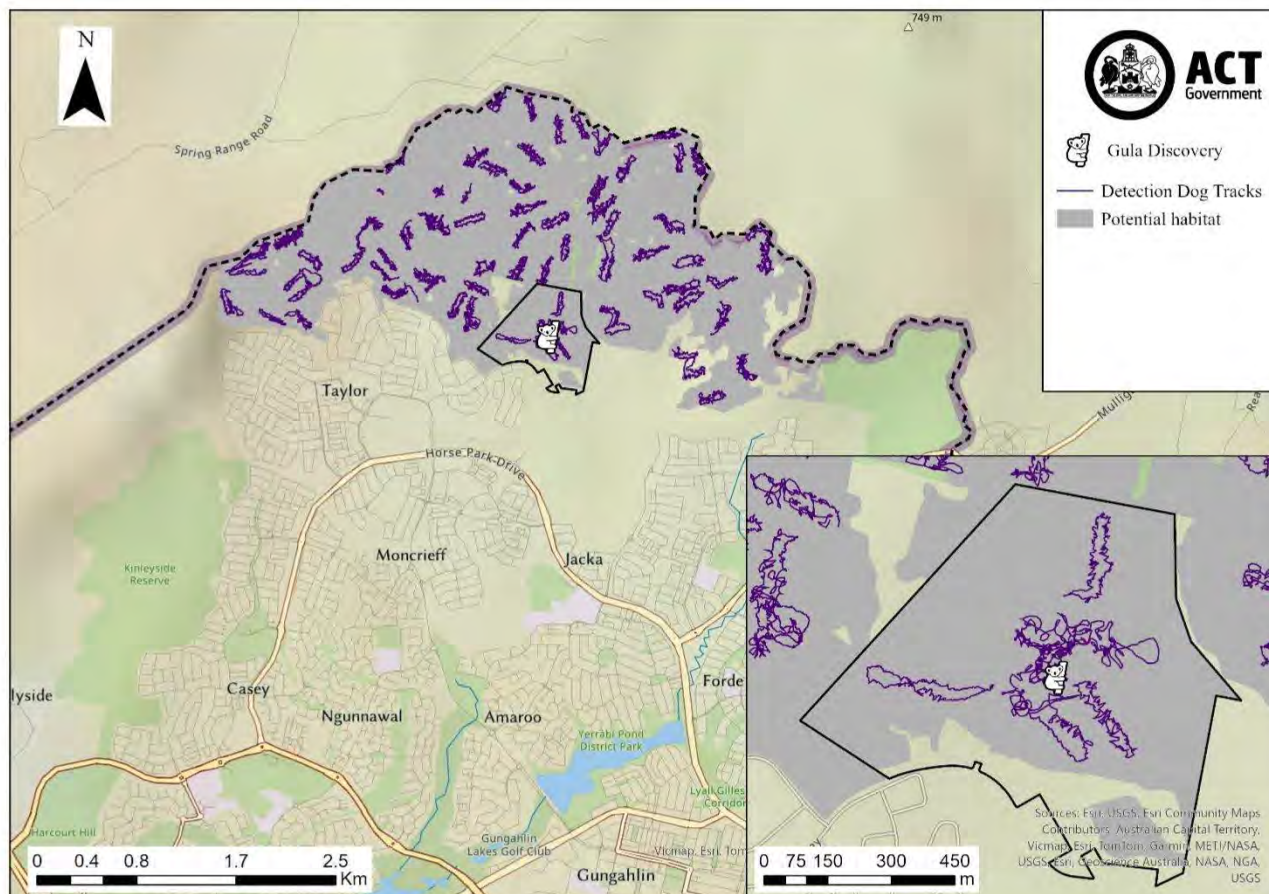


Figure 6: Map showing tracks covered by detection dogs.

Survey Method 5: Habitat assessment

Previous survey methods focus on detecting Gula and signs of Gula. The quantity, quality and connectivity of Gula habitat on and around Jacka Block 9 are also key indicators of the importance of Jacka Block 9 for the local Gula population. Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping was used to assess the type and condition of vegetation within Jacka Block 9 and parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. More specifically, PCT mapping provided an indication of whether vegetation communities contained locally important koala trees, a critical element of koala habitat. To assess the connectivity and landscape context of Gula habitat on Jacka Block 9, potential Gula habitat was mapped across the whole of the ACT and in NSW within 25 km from the border, using existing datasets.

Plant Community Type mapping

PCT classification is the highest level of classification in the New South Wales native vegetation classification framework. According to the NSW Government, PCTs “identify and describe recurring patterns of native plant species assemblages in relation to environmental conditions such as soil, temperature, moisture and other factors. Their floristic composition is characterised by frequently co-occurring species, including combinations of trees, shrubs and/or groundcover plants”¹¹. Some PCT mapping had already been completed in parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands prior to the Gula sighting in October 2024. To enhance that existing PCT dataset, Capital Ecology was contracted to undertake additional PCT mapping on behalf of ACT Government. Capital Ecology had partially mapped vegetation on Jacka Block 9 in June 2020 for another client. They undertook complementary surveys in November 2024 to ensure PCTs and vegetation zones were mapped across Jacka Block 9 and the adjoining SLA block to its immediate west. Capital Ecology followed the same methodology published in [2017 Woodland Quality and Extent Mapping – ACT Government Environmental Offsets](#)¹². This involved GPS mapping the boundaries of PCTs and assessing vegetation zones within PCTs based on vegetation structure, floristic composition and overall vegetation quality. The additional PCT mapping was combined with the existing dataset to create a map of plant community type and condition on Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands (where available; see Figure 9).

Connectivity and Landscape context

To assess the connectivity and landscape context of Gula habitat on Jacka Block 9, several vegetation datasets were combined into a single map showing potential habitat across the whole of the ACT and within a 25 km buffer of the territory. The intent of the map is simply to identify *potential* habitat across the landscape; habitat suitability is addressed further in the discussion. The ACT Plant Community Type Zone Map⁷, ACT Vegetation Map 2023⁸ and NSW State Vegetation Type Map¹³ spatial datasets were filtered to only include polygons containing locally important koala trees or ancillary habitat trees of the Southern Tablelands koala management bioregion². PCT mapping has not been completed across the entire ACT, which is why the ACT Vegetation Map was also used to create this map. Some polygons in the ACT Vegetation Map were described as containing ‘*Eucalyptus spp.*’, rather than specific species, and these were native plantings in most instances. These polygons were also included in the filtered dataset of potential habitat, as it is possible they contained locally important koala trees or ancillary habitat.

It is important to note that the presence of locally important koala trees or ancillary habitat trees alone does not confirm that an area contains suitable Gula habitat. While it is true that presence of certain tree species strongly influences habitat quality, and these may be species that Gula feed on, rest in, or both^{2,14}, several factors influence habitat suitability and preference. The presence of locally important koala trees or ancillary habitat trees were used as a proxy to map potential Gula habitat, simply for the purpose of assessing potential connectivity across the landscape.

Results

Survey Method 1: Ground-based thermal and spotlighting surveys

Gula were not detected during either ATV or walking ground-based surveys. However, this result was somewhat expected, as the species is difficult to detect visually, particularly in low-density populations.

Therefore, absence of detections should not be interpreted as absence of Gula on Jacka Block 9. Incidental observations of other species included Common Brush-tailed Possums, Red Foxes and Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Walking transects undertaken on 28 October were abandoned due to interference unauthorised access by persons searching for the gula. The portion of the walking transects not surveyed on 28 October were instead surveyed on 30 October.

Survey Method 2: Thermal drone surveys (aerial)

No Gula were detected during thermal drone surveys. Because an animal's positioning in the canopy can affect its detectability via thermal drone (e.g. obstruction by physical object), it is possible that Gula were present in the survey area but were simply not detected. Furthermore, due to survey timing only a few hours each night were within thermal tolerances for reliable surveying; this meant that the survey area was split into blocks flown each night. It is possible that Gula could have avoided detection by moving through the landscape over multiple nights.

The drone captured 78 thermal hotspots of non-target species or objects that were assessed by the ground-based search crew. These included Common Brush-tailed Possums, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Australian Magpies, and Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Survey method 3: Passive acoustic surveys

Passive acoustic surveys confirmed Gula presence on Jacka Block 9. A total of 24 unique Gula bellows were detected, the earliest being 28 October and latest being 13 November. As the Gula was first discovered 17 October, this means at least one Gula used the area in and around Jacka Block 9 for at least four weeks. No bellows were detected during the final week of Song Meter deployment on Jacka Block 9. Song Meters experienced some data loss, particularly sites 'JACKA_06' and 'JACKA_11'. Regardless, bellows were detected at each of the ten Song Meters deployed on Jacka Block 9 (Figure 7).

On several occasions, the same bellow was detected on multiple Song Meters at varying volumes. The relative volume of bellows on Song Meters is indicative of proximity to the bellowing Gula, so relative volume was used to assess how Gula were moving about the landscape. At least one Gula used much of Jacka Block 9, with bellows of either moderate or loud relative volume detected on all Song Meters. Most loud calls occurred on the eastern side of Jacka Block 9. Detected bellows were cross-checked across multiple Song Meters to obtain the approximate location of the individual(s) across time. Based on the spatiotemporal distribution of bellows in Jacka Block 9, it is estimated that the bellows were produced by one individual male.

No Gula bellows were detected on Song Meters deployed across Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Limitations in the availability of Song Meters, there was a time delay between the retrieval of devices from Jacka Block 9 and subsequent deployment to Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. It is therefore possible that the individual(s) utilised or transited through parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands prior to the Song Meters being deployed there.

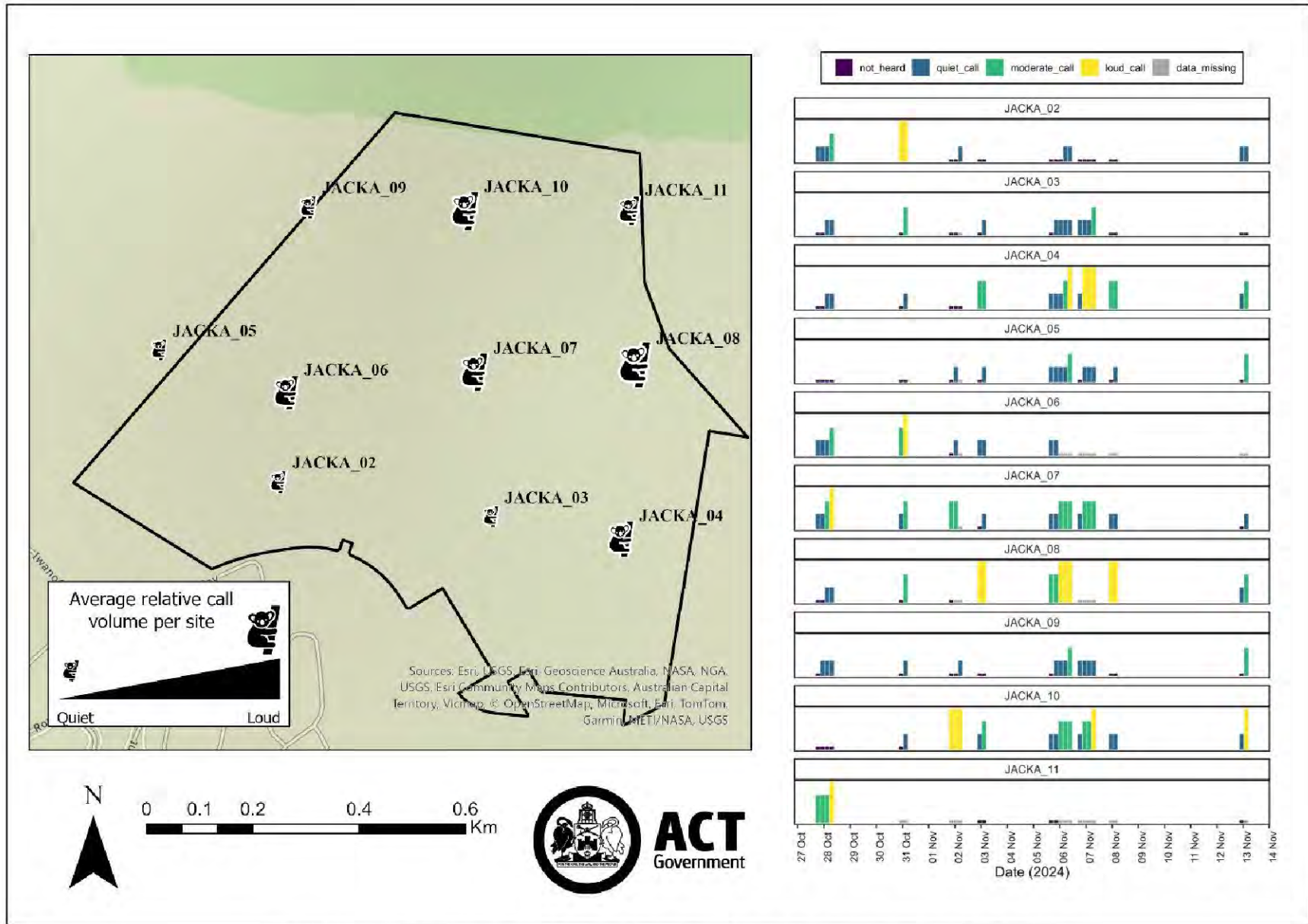


Figure 7: Map and plot showing Gula bellow relative volume at the Song Meters deployed in Jacka Block 9.

Survey Method 4: Scent detection dogs

Scent detection dogs were also successful in confirming Gula presence. Scat was detected under four trees on Jacka Block 9 and under eight trees in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands (Figure 8). The dogs also showed interest in an additional five trees in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Four trees contained scratch marks, the fifth had no visible sign of Gula. Gula sign was also detected directly to the north and south of the initial sighting location in Jacka Block 9. In total, scat and/or scratch marks were detected on 11 of 70 transects. The majority of Gula sign (i.e., scat, scratch marks) was detected west of Jacka Block 9, with just a single detection to the east. All scat detected were classified as 'medium' to 'old' in age, limiting our ability to estimate when they were produced; the level of desiccation also meant that it was infeasible to extract DNA for further testing.

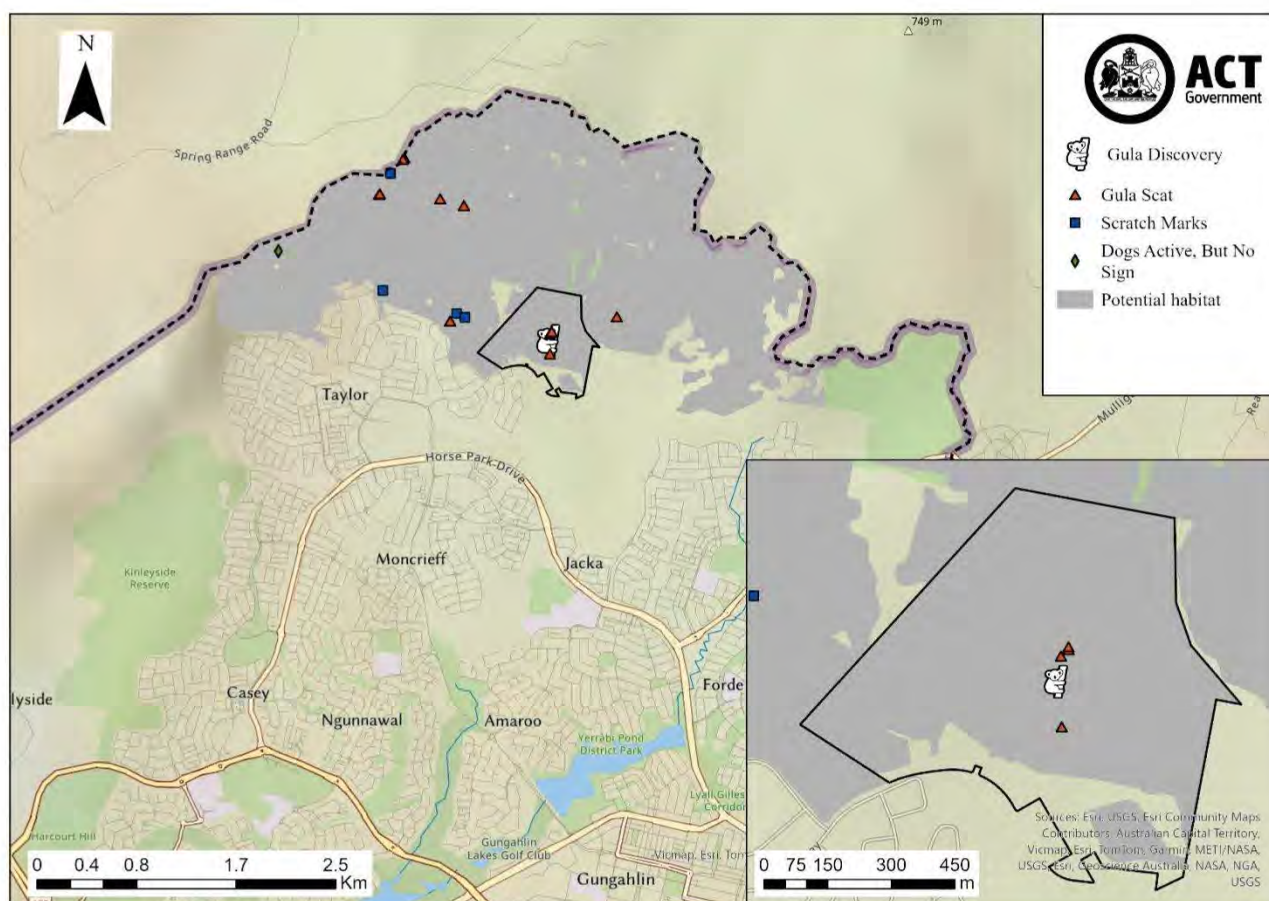


Figure 8: Map showing location of Gula scats and other points of interest (e.g. scratch marks) that were identified by scent detection dogs.

Habitat assessment

Plant Community Type mapping

Plant Community Types identified on Jacka Block 9 were:

- ACT01 – *Themeda triandra* – *Rytidosperma caespitosa* – *Austrostipa bigeniculata* Tableland Dry Tussock Grassland
- ACT16 – *Eucalyptus melliodora* – *E. blakelyi* Tableland Grassy Woodland

- ACT25 – *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* – *E. rossii* Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest

In addition to the PCTs found on Jacka Block 9, Northern Gungahlin Woodlands also contained the following PCTs:

- ACT09 – Tableland Riparian Floating and Submerged Vegetation
- ACT12 – *Kunzea ericoides* Tableland Shrubland
- ACT99 – Native planting

Condition zones varied across Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands (Figure 9). The area where the Gula was first sighted in Jacka Block 9 is classed as high-quality *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* – *E. rossii* Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest (1.1). This indicates that the area has a ground storey dominated by native plant species, and there are at least four mature native trees, high native forb diversity, and evidence of canopy species regeneration. Across all three PCTs on Jacka Block 9, 20.67 ha (i.e., 38%) were classed as highest possible vegetation quality (Table 1). In Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, the highest possible class of vegetation quality occurred in 58% of the mapped area, and mostly comprised PCTs ACT16 and ACT25. Because PCTs ACT16 and ACT25 contain locally important koala trees, it is likely that high-quality vegetation of these communities translates to high-quality Gula habitat, however, additional work would be required to confirm this (see discussion for further detail).

Vegetation assessments noted the presence of several locally important koala tree species, *E. dalrympleana*, *E. rubida* and *E. viminalis*. The assessment of tree species within Jacka Block 9 were focused on eastern and northern parts of the block, but not the western and southern sections. Because the individual sighted in October 2024 was observed actively feeding in a *E. rossii* tree, it is likely that other important koala feed trees are also distributed across the western and southern sections of Jacka Block 9.

Table 1: Total areas of Plant Community Types and condition zones across Jacka Block 9 and adjoining Suburban Land Agency land.

| Quality/Zone | | ACT16 (ha) <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> – <i>E. blakelyi</i> Tableland Grassy Woodland | ACT25 (ha) <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i> – <i>E. rossii</i> Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest | ACT01 (ha) Tableland Dry Tussock Grassland | QUALITY/ZONE AREA (ha) |
|-------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| High ↓ Low | 1.1 | 9.11 (34%) | 11.56 (41%) | | 20.67 (38%) |
| | 2.3 | 6.45 (24%) | 8.34 (29%) | | 14.78 (27%) |
| | 3.1 | 3.29 (12%) | 2.90 (10%) | 0.08 (100%) | 6.28 (11%) |
| | 4.2 | | 1.11 (4%) | | 1.11 (2%) |
| | 4.3 | 7.57 (29%) | 2.90 (10%) | | 10.48 (19%) |
| | 4.4 | | 1.60 (6%) | | 1.60 (3%) |
| Total mapped area (ha) | | 26.42 | 28.41 | 0.08 | 54.91 |

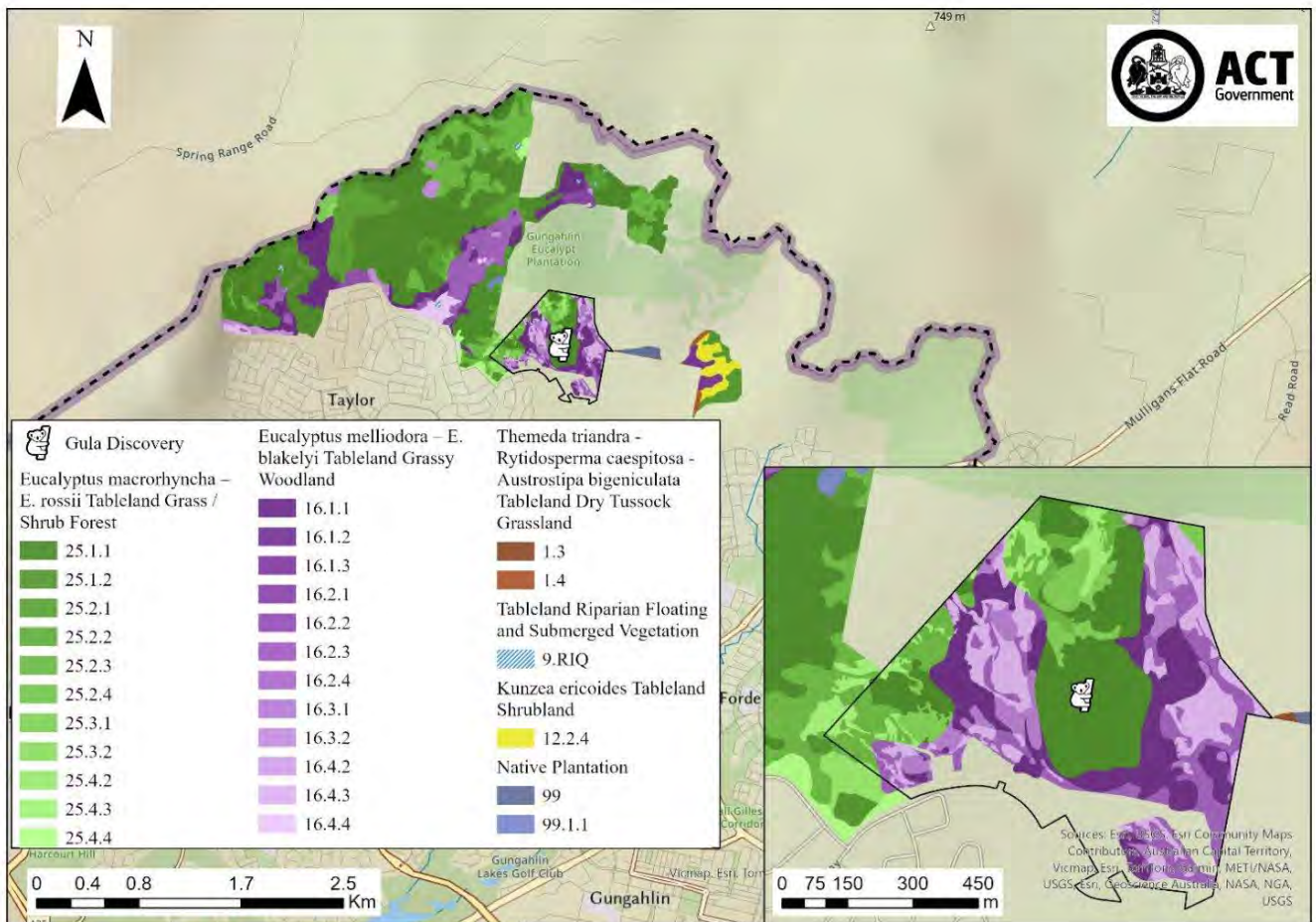


Figure 9: Map of Plant Community Type and condition zone on Jacka Black and parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Darker shading indicates high quality vegetation.

Connectivity and Landscape context

The map of potential Gula habitat shows that likely connected habitat exists between the Northern Gungahlin Woodlands vicinity and other parts of the ACT and NSW (Figure 10). To the north-east of Jacka Block 9 in NSW, locally important koala trees or ancillary habitat trees are patchily distributed, potentially serving as stepping-stone habitat to forested areas between Murrumbateman and Gundaroo. Habitat may further connect Jacka Block 9 to leasehold land and Little Mulligan’s Flat to the east. However, despite potentially containing suitable habitat, the fenced area of Mulligan’s Flat and Gorooyarroo Nature Reserves may act as a barrier to Gula movement. If Gula can move around the perimeter of the fence and cross the Federal Highway, they may be able to access habitat in Gorooyarroo and Kowen Escarpment nature reserves in the ACT, plus additional areas to the north and south in NSW. To the west and south-west of Jacka Block 9, habitat may connect through Kinleyside to Hall. In this area, there are also small patches of woodland potentially connecting the ACT to NSW, mostly east of the Barton Highway (Figure 10)

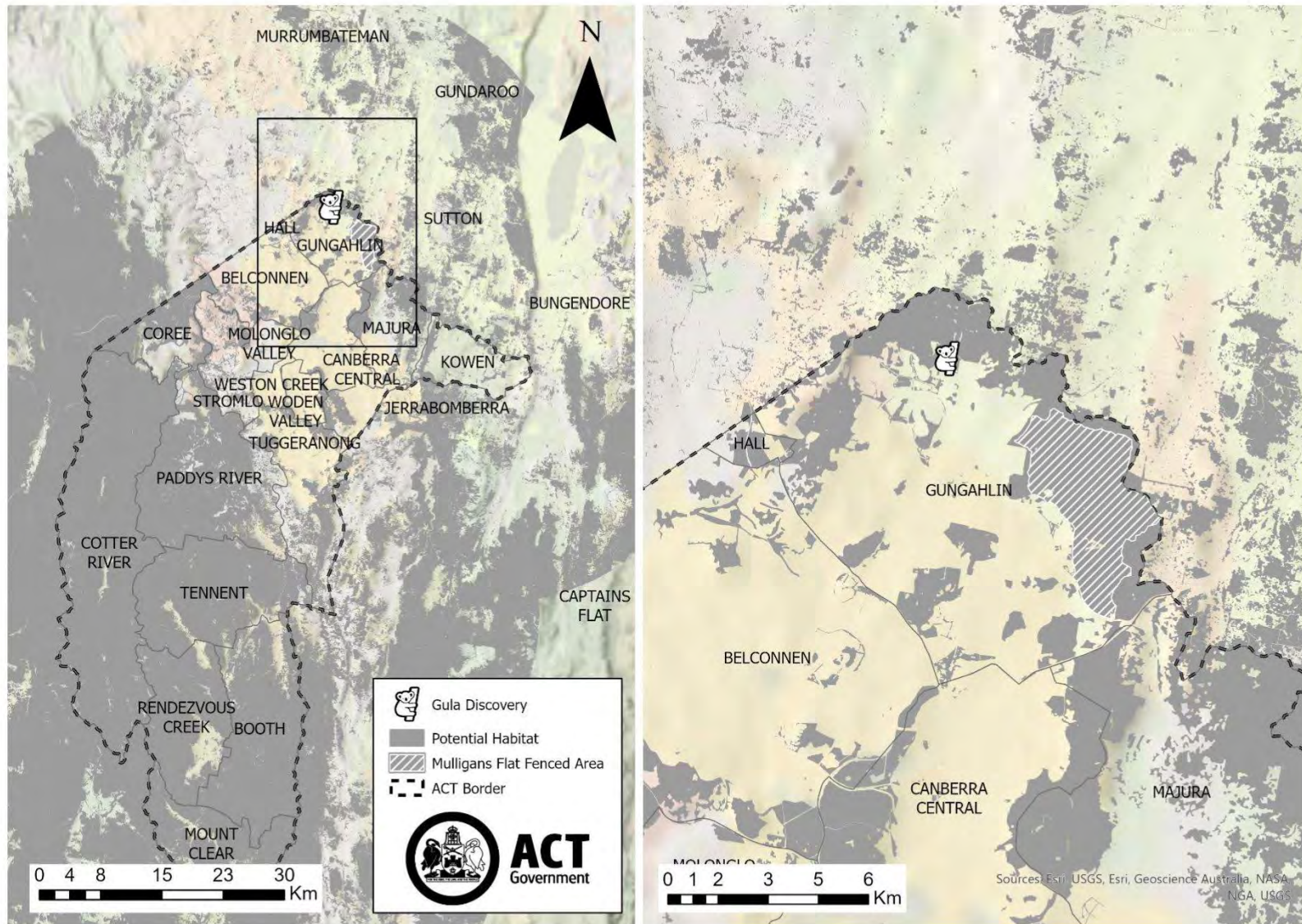


Figure 10: Map of potential Gula habitat across the ACT. The presence of locally important koala trees, ancillary habitat trees ², and unidentified *Eucalyptus spp.* were used as a proxy for habitat. Other factors not considered here also influence habitat suitability. Potential habitat identified on this map should be considered indicative Gula habitat only.

Discussion

The Gula due diligence surveys identified Gula presence on Jacka Block 9 and the north-western parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Evidence of Gula presence was obtained from passive acoustic surveys and detection dog surveys, however, ground-based and drone thermal surveys failed to detect any Gula. Vegetation mapping indicates Jacka Block 9 contains suitable Gula habitat, and vegetation mapping of the broader area suggests patches of habitat may connect Jacka Block 9 to other parts of the ACT and NSW. The ecological interpretation of these results and limitations of the methods are discussed below.

The Jacka Gula

The individual Gula discovered on 17th October 2024 was identified as a sexually mature adult male. He exhibited the male-only characteristic of a sternal gland stain¹⁵ and large testes indicative of adulthood¹⁶. Given the individual's sex and age, it is likely that Jacka Block 9 forms part of his home range. Gula typically disperse from their natal ranges between one and three years of age¹⁷, establishing new home ranges where they will ultimately breed^{17,18}. As adults, male dispersal from home ranges is less common¹⁷, but may occur after a period of rehabilitation and release¹⁹, following a translocation²⁰ or to improve breeding prospects^{21,22}.

Gula home ranges are highly variable and can be influenced by factors relating to the individual, the population or the habitat. Home ranges sizes as small as 1 ha²³ and as large as 1543 ha²⁴ have been reported in the literature. Individuals occupying landscapes with scattered clumps of resources (e.g. suitable trees, mates) can have larger home ranges than those in areas where resources are more uniformly distributed, higher quality or condensed into one area^{21,25,26}. This is because individuals must move further to access the necessary amount of resources needed to survive and breed²⁷, and it often means individuals in fragmented landscapes use several discrete core patches rather than a single large core patch^{25,27-29}.

Jacka Block 9 exists within a fragmented landscape. It is bordered by urban areas to the south and the vegetation on the block is contiguous with that of the Northern Gungahlin Woodlands to the north, east and west. However, beyond the Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, patches of potentially suitable habitat are small with little connectivity. It is possible that the Gula seen in Jacka Block 9 has a large home range with discrete patches of habitat he frequently occupies. However, without knowing the home range of the Jacka Gula, including the location of core habitat patches, it cannot be known how critical Jacka Block 9 is for the individual's survival and reproductive needs. For context, Jacka Block 9 is 55.5 ha in size, which is marginally smaller than the home ranges reported for Gula in nearby Numeralla, NSW (95% kernel utilisation distributions: 61-1543 ha)²⁴, so it is probable the individual uses at least some habitat areas outside of Jacka Block 9, but how much is uncertain.

The passive acoustic survey results indicated at least one male Gula (likely the individual sighted on October 17) was present on Jacka Block 9 for at least four weeks. The absence of any bellows in the final week of recording on Jacka Block 9 indicates the individual(s) likely moved elsewhere after 13 November. The lack of bellow detections in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands could mean the individual(s) did not utilise that area after moving away from Jacka Block 9, or that the individual(s) transited through the area before devices could be deployed. As males continue to bellow into February, it is expected that any males within 300 m of a Song Meter deployed in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands would be detected. It is also possible

that the individual(s) remained in the area and was simply not detected due to the wider spacing of Song Meters.

The distribution of Gula sign (i.e., scat, scratch marks) in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands indicates that, some time prior to the finding on October 17, at least one Gula (possibly the Jacka Gula), crossed the north-western ACT-NSW border into Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, before moving eastward onto Jacka Block 9. This is consistent with an anecdotal report from a member of the public that they observed a Gula on the Centenary Trail approximately 2 km north of One Tree Hill in September 2024. On Jacka Block 9, Gula habitat use appeared restricted to the centre of the block, as indicated by the distribution of Gula sign. Limited detection of Gula sign east of Jacka Block 9 may suggest that the individual(s) from Jacka Block 9 largely avoided the area or moved through it quickly.

It is recommended that Song Meters be re-deployed to Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands in October 2025, coinciding with the onset of the breeding season. The findings from Jacka Block 9 demonstrate that passive acoustic surveying is an efficient way to assess Gula presence in (presumably) low density populations. Re-deploying Song Meters with a 300 m grid array would help determine how frequently Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands are utilised by male Gula. Increasing the capacity to survey a larger area with acoustic devices concurrently would also improve likelihood that animals moving through the area are detected and tracked. Should Gula be discovered in the area again, deployment of GPS tracking devices could provide additional insight into Gula habitat use and movement in the ACT region.

The population

The previous section discusses the adult male Gula discovered on Jacka Block 9, but it is also important to consider Jacka Block 9 in the context of a possible wider population. No additional individuals were confirmed during due diligence surveys, however, that does not necessarily mean that other Gula do not also use Jacka Block 9 or Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Although they are solitary, Gula experience a degree of overlap in home range with conspecifics²⁴, including those of the same sex.³⁰

There have been very few recent records of Gula in the region, with just 16 sightings reported through official channels within 30 km of Jacka Block 9 over the past two decades. Low detectability is likely to contribute to the scarcity of records. Much of the landscape north, east and west of the ACT is agricultural land with restricted public access, so it is unlikely these areas are being monitored for Gula. Furthermore, Gula are notoriously difficult to detect², meaning that, without a concerted effort, any Gula in the agricultural regions near Jacka are likely to go unnoticed.

Although there have been few records of Gula in or around Jacka Block 9 reported through official channels, there are enough to suggest the area is, or may once have been, Gula habitat. The [Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Final Report](#)³¹ considered the impacts of development on threatened species by identifying *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* listed species within 10 km of the strategic assessment area. The Commonwealth Government [Protected Matters Search Tool](#) identified that Gula have the potential to occur in the area. Following a literature review, it was determined in the *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Final Report* that Gula occurrence in Gungahlin and the surrounding 10 km buffer zone was “unlikely”. This categorisation is defined as there being “no records for the species, habitat requirements are not met, or normal distribution range does not coincide with the study area. Despite this, the species may be present in rare circumstances”³¹. The NSW Government [Bionet Species Sightings Data](#)

Collection contains Gula records within the 10 km buffer zone; one recorded in 1980 and another recorded in 2000³². Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggests that Gula were once abundant (potentially in their hundreds) in the vicinity of Elm Grove⁵, 1.4 km south-east of the Jacka discovery. Although this statement cannot be verified, both the Gula records and historical account are inconsistent with the finding of the *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Final Report* of “unlikely”.

Assuming there are more Gula in the region, Jacka Block 9 and the Northern Gungahlin Woodlands could be important habitat for the local population. Vegetation mapping indicates the area may provide a relatively large contiguous patch of habitat in what is otherwise a fragmented landscape. It is plausible that Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands provide connectivity to suitable habitat areas for Gula to the north, east and west. Subadult dispersal from natal areas likely facilitates genetic admixture at the regional level.

To determine the importance of Jacka Block 9 for the local population, it would be beneficial to gain an estimate of density and distribution across the region. A caveat of passive acoustic surveys and detection dog surveys is that density cannot be readily determined. An additional drawback to passive acoustic surveys is that female Gula are unlikely to be detected because they vocalise less frequently than males. Therefore, it is recommended that additional drone surveys are undertaken to better assess the density and distribution of Gula in Jacka Block 9 and Northern Gungahlin Woodlands. Drone surveys would also be more effective than passive acoustic surveys in detecting all individuals. As thermal imagery shows the relative difference in heat between an object and its background, thermoregulating animals such as Gula are more visible on thermal imagery in cooler conditions. Undertaking drone surveys during cooler months when thermal contrast is greatest is recommended and consistent with feedback received from koala experts (K. Marsh 2024, pers. comm.).

The habitat

The above sections highlight that Jacka Block 9 probably forms part of at least one Gula home range and likely has a role in supporting the local population. Habitat availability at the landscape scale must also be taken into account when assessing the importance of Jacka Block 9 for the local population. Put simply, an area occupied by Gula and which contains locally important koala trees is highly likely to represent suitable Gula habitat². The presence of scat and ongoing detection of bellows over a month-long period demonstrates that Gula can, and do, occupy Jacka Block 9.

Over a third of the area of vegetation communities on Jacka Block 9 were classified as PCT 16.1.1 (17%) or 25.1.1 (21%), indicating the vegetation is close to reference condition and therefore of high ecological value. In relation to Gula specifically, all scats detected in PCT-mapped areas occurred in *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest of top ecological condition. *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* is considered an ancillary Gula habitat tree in the region, meaning it may not contribute substantially to diet. However, locally important koala trees *E. dalrympleana*, *E. rossii*, *E. rubida* and *E. viminalis* are also present on Jacka Block 9, thus providing potential sources of food.

Although vegetation mapping provides insight into where Gula habitat may occur, it should not only be relied upon to assess the relative importance of Jacka Block 9 for the local Gula population. Gula habitat occupancy and preference is nuanced, and the driving mechanisms behind each are not always obvious. For example, it is accepted that the proportion of cover of locally important koala trees in a given area is positively associated with Gula occupancy^{2,14,33}. This measurement is simple enough to obtain via on-

ground vegetation assessments (e.g., PCT mapping) and GIS analysis, and could, in theory, be used alongside other environmental and disturbance variables to rank habitat suitability across the northern ACT and nearby NSW. However, current research shows that, even when the proportion of locally important koalas trees and other predictor variables are accounted for, a high degree of variation in Gula occupancy can still exist³⁴. This highlights that known predictors must be used with caution when attempting to predict Gula occupancy. Relying on such variables alone could result in a false over-representation of suitable habitat capable of supporting Gula populations across northern ACT and nearby NSW.

Leaf chemistry is a key factor that strongly influences Gula habitat suitability and occupancy². Gula show dietary preference for leaves with low concentrations of herbivore-deterring chemicals and high concentrations of nitrogen (i.e., an indicator of nutrition quality) and this can influence Gula occupancy across the wider landscape³⁵. Leaf chemistry varies not only amongst species of food trees, but also amongst individual trees of the same species^{36,37,37} and individual leaves of the same tree^{37,38}. Leaf chemistry data collected from the northern ACT and nearby NSW could help with assessing the habitat suitability of Jacka Block 9 compared to other potential habitat patches across the broader landscape. The challenge here is that data on leaf chemistry is difficult to obtain. Because it is largely influenced by genetics³⁹, leaf chemistry cannot be predicted by modelling environmental variables. Instead, specialised equipment and experts trained in measuring the chemical profiles of individual leaves would be required⁴⁰.

When considering habitat suitability, it must be acknowledged that the reasons why Gula may occupy one area over another are not always obvious. It is therefore risky to assume that other areas with locally important koala trees and similar environmental characteristics to Jacka Block 9 contain suitable Gula habitat, when Gula have not been observed in such areas. While scat and scratch marks confirm Gula presence in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, the observed low frequency of Gula sign and non-detection of bellows in the survey period may indicate the area is less suitable than Jacka Block 9. For example, it is plausible that Gula use the north-western parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands as a movement corridor rather than as primary feeding, resting and breeding habitat. Non-detection of bellows may also reflect survey effort and timing, as Song Meters were more widely spaced and deployed later in Northern Gungahlin Woodlands than Jacka Block 9.

Summary & Next Steps

Gula environmental due diligence surveys confirmed the presence of Gula and Gula habitat on Jacka Block 9. Although Gula sign was also detected in parts of Northern Gungahlin Woodlands, the capacity of the broader landscape to support a local Gula population remains unknown.

It is recommended that if further investigations are required, efforts should focus on improving knowledge of Gula density and distribution, rather than habitat suitability. Comparing the suitability of Jacka Block 9 with other patches of potentially suitable habitat is challenging, given the complexities associated with habitat requirements and preference. Determining where Gula occur in the northern ACT and nearby NSW, and at what densities, would likely provide more useful information on the significance of Jacka Block 9 than further investigation into habitat suitability. Because Gula have low detectability, a multi-method approach is strongly encouraged, such as utilising both thermal drone and passive acoustic surveys, and fitting individuals with GPS trackers.

It is clear from these surveys that Jacka Block 9 forms part of at least one individual's home range, and it likely supports dispersal and geneflow in the local population. The *National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)* states that "to halt decline and promote the recovery of the listed Koala, the following should be avoided:

- Clearing of habitat used by Koalas for feeding and resting.
- Reducing connectivity between patches of habitat used by Koalas for feeding, resting, commuting and dispersing (either by clearing of vegetation or by the erection of barriers to passage).
- Activities that will expose Koalas to additional threats (e.g., dogs, cars) in places where Koalas must use the ground to move between resting and feeding trees"¹⁴.

The ACT Government has committed to supporting delivery of the *National Koala Recovery Plan for the Koala* through the *Native Species Conservation Plan for the Gula (Koala)*. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the consequences of clearing known habitat and increasing the level of urban-associated threats.

References

1. State of New South Wales and Department of Planning and Environment. *Koala (Phascolarctos Cinereus) Biodiversity Assessment Method Survey Guide*.
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/koala-phascolarctos-cinereus-biodiversity-assessment-method-survey-guide-220249.pdf> (2022).
2. Youngentob, K. N., Marsh, K. F. & Skewes, J. *A Review of Koala Habitat Assessment Criteria and Methods*, Report Prepared for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
<https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications> (2021).
3. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government. *Native Species Conservation Plan - Gula (Koala) Phascolarctos Cinereus*.
https://www.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/2599904/native-species-conservation-plan-gula-koala-phascolarctos-cinereus.pdf (2023).
4. Hall Heritage Centre. *The Gillespie Collection*. <https://heritage.hall.act.au/article/gillespie.html> (2025).
5. Crisp, C. *Koala Information Supplied by L. Gillespie (Handwritten Notes)*. Available on Objective: A41996229 (1986).
6. Hall Heritage Centre. *Rediscovering Ginninderra: William Ernest Gillespie*.
<https://heritage.hall.act.au/display/1939/person/2132/william-ernest-gillespie.html> (2025).
7. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government. *ACT Plant Community Type (PCT) Zone Map*.
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=88e1076a4db243a797f7ce0f22b9db8d> (2024).
8. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government. *ACT Vegetation Map*. <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=425530bc54b24b3ab05113f7c4c6cb89> (2023).
9. Law, B. *et al.* Using passive acoustic recording and automated call identification to survey koalas in the southern forests of New South Wales. *Aust. Zool.* **40**, 477–486 (2020).
10. Cristescu, R. H., Miller, R. L. & Frère, C. H. Sniffing out solutions to enhance conservation: How detection dogs can maximise research and management outcomes, through the example of koalas. *Aust. Zool.* **40**, 416–432 (2020).
11. State of New South Wales and Department of Planning and Environment. *A Revised Classification of Plant Communities of Eastern New South Wales*.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/a-revised-classification-of-plant-communities-of-eastern-new-south-wales-220178-2.pdf> (2022).

12. Reid, S. & Speirs, R. *2017 Woodland Quality and Extent Mapping – ACT Government Environmental Offsets*. Prepared for Environmental Offsets, ACT Parks and Conservation Service. (2018).
13. State of New South Wales and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. *NSW State Vegetation Type Map*. <https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/nsw-state-vegetation-type-map> (2020).
14. Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. *National Recovery Plan for the Koala: Phascolarctos Cinereus (Combined Populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)*. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/recovery-plan-koala-2022.pdf> (2022).
15. Tobey, J. R., Nute, T. R. & Bercovitch, F. B. Age and seasonal changes in the semiochemicals of the sternal gland secretions of male koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). *Aust. J. Zool.* **57**, 111–118 (2009).
16. Buchanan, C. *et al.* Testis abnormalities in a population of South Australian koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). *J. Wildl. Dis.* **58**, 158–167 (2022).
17. Dique, D. S., Thompson, J., Preece, H. J., Villiers, D. L. de & Carrick, F. N. Dispersal patterns in a regional koala population in south-east Queensland. *Wildl. Res.* **30**, 281–290 (2003).
18. Ramsay, S. *The ecology and dispersal patterns of juvenile koalas, Phascolarctos cinereus, in fragmented habitat*. (The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, 1999).
19. Matthews, A., Lunney, D., Gresser, S. & Maitz, W. Movement patterns of koalas in remnant forest after fire. *Aust. Mammal.* **38**, 91–104 (2016).
20. Whisson, D. A., Holland, G. J. & Carlyon, K. Translocation of overabundant species: implications for translocated individuals. *J. Wildl. Manag.* **76**, 1661–1669 (2012).
21. Davies, N. *et al.* Movement patterns of an arboreal marsupial at the edge of its range: a case study of the koala. *Mov. Ecol.* **1**, 1–15 (2013).
22. Ellis, W. A., Hale, P. T. & Carrick, F. Breeding dynamics of koalas in open woodlands. *Wildl. Res.* **29**, 19–25 (2002).

23. White, N. A. Ecology of the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in rural south-east Queensland, Australia. *Wildl. Res.* **26**, 731–744 (1999).
24. Lane, M. R., Youngentob, K. N., Clark, R. G., Skewes, J. D. & Marsh, K. J. Home ranges and movements of an arboreal folivore after wildfire: comparing rehabilitated and non-rehabilitated animals in burnt and unburnt woodlands. *Mov. Ecol.* **12**, 1–15 (2024).
25. Whisson, D. A., Zylinski, S., Ferrari, A., Yokochi, K. & Ashman, K. R. Patchy resources and multiple threats: how do koalas navigate an urban landscape? *Landsc. Urban Plan.* **201**, 103854 (2020).
26. Whisson, D. A., Dixon, V., Taylor, M. L. & Melzer, A. Failure to respond to food resource decline has catastrophic consequences for koalas in a high-density population in southern Australia. *PLOS ONE* **11**, e0144348 (2016).
27. Rus, A. I., McArthur, C., Mella, V. S. A. & Crowther, M. S. Habitat fragmentation affects movement and space use of a specialist folivore, the koala. *Anim. Conserv.* **24**, 26–37 (2021).
28. Goldingay, R. L. & Dobner, B. Home range areas of koalas in an urban area of north-east New South Wales. *Aust. Mammal.* **36**, 74–80 (2014).
29. de Oliveira, S. M., Murray, P. J., de Villiers, D. L. & Baxter, G. S. Ecology and movement of urban koalas adjacent to linear infrastructure in coastal south-east Queensland. *Aust. Mammal.* **36**, 45–54 (2014).
30. Ellis, W. A., Melzer, A., Carrick, F. N. & Hasegawa, M. Tree use, diet and home range of the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) at Blair Athol, central Queensland. *Wildl. Res.* **29**, 303–311 (2002).
31. Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited. *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment - Assessment Report - Final*. Prepared on Behalf of ACT Economic Development Directorate and ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate. (2013).
32. State Government of NSW and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. *NSW BioNet Species Sightings Data Collection, Accessed from The Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data Portal*. <https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/a9c2b9a7-004c-4531-a710-0430227a17ba> (2010).
33. State of New South Wales and Office of Environment and Heritage. *A Review of Koala Tree Use across New South Wales*. (2018).
34. Harwood, S. E. & Whisson, D. A. *Bellowing for Habitat on Private Land: Distribution of Koalas in a Complex Landscape*. Manuscript Submitted for Publication. (2025).

35. Au, J. *et al.* A nutritional mechanism underpinning folivore occurrence in disturbed forests. *For. Ecol. Manag.* **453**, 117585 (2019).
36. Marsh, K. J., Blyton, M. D. J., Foley, W. J. & Moore, B. D. Fundamental dietary specialisation explains differential use of resources within a koala population. *Oecologia* **196**, 795–803 (2021).
37. Moore, B. D. & Foley, W. J. Tree use by koalas in a chemically complex landscape. *Nature* **435**, 488–490 (2005).
38. Lane, M. R., Youngentob, K. N., Clark, R. G. & Marsh, K. J. The nutritional quality of post-fire eucalypt regrowth and its consumption by koalas in the New South Wales Southern Tablelands. *Aust. J. Zool.* **71**, Z023024 (2023).
39. O'Reilly-Wapstra, J. M., McArthur, C. & Potts, B. M. Genetic variation in resistance of *Eucalyptus globulus* to marsupial browsers. *Oecologia* **130**, 289–296 (2002).
40. Beale, P., Marsh, K. J. & Youngentob, K. N. *Revegetating Koala Habitat*, Report Prepared for the Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment.
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications> (2022).

From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 18/09/2025 4:55 PM
To: "CED, Directorate Liaison Officer" <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>; "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>; "CED, DG Office" <CEDDGO@act.gov.au>; "EPSDDExecutiveOffice" <EPSDDExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; "Faulks, Amy" <Amy.Faulks@act.gov.au>; "EPSDD StatutoryPlanning" <EPSDDStatutoryPlanning@act.gov.au>; "CED, Media" <CEDMedia@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Walters, Daniel" <Daniel.WALTERS@act.gov.au>; "Driver, Kyeelee" <Kyeelee.Driver@act.gov.au>; "Cooney, Rosie" <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; "ConservatorFloraFauna" <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Subject: EHP INCIDENT ADVICE - Deceased Gula (Koala)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

All

Heads up on this developing situation:

- ACT Wildlife notified Conservation Officers in CED this afternoon that a deceased koala (Gula in Ngunnawal language) has been found in Taylor.
- The Gula is confirmed male but the exact circumstances and location of death are unknown. Conservation Officers are seeking to obtain further information from ACT Wildlife.
- The deceased Gula has been retrieved to ACT Wildlife premises.
- The Conservator is making arrangements for Conservation Officers to retrieve the deceased Gula and for the Government Vet (Dr Driver) to undertake a necropsy (autopsy) tomorrow.
- Genetic testing should be possible to confirm if the deceased Gula matches the scats left by the Gula in the Jacka area last year.

DLOs – for Minister Orr and Minister Cheyne office please.

SP – for awareness and reporting to Minister Steel as you see fit.

SLA – for awareness and reporting to Minister Berry as you see fit.

EHP will work with comms to update TPs.

Further information to follow as known.

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Conservator of Flora and Fauna

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [0431311001](tel:0431311001)

Executive Assistance: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | Tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Water Division | City and Environment Directorate (CED) | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

act.gov.au/environment

From: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: 06/06/2025 9:37 AM
To: "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Jacka Gula Summary Report – Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence

OFFICIAL

Hi Joey – we are not far away with the summary report on Jacka by the looks of things.

As you can see strong support to brief up the engaged ecologist.

Regards

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | **Mobile** [0412 228141](tel:0412228141)

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: Malam, Chris
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 8:11 AM
To: Burkevics, Bren
Cc: Cooney, Rosie ; ConservatorFloraFauna ; Brawata, Renee
Subject: RE: Jacka Gula Summary Report – Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence

OFFICIAL

Hi Bren,

Yes, a summary report has been prepared and is currently moving through the review/clearance process, so hoping to provide up to you very shortly.

Happy to discuss interpretation/outcomes with their ecologist.

Cheers,
Chris.

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 7:01 AM
To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Subject: Jacka Gula Summary Report – Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence

OFFICIAL

Hi Chris

SLA have asked me how we are going with “a summary report on these environmental due diligence survey” as indicated in your email below. I thought that was the report that we provided to the Territory Planning Authority?

Could you please let me know if we are still planning to provide this report? They are keen for their ecologist to get going.

I have indicated to the SLA that I would make ONC officials available to brief their ecologists on what we have recommended and what we think (ecologists talking to ecologist).

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [02 6207 8628](tel:0262078628)

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

act.gov.au/environment

From: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:45 PM

To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Subject: Fw: FOR ACTION – Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence

OFFICIAL

Hi Bren,

FYI - regarding the summary report. Let me know how you go with your team. I'll let my team know that we have the opportunity for the ecologist to be briefed by your team.

Cheers,

Joey

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 4:49:31 PM

To: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>; Thornhill, David <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>

Cc: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION – Conservator Summary Report of Due Dilligence

OFFICIAL

Joey,

Are you able to have a gentle chat with Bren (Conservator) to seek a timeline on when we can expect the summary report on the environmental due diligence studies undertaken by the Conservator?

Initial indication was that it was being finalised mid-April, have chased a few times since. This is an important document to inform self-assessment. In particular expect it will collate the entire program to providing observations/findings that are easier to interpret and work with than the quite onerous individual study data.

• Andrew

From: Griffith, Andrew
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 3:48 PM
To: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Cc: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

Afternoon Chris,

Hope you have been keeping well.

For information, SLA is working to engage a consultant(s) to help us navigate EPBC Self-Assessment for the Jacka Koala.

A valuable background document will be the referenced summary report of the Conservators prior environmental due diligence survey. Are you able to advise if this has been finalised and is available to share with SLA?

- Andrew

From: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 11:24 AM
To: Wangdi, Rinchen <Rinchen.Wangdi@act.gov.au>; Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: GIS files - Gula environmental due diligence (Jacka)

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew, Rinchen,

I will be sending through information and data packets relating to the Jacka Gula environmental due diligence surveys today.

Please find attached to this initial email some background context to the surveys:

- Gula due diligence monitoring plan 2024.doc*** provides an outline of the surveys that were undertaken and some technical details on how they would be carried out.
- Email attachment is a listening summary of feedback received from the panel of Koala experts in relation to the monitoring plan.
- Gula Environmental Due Diligence Surveys – Drone flight paths.zip*** contains KML files that show all night drone flights that were undertaken. Let me know if you require further details about the drone flights or raw thermal video captures, as would need to organise a solution for you to visualise these.

I have also been sharing data packets to the EHP ONC – SLA Data Share Collaboration Group as previously discussed – I will advise in separate emails which data packets are also available through ArcGIS Online.

We are currently finalising a summary report on these environmental due diligence surveys, so will share this when ready.

Kind Regards,

Chris.

From: Wangdi, Rinchen <Rinchen.Wangdi@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 12:18 PM

From: "Taylor, Karen" <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: 19/03/2025 9:00 PM
To: "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>; "Patience, Tegan" <Tegan.Patience@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Burkevics, Bren" <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; "Kim, Sarah" <Sarah.Kim@act.gov.au>; "Brawata, Renee" <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; "Malam, Chris" <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Koala sighting in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Joey,

Thanks for reaching out and we'd be happy to meet with you and discuss where things are up to and what the next steps are likely to be. I've CC'd Renee Brawata and Chris Malam from the Office of Nature Conservation as the team who have been undertaking the surveys of the area.

[@Patience, Tegan](#), are you able to advise Joey of some calendar availabilities for Bren over the coming week?

Thanks and talk soon!

Karen Taylor
A/g Conservator Liaison
Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngannawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Lee, Joey
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2025 3:52 PM
To: Taylor, Karen
Cc: Burkevics, Bren ; Kim, Sarah
Subject: Fw: Koala sighting in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Karen,

I have received the attached letter from George Cilliers regarding Jacka. I am hoping to set up a meeting with Bren and yourself to discuss next steps. In the meantime, could I please request a copy of any surveys and reports from the due diligence undertaken by the conservator's office on this matter.

Cheers,

Joey

From: Barrett, Lucy <Lucy.Barrett@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 3:32 pm
To: Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>; Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larson, Eliza <Eliza.Larson@act.gov.au>
Subject: Koala sighting in Jacka

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon Richard and Joey,

Please find attached a letter from EGM George Cilliers regarding the Koala sighting in Jacka.

Kind regards,
Lucy

Lucy Barrett
Executive Assistant;
Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, George Cilliers
Executive Branch Manager, DA Services and Support – Craig Weller
Executive Branch Manager, Statutory Assessments - Alix Kaucz

Phone 02 620 51182 | Email lucy.barrett@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

Joey Lee Team's Messages

28/10/2024 10:51 am

Hey Bren, noticed you were in the file before I jumped in. FYI - added the following:

- Given the recent media and community interest, the main public access to the block has been closed to ensure the koala is not disturbed and the monitoring program is not impacted by the presence of unexpected visitors.



Burkevics, Bren 28/10/2024 10:52 am

BB That sounds excellent Joey. Thanks for that.



Wednesday, 29 January

29/01 1:56 pm

Hey mate, any further news on the Koala that you can share with me? Deputy Chief Minister is keen for an update.

Burkevics, Bren 29/01 1:59 pm

BB Hi champ, I think you can say that you understand the Chief Planner and Conservator are socialising next steps with DCCEEW. Likely formalities will flow from that.



29/01 2:01 pm

Thanks mate



Thursday, 20 March

20/03 8:47 am

Morning mate, hey I'm just wondering if there's something I'm missing with the koala situation. We seem to be hitting a brick wall when trying to get access to the surveys and reports undertaken to date. Any thoughts?

Burkevics, Bren 20/03 9:09 am

BB Hi Joey - oh, there should be no brick walls at all. The report that the TPA provided is essentially the outcomes of the due diligence surveys. Please let me know what else you are seeking. I think the challenge is that simply not enough is known about the important of that area for koalas. It could be one koala, it could be more. The interesting aspect is the detections to the North West to the ACT border. We can help the SLA may a referral and see what the Commonwealth says. In my opinion, someone like Capital Ecology using the information from the Conservator could provide you with solid advice on a go / no go for development. It's tricky in that you have your ACT approvals. Hence the referral to the Commonwealth under EPBC is now the key.

20/03 9:13 am

Oh great. We've been trying to get copies of the surveys and reports, rather than just the summary. If we could get copies to inform ourselves that would be great.

Thursday, 15 May

Tuesday, 7 October

07/10 11:50 am

Hi Bren, do you have any time to chat about the Gula QON? Nicholas forwarded this to me as it sits in my space. Cheers

Burkevics, Bren 07/10 12:02 pm

BB 1 Hi Joey - I saw that you are online. Yes for sure I have time available.

07/10 12:40 pm

Hey mate, let me know if you get back online and have some time before 2pm. Cheers

Burkevics, Bren 07/10 12:54 pm

BB 1 1:30? Are you in 480 today Joey?

07/10 1:07 pm

1:30pm sounds good. I'm WFH today so will give you a call

Tuesday, 14 October

14/10 9:01 am

Hey mate, there was a piece on 666 this morning about the koala. Have we had any progress on the media piece?

Burkevics, Bren 14/10 9:40 am

BB 1 I expect the media piece was in response to the Statement issued by CED. Alternatively, from the QON.

The final statement was due to be issued last night.

Burkevics, Bren 14/10 9:46 am

BB 1 FYI - the statement has not gone out. Still pending clearance from MO.

14/10 12:23 pm

I think it was from the QON. Referred to Emerson although I haven't had time to listen to it yet.

Burkevics, Bren 14/10 12:23 pm

BB 1 Yep - the QON. MO just advised that within hours of clearing QONs media inquiries occur. This appears to be before they are published online.

14/10 12:29 pm

Hey Bren, is there a further update regarding the DNA testing of the koala. Adam has just asked to inform a meeting we have with her this arvo.

From: "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Sent: 30/06/2025 12:23 AM
To: "Thornhill, David" <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; "Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>; "Binks, Richard" <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR INFORMATION – Self-Assessment Program and data timelines
Attachments: Appendix 1 – Background Documents.pdf

OFFICIAL

FYI

From: Lee, Joey
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 12:22 AM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Cc: Davey, Adam <Adam.Davey@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR INFORMATION – Self-Assessment Program and data timelines

Hi Bren,

As discussed on Friday, we have engaged our consultants for the ecology work required for Jacka 2. In their fee assumptions they have assumed that all available reports, studies and spatial information are provided within 1 week of project inception. I'll note that the Conservator Liaison has raised a query regarding the overarching project timeframes noting they do not seem to align with the Koala Breeding Season in Canberra. Notwithstanding, I'm hoping I can get your help to facilitate provision of all information that was used to develop the summary report, which I understand has been provided to you for approval. Thanks in advance.

Regards,

Joey

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 2:08 PM
To: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Cc: Thornhill, David <David.Thornhill@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR INFORMATION – Self-Assessment Program and data timelines

OFFICIAL

Joey,

As discussed today – indicative timeline from our Consultant (Stantec) for the Self-Assessment below.

Next catchup with the Conservator liaison is **scheduled for 2/07**. We will reinforce requirements (as well as recording dates and actions).

Attached is a copy of the background documents nominated in the SoR, with Conservator reports/data **highlighted in yellow**. Per the update from the Conservator Liaison today, we are expecting the final report (which summarises all 4 of these items) early next week.

Key points:

- Per the fee assumptions, SLA are required to provide all available reports, studies and spatial information required to conduct the background review within 1 week of project inception
- We expect the kick-off meeting to be within the next week, so we need a collated package of background documents in the next two weeks
- Should we not meet this timeline SLA could be liable for prolongation costs, or delay the Self-Assessment timeline

Table 3. Estimated timeframe for tasks

| Task | Completion Date | Key Personnel |
|--|---|---|
| Kick-off meeting | Within 1 week of award. | Catriona Sutherland Amelia Morling |
| Background review | Within 2 weeks post-inception. | Amelia Morling |
| Gap analysis | 2-4 weeks post-inception. | Amelia Morling |
| Preliminary advice on Significant Impact threshold | 4-8 weeks post-inception. | Amelia Morling Dane Fogliada |
| Regulator consultation | 4-8 weeks post-inception. | Amelia Morling Dane Fogliada |
| Draft report | 4-8 weeks post-inception. | Amelia Morling Gillian McLeay Dane Fogliada Mel Mostyn (GIS) |
| Final report | 2 weeks following the processing of data from additional site investigations (if required). | Amelia Morling Gillian McLeay Dane Fogliada Mel Mostyn (GIS) |

4 Fee Assumptions and Exclusions

The following assumptions and exclusions apply to this fee proposal:

- SLA will provide all available reports, studies and spatial information required to conduct the background review within 1 week of project inception.

5. Appendix 1 – Background Documents

Table 4: Prior Environmental Assessments

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 001 | Gungahlin Strategic Assessment | Umwelt | May 2013 (R2/V7) |
| 002 | full tree assessment (updated) | EnviroLinks / ACT Arborcare/Redbox | May 2018 |
| 003 | Vegetation Assessment | Capital Ecology | Nov 2024 |
| 004 | Passive acoustic recording | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |
| 005 | Scent detection dogs | ReconEco | Nov 2024 |
| 006 | Thermal surveys | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |

Table 5: Proposed Development

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 007 | Jacka 2 – stage 2 Estate Development Report | Stantec Australia | Aug 2022 (V1) |
| 008 | Jacka 2 tree removal plan(s) | Redbox | Aug 2022 (C) |

Table 6: Guidelines and Reference material

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|---|-----------------------|------------|
| 009 | Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) Biodiversity Method Survey Guide | NSW Government | 2022 |
| 010 | Conservation Advice for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Koala) combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory | Australian Government | 2022 |
| 011 | National Recovery Plan for the Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) | Australian Government | Mar 2022 |
| 012 | A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods | ANU | 2021 |
| 013 | NSW Koala Strategy 2021-26 | NSW Government | April 2022 |
| 014 | Native Species Conservation Plan Gula (Koala) <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> | ACT Government | 2023 |
| 015 | Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Advice 2023 | ACT Government | 2023 |
| 016 | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) | Australian Government | 1999 |
| 017 | Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance | Australian Government | 2013 |

From: "Lee, Joey" <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Sent: 22/10/2024 9:37 PM
To: "Seelan, Guna" <Guna.Seelan@act.gov.au>; "Sharp, Irena" <Irena.Sharp@act.gov.au>;
"Griffith, Andrew" <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Gula/Koala Conservation Plans (both National and ACT plans)

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

FYI – some koala related documents that you might want to peruse in your spare time.

From: Taylor, Karen <Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 2:43 PM
To: Lee, Joey <Joey.Lee@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gula/Koala Conservation Plans (both National and ACT plans)

OFFICIAL

National Recovery Plan for Koalas- released in 2022 - [National Recovery Plan for the Koala Phascolarctos cinereus \(combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory\) - DCCEEW](#)

ACT's commitment to the National Plan – ACT Native Species Conservation Plan (released Dec 2023) - [Native Species Conservation Plan - Gula \(Koala\) Phascolarctos cinereus](#)

FYI – the media release about the ACT Conservation Plan - [ACT Government releases plan to save Koalas threatened by extinction in the ACT - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate](#)

Thanks!

Karen Taylor

A/g Conservator Liaison

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |

www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

This email, and any attachments, may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

MS Teams chat – David Thornhill (SLA) and Karen Taylor (Conservator Liaison)

Taylor, Karen 19/12/2024 9:25 am

Hi David! sorry for the delay in getting back to you. It sounds like Chris Malam Senior Fauna Ecologist who has been the lead from EPSDD has been in contact with David Dexter as the main point of contact for all things Jacka Koala between EPSDD and SLA so I'd suggest touching base with him to keep comms consistent and not having messages flying around at all levels.

But my understanding (noting I'm not the lead on this) is that most of the actual survey work has finished, except for some additional acoustic monitoring in the Northern Woodlands, and now they're on to the analysis phase. I don't believe there have been any big decisions made on what the current results might mean for the Jacka development, and I think the next step was for EPSDD to make contact with the Commonwealth to ascertain what this sighting and survey results mean in regards to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment etc. I'm unsure where this is up to.

19/12/2024 9:39 am

Many thanks Karen - I have too since found out about the David and Chris connection - and have David getting a update - many thanks for getting back to me - have a good day

Wednesday, 1 October

01/10 11:09 am

Hi Karen, hope you are well. I see you have inputted into the QON 570 koala. I understand SLA input has now been provided back. If you have any questions regarding the SLA input, please feel free to reach out directly to myself. Ta David

Taylor, Karen 01/10 11:19 am

Thanks David! 😊

01/10 11:24 am

I just realised you probably have not seen out edits - I will send across to you now

Taylor, Karen 01/10 11:31 am

Thanks! Haha | confess I thought this one went back to MO a few weeks ago. 😂

That must've been just our input.

01/10 11:33 am

My executives seem to think they have edited a bunch of CED content and not just Q3 that relates to SLA. I can not really see it in the version I have and it looks more like Bren did the editing of the CED content. Our initial input included information that was not really SLA to input into and this is what I believe most of our edits have been deleted.

From: Burkevics, Bren
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 4:21 PM
To: Cooney, Rosie; Griffith, Andrew; Dexter, David; SLA Place Management
Cc: Malam, Chris; Brawata, Renee; ConservatorFloraFauna; Binks, Richard
Subject: RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Thanks Rosie, and Andrew.

I have advised the Head of the Fenner School that the land is not public and that access must be approved by the SLA. He understands and will speak with his research.

Rosie, good to spread the word too through academic land.

Bren

From: Cooney, Rosie
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:19 PM
To: Griffith, Andrew ; Burkevics, Bren ; Dexter, David ; SLA Place Management
Cc: Malam, Chris ; Brawata, Renee ; ConservatorFloraFauna ; Binks, Richard
Subject: Re: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Dear Bren and Andrew,

That sounds good - we agree it would be helpful to share both our monitoring program and to let our academic colleagues know that results of the surveys will be made available. I suspect that will allay concerns considerably.

We can do that directly- if we don't hear otherwise we'll go ahead and do that tomorrow.

Best Rosie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Griffith, Andrew <Andrew.Griffith@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:59:20 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; Dexter, David <David.Dexter@act.gov.au>; SLA Place Management <SLAPlaceManagement@act.gov.au>
Cc: Malam, Chris <Chris.Malam@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Binks, Richard <Richard.Binks@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Unauthorised entry to Jacka site last night

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy

Thanks Bren,



ACT
Government

Koala Self-Assessment for Jacka 2

Attachment A - Statement of Requirements

1. Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Background | 3 |
| 2. Business objectives | 4 |
| 3. Requirements | 4 |
| 3.1. Detailed requirements | 4 |
| 3.2. Personnel requirements..... | 4 |
| 3.3. Key timeframes | 5 |
| 3.4. Work health and safety requirements | 5 |
| 3.5. Conditions of site access | 7 |
| 4. Governance | 7 |
| 4.1. Contract management | 7 |
| 4.2. Reporting | 8 |
| 4.3. Meetings | 8 |
| 5. Appendix 1 – Background Documents | 9 |

1. Background

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is progressing Jacka 2 Stage 2 as an ACT Government land development project, with dwelling sites planned to be released in accordance with ACT Government’s Land Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP).

Development Application (DA202341596) for Jacka 2 Stage 2 was conditionally approved by the Territory Planning Authority (TPA) on 18 September 2024. The Indicative extent of development proposed is shown in Figure 1 below.

Following the sighting of a Koala within (or adjacent) the proposed development area on 17 October 2024, development activity under this approval has been suspended, pending the outcome of further due diligence.

Led by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Conservator), an initial due diligence and monitoring program has been completed. A summary of observations and findings of this process are available in Appendix 1. Following this process SLA were advised:

- a. a finding that one or more koalas are using, to an undetermined extent the habitat within the proposed Future Urban Area of Jacka;
- b. a view that information obtained from the further due diligence is insufficient to determine whether the proposed development is likely to have a Significant Impact on a matter of national environmental significance (the koala);
- c. a recommendation (supported by DCCEEW) for SLA to undertake self-assessment to determine if referral to the Commonwealth is required under the EPBC Act.

Informed by the findings of the due diligence and engagement with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), in March 2025, the TPA recommended SLA undertake a self-assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

SLA is targeting completion of the self-assessment (this procurement) by around December 2025.

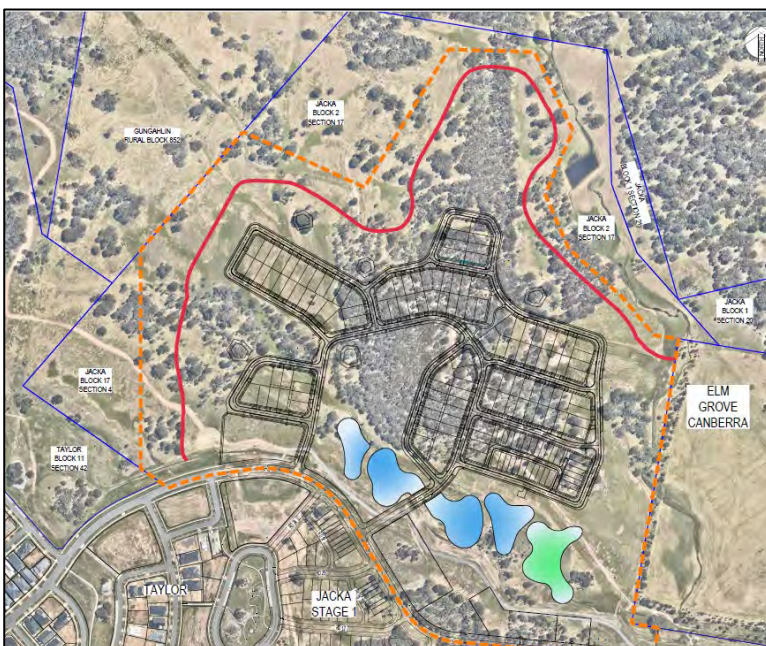


Figure 1: Jacka 2, Stage 2 – Approved Concept Master Plan

2. Business objectives

- 2.1.1 Undertake Koala environmental assessment to inform 'Self-Assessment' in accordance with the *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance*.
- 2.1.2 Prepare a Self-Assessment report and obtain endorsement of the findings and recommendations from the Conservator and DCCEEW.

3. Requirements

3.1. Detailed requirements

- 3.1.1 Undertake review of background documents outlined in **Appendix 1**, including prior environmental studies, proposed development extent and targeted koala surveys completed by the Conservator.
- 3.1.2 Having regard to the EPBC Significant Impact Guidelines and information obtained from the background document review, undertake a gap analysis to determine any further studies, analysis or information needed to inform a defensible Self-Assessment and guide decisions around future development.
- 3.1.3 Provide a report and/or advice on an initial opinion of Significant Impact based on the outcomes of item 3.1.1.
- 3.1.4 Prepare a Self-Assessment methodology to align with best practice outlined in the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) Biodiversity Method Survey Guide (NSW Government, 2022), including engaging with, and seeking Endorsement of the methodology from the Conservator and DCCEEW.
- 3.1.5 It is expected at the methodology will include provision for further studies including a detailed vegetation assessment (to establish a comprehensive and accurate habitat baseline) and further passive acoustic recording (during the breeding season).
- 3.1.6 Undertake the detailed vegetation assessment the supplement existing studies and habitat information, including presentation within a geospatial mapping system.
- 3.1.7 Compile a draft Self-Assessment report for review including engaging with the Conservator and DCCEEW relating to the findings and recommendations. This report is to collate information from the further studies undertaken by the supplier, information available in Appendix 1 and any other relevant information.
- 3.1.8 Undertake additional passive acoustic recording during the Koala breeding season, including processing and assessment of the recordings.
- 3.1.9 Update and finalise the Self-Assessment report based on feedback from the Conservator and DCCEEW (3.1.7) and any information obtained from the further acoustic recording (3.1.8).
- 3.1.10 Seek endorsement of the Self-Assessment report findings and recommendations from the Conservator and DCCEEW.

3.2. Personnel requirements

- 3.2.1 Targeted koala surveys must be carried out by an appropriate koala surveyor, who can demonstrate:
 - 3.2.1.(i). strong knowledge of koala ecology and habitat use;

- 3.2.1.(ii). ability to accurately identify koala use trees;
- 3.2.1.(iii). ability to accurately identify koalas using the best practice methods; and
- 3.2.1.(iv). ability to distinguish koala faecal pellets (scat) from those of other species

3.3. Key timeframes

- 3.3.1 The required scope of further studies, assessment, engagement and reporting will be discussed with the successful Supplier to inform a delivery program.
- 3.3.2 As guidance a number of anticipated milestones are detailed in Table 1

Table 1: Key timeframes for delivery

| Description | Indicative date for delivery |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Initial Opinion on Significant Impact | 15/07/2025 |
| Draft Self-Assessment Report | 12/09/2025 |
| Final Self-Assessment Report | 5/12/2025 |

3.4. Work health and safety requirements

- 3.4.1 The Consultant must comply with the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(ACT\)](#), associated legislation, regulations, codes of practice and any other obligation in law relating to health and safety; ensure that employees and members of the general public at or near the Work Site are not exposed to risk to their health or safety arising from the Consultant carrying out of the Works; and report all incidents to the LDA no later than the next working day after the incident occurred.
- 3.4.2 If the Supplier is required to visit, or work on a Work Site (site), including a site controlled by others, the Supplier must:
 - a) comply with all obligations under the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(ACT\)](#), the regulations and relevant codes of practice, Australian standards and guidelines;
 - b) hold and provide evidence of current insurances;
 - c) provide evidence of an Occupational Health and Safety policy being actively implemented and identifies how project safety risks arising from field based activities would be managed;
 - d) make its own inspections of the site and identification of hazards arising of the site;
 - e) assess the risk of harm to the health or safety of any person from any hazard identified;
 - f) in assessing risks and hazards, take into account its own inspections and any hazard identification or risk assessment, elimination or control information provided to the Supplier;
 - g) review and comply with any risk assessment and any measures adopted to control risk advised to the Supplier by the SLA or others;
 - h) eliminate or control risks under its control to the health or safety of any person;

- i) in any review, assessment and control of risks that it is required to make, take into account but not rely alone on any hazard identification or risk assessment, elimination or control information provided to the Supplier by the SLA or others;
- j) not rely on the omission of any mention or detail of any hazard in the information provided by the SLA as evidence of the absence or limitation of any hazard;
- k) comply with any authorised directions, procedures and policies pertaining to visiting or working on the site;
- l) document and implement a Safe Work Method Statement for the services;
- m) wear and provide their own appropriate Personal Protective Equipment where relevant;
- n) report to the SLA any new or previously unknown risks encountered on the site even when no incident has occurred within 1 working day; and
- o) report to the SLA all incidents on the Work Site to the SLA no later than the next working day after the incident occurred.

3.4.3 If the Supplier carries out work on a Work Site the Consultant must document and implement a Safe Work Method Statements in accordance with the guidance provided by WorkSafe ACT, except when the risks associated with the work are shown to the LDA to be low and covered by a Consultant Safe Work Method Statement. The Consultant must submit the Consultant's Safe Work Method Statements to the SLA at least one week prior to the relevant work being carried out on the site.

3.4.4 **Incident** means an accident or other occurrence that resulted in or had the potential for causing a death, injury, occupational disease, or damage to equipment or property. Incidents include:

- a) accidents in which a worker is injured or killed;
- b) accidents in which no one is hurt but equipment or property is damaged;
- c) near misses (an incident in which there is no injury or damage but that could have resulted in an injury or death, or damage to equipment or property).

3.4.5 **Site / Work Site** means the lands and other places to be made available and any other lands and places made available to the Supplier by the SLA for the purpose of the Agreement.

3.5. Conditions of site access

- 3.5.1 No fuel, equipment or any other material is to be stored on sight.
- 3.5.2 The Contractor is allowed access only for the purposes of undertaking the specified project. Access for any other purpose is not permitted.
- 3.5.3 Access gates must be closed and care taken not to lock out any other locks of a gate chain.
- 3.5.4 Prior to entering the site on any occasion any vehicles that have come to the works from outside the ACT must be cleaned, with a high-pressure cleaner, of all dirt and plant material to prevent the introduction of new weed species.
- 3.5.5 Vehicles entering the sites must be free of soil and weed material.
- 3.5.6 Where possible vehicles will use existing tracks.
- 3.5.7 All vehicles must carry with them at all times a 20-litre portable water pack.
- 3.5.8 Every vehicle must carry a serviceable powder type fire extinguisher to AS 1841, Pt 5, minimum capacity 0.9kg to extinguish fires on the plant.
- 3.5.9 No fires are permitted on site and care must be taken when driving through long grass.
- 3.5.10 No dogs or other pets are permitted on site.
- 3.5.11 If any wildlife is injured as a result of the works, the Contractor is to contact the Urban Wildlife Ranger on 6207 2087 as soon as possible.
- 3.5.12 Care should be taken to ensure minimal impacts on any livestock on the site.
- 3.5.13 The Contractor must inform the Project Manager as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after the event, of any injury to workers or the general public, that occurs on the work site.

4. Governance

4.1. Contract management

- 4.1.1 The Territory requires regular discussion with the Supplier to ensure that the Supplies being provided are to the satisfaction of the Territory.
- 4.1.2 The Contract will be managed in accordance with the Territory's contract management plan.
- 4.1.3 If selected as the preferred Supplier, the Supplier must nominate a Contact Officer as the authorised representative under the Contract and the key contact for notices under the Contract. The Contact Officer should have sufficient authority to represent the Supplier in all respects, including ensuring Supplier alignment with the Territory's strategic priorities.
- 4.1.4 The Territory will appoint a Contact Officer.

4.2. Reporting

4.2.1 The Supplier must provide the following reports:

Table 2: Reporting requirements

| Title | Description | Method of distribution | Timing |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Initial Opinion on Significant Impact | See item 3.1.3 above. | Via email to SLA contract manager. | Once |
| Draft Self-Assessment Report | See item 3.1.7 above. | Via email to SLA contract manager. | Once |
| Final Self-Assessment Report | See item 3.1.9 above. | Via email to SLA contract manager. | Once |

4.3. Meetings

4.3.1 The Supplier must attend the following meetings:

Table 3: Meeting requirements

| Meeting | Purpose | Timing | Attendees |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Start-up meeting | Confirm supplier team, proposed program and clarify delivery expectations | Within one (1) week of award | SLA Project team, Supplier team |
| Project update meetings | Provide updates on the project, troubleshoot issues, etc. | Fortnightly – Every two (2) weeks | SLA Project team, Supplier team. |

5. Appendix 1 – Background Documents

Table 4: Prior Environmental Assessments

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 001 | Gungahlin Strategic Assessment | Umwelt | May 2013 (R2/V7) |
| 002 | full tree assessment (updated) | EnviroLinks / ACT Arborcare/Redbox | May 2018 |
| 003 | Vegetation Assessment | Capital Ecology | Nov 2024 |
| 004 | Passive acoustic recording | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |
| 005 | Scent detection dogs | ReconEco | Nov 2024 |
| 006 | Thermal surveys | The Conservator | Nov 2024 |

Table 5: Proposed Development

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 007 | Jacka 2 – stage 2 Estate Development Report | Stantec Australia | Aug 2022 (V1) |
| 008 | Jacka 2 tree removal plan(s) | Redbox | Aug 2022 (C) |

Table 6: Guidelines and Reference material

| Ref | Report/Title | Author | Rev/Date |
|-----|---|-----------------------|------------|
| 009 | Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>) Biodiversity Method Survey Guide | NSW Government | 2022 |
| 010 | Conservation Advice for <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Koala) combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory | Australian Government | 2022 |
| 011 | National Recovery Plan for the Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) | Australian Government | Mar 2022 |
| 012 | A review of koala habitat assessment criteria and methods | ANU | 2021 |
| 013 | NSW Koala Strategy 2021-26 | NSW Government | April 2022 |
| 014 | Native Species Conservation Plan Gula (Koala) <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> | ACT Government | 2023 |
| 015 | Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Advice 2023 | ACT Government | 2023 |
| 016 | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) | Australian Government | 1999 |
| 017 | Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance | Australian Government | 2013 |

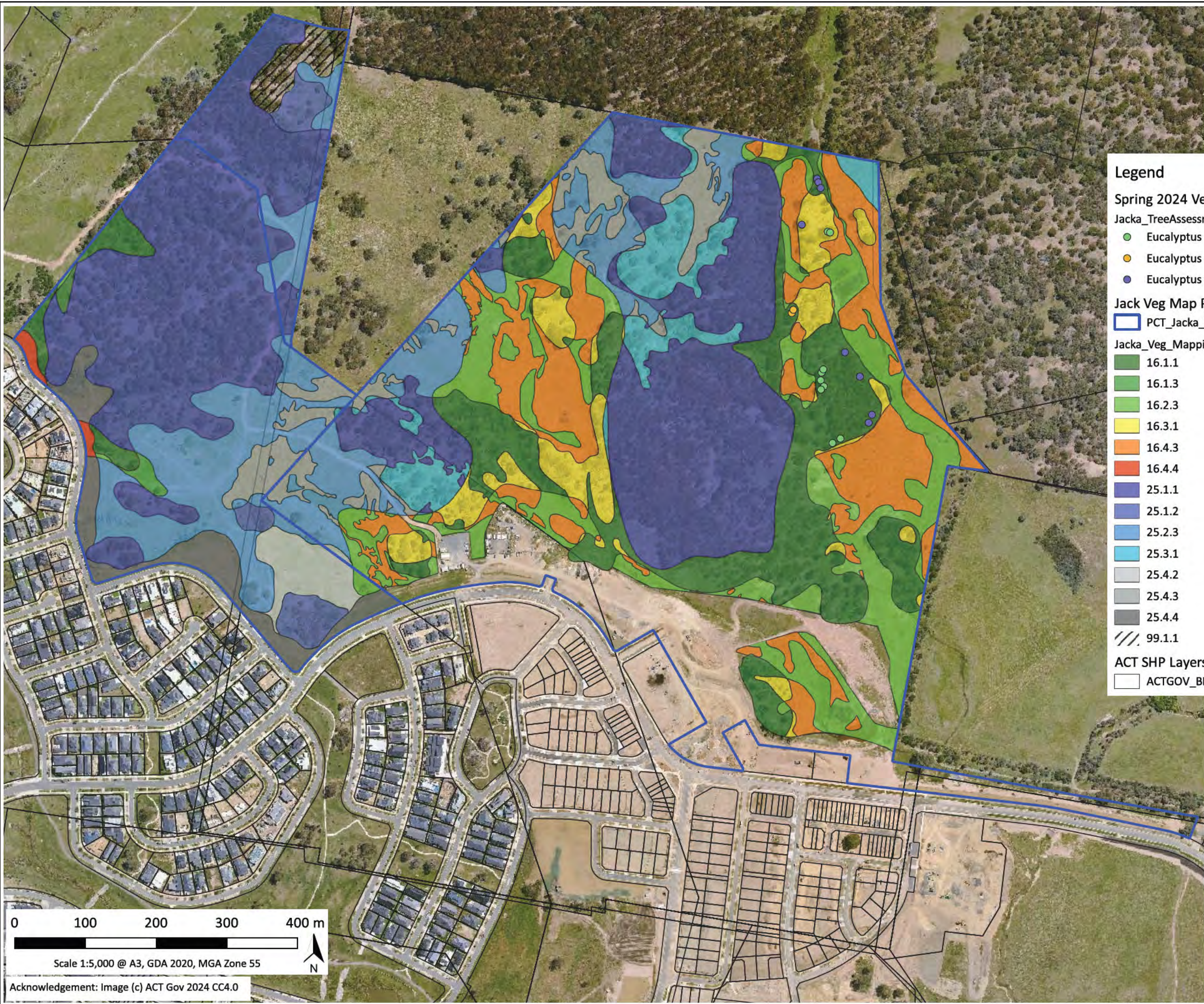
| PCT | Vegetation type | Vegetation formation CMA | Landscape position | Characteristic/dominant spp | Associated midstorey spp | Associated groundcover spp | Other diagnostic features |
|-------|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| ACT01 | Tablelands Dry Tussock Grassland | Grasslands | Occurs where tree growth is limited by cold air drainage generally on valley floors. On slopes at slightly higher elevations may intergrade with grassy woodlands. | Austrodanthonia spp., Bothriochloa macra, Austrostipa bigeniculata, Themeda triandra, Lomandra spp., Panicum effusum, Plantago varia, Wahlenbergia spp., Vittadinia muelleri, Eryngium rostratum, Austrostipa scabra, Elymus scaber, Goodenia pinnatifida, Triptilodiscus pygmaeus | | (1) Dry Themeda grassland: Themeda triandra, Austrostipa spp., Poa sieberiana, Austrodanthonia spp., Leptorhynchus squamatus, Plantago varia, Stackhousia monogyna; (2) Austrodanthonia Grassland: Austrodanthonia carphoides, A. caespitosa, A. laevis, Austrostipa bigeniculata, A. scabra subsp. falcata, Bothriochloa macra, Chloris truncata, Elymus scaber, Triptilodiscus pygmaeus, Panicum effusum, Oxalis perennans, Goodenia pinnatifida, Vittadinia muelleri, Chrysocephalum apiculatum, Plantago varia, Wahlenbergia spp., Solenogyne dominii; (3) Austrostipa Grassland: Austrostipa bigeniculata, A. scabra subsp. falcata, Elymus scaber, Austrodanthonia caespitosa, Enneapogon nigricans, Austrodanthonia spp., Bothriochloa macra, Themeda triandra, Wahlenbergia spp., Chrysocephalum apiculatum | Moisture retaining fertile clay texture soils derived from basalt, limestone or other fine-grained sedimentary rocks. Three associations: (1) Dry Themeda grassland: a tall (0.5–1.0 m) dense, closed tussock grassland generally found on well-drained, loamy soils; (2) Austrodanthonia Grassland: a mid-high (0.25–0.5 m) open tussock grassland in well-drained areas with shallow or skeletal soils; (3) Austrostipa Grassland: a tall (0.5–1.0 m) open tussock grassland where most sites are likely to have been previously dominated by Themeda triandra. Examples of community occur at Majura Field Firing Range, Jerrabomberra Valley and the Belconnen Navel Station. |
| ACT03 | Tablelands Moist Tussock Grassland | Grasslands | In moist drainage areas on valley floors in natural grassland areas. | Themeda triandra, Austrodanthonia spp., Poa sieberiana, Chrysocephalum apiculatum, Leptospermum squarrosum, Microlaena stipoides, Euchiton spp., Wahlenbergia spp., Asperula spp., Juncus spp., Acaena ovina | | Poa labillardierei, Poa spp., Carex inversa, Juncus spp., Asperula conferta, Bulbine bulbosa, Wurmbea dioica. | Moisture retaining fertile clay texture soils derived from basalt, limestone or other fine-grained sedimentary rocks. Is a tall, dense, closed tussock grassland. Is mostly in Gungahlin Valley (45.7 ha), with smaller amounts in Belconnen (14.8 ha) and Canberra City/Tuggeranong (0.9 ha). |
| ACT04 | Wet Tussock Grassland | Grasslands | In poorly drained areas and along seepage lines, drainage lines and creeks as small fringing zones. | Poa labillardierei, Themeda triandra, Juncus spp., Austrodanthonia spp., Carex appressa, Microlaena stipoides, Euchiton spp., Elymus scaber, Helichrysum rutidolepis, Agrostis spp., Hemarthria uncinata | | Carex inversa, Haloragis heterophylla, Hydrocotyle laxiflora | Known examples of community occur in an area (6ha) degraded native pasture in Gungahlin Nature Reserve and at Yarramundi Reach (<0.2 ha). |
| ACT12 | Tableland Shrubland | Heathlands | Along river banks and gravel beds adjoining rapidly flowing water, and/or on slopes above. Also on previously cleared higher slopes. | (1) Riparian Floodplains: Callistemon sieberi, Leptospermum obovatum; (2) Cleared Slopes: Kunzea ericoides | | | Riparian shrublands on broad rocky floodplains, bedrock platforms, and bedrock floodplains. Kunzea commonly found on previously cleared and fire affected moist slopes where it is an early colonizer |
| ACT16 | <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> – <i>E. blakelyi</i> Tableland Grassy Woodland | Grassy Woodlands | Middle and lower slopes of hills and in gently undulating topography. | Eucalyptus melliodora, E. blakelyi, E. bridgesiana | | | <i>E. bridgesiana</i> is a frequent associate. Sparse mid-layer of shrubs and regenerating trees. |
| ACT17 | <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> - <i>E. rubida</i> Tableland Woodland | Grassy Woodlands | Middle and lower slopes of hills and in gently undulating topography. | Eucalyptus pauciflora, E. rubida, E. stellulata, E. viminalis, E. bridgesiana | | | Occurs on fringes of low-lying frost-prone areas where cold air drainage prevents the growth of any other eucalypt species. |
| ACT19 | <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> Tableland Dry Woodland / Open Forest | Grassy Woodlands | On acid volcanic rocks (rhyolites and granites) occurring on dry rocky hillsides. | Allocasuarina verticillata | | | Often on harsh sites, in gullies and on rocky scree slopes where soils are shallow, showing little differentiation of separate horizons except a shallow organic band at the surface, with much rock throughout the profile. |
| ACT18 | Tableland Dry Shrubby Woodland | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby subformation) | Gentle to steep slopes with aspect varying from east through north to west. On rocky soils of exposed dry granite slopes and on volcanic soils near Murrumbidgee River, and on shallow sedimentary soils on lower exposed slopes, between Royalla and Murrumbateman. | <i>E. bridgesiana</i> , <i>E. dives</i> , <i>E. nortonii</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> , <i>E. goniocalyx</i> , <i>E. polyanthemos</i> , <i>E. blakelyi</i> , <i>Callitris endlicheri</i> , <i>Brachychiton populneum</i> | <i>Cassinia longifolia</i> , <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> , <i>Acacia rubida</i> , <i>A. falciformis</i> , <i>Kunzea ericoides</i> , <i>Pomaderris angustifolia</i> , <i>Dodonea viscosum</i> , <i>Clematis microphylla</i> , <i>Rubus parvifolia</i> , <i>Correa reflexa</i> , <i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i> | <i>Poa</i> spp., <i>Themeda triandra</i> , <i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp., <i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i> , <i>Lomandra</i> spp., <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> , <i>Dichelachne</i> spp., <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> , <i>Geranium solanderi</i> , <i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp., <i>Cheilanthes</i> spp., <i>Chysocephalum</i> spp., <i>Stellaria pungens</i> , <i>Einadia nutans</i> | Understorey varies with a generally diverse shrub layer and a ground cover of sparse to medium density tussock grass. |
| ACT23 | <i>Callitris endlicheri</i> Dry Woodland / Open Forest | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby subformation) | On dry rocky steep slopes near and adjacent to riparian areas and in open forests, often with sparse groundcover, on warm gentle to steep rocky slopes generally with a northerly to easterly aspect. | <i>Callitris endlicheri</i> | | | Community may also be adventive occurring as single trees or clumps of parent trees and regeneration-aged growth within shrubland or other eucalypt dominated woodland and forest communities. |
| ACT25 | <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i> Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby subformation) | Occurs between on various substrates. Occupies exposed dry sites on low hills near Canberra and on dry steep rocky sites in lower montane and river corridor areas, which often have well drained poorly developed or skeletal soils. | <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> , <i>E. rossii</i> , <i>E. mannifera</i> , <i>E. dives</i> , <i>E. polyanthemos</i> , <i>E. melliodora</i> | <i>Acacia mearsii</i> , <i>A. implexa</i> , <i>Daviesia mimosoides</i> , <i>A. rubida</i> , <i>Cassinia aculeata</i> | <i>Joycea pallida</i> , <i>Poa sieberiana</i> , <i>Stypantra glauca</i> , <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> , <i>Dichelachne crinita</i> | Influence of aspect on distribution of dominant trees may be marked. <i>Eucalyptus rossii</i> and <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> may occupy most aspects. <i>E. rossii</i> will often dominate as a pure stand on northwest exposed sites giving way to <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> on the more sheltered aspects, although virtually pure stands of <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> can be found on both exposed and sheltered aspects. <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> and <i>E. mannifera</i> tend to occupy the steepest slopes. |
| ACT22 | <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> Tableland Riparian Woodland | Forested Wetlands | On alluvial soils on rivers (including relatively stable, frequently inundated coarse textured sandy banks and margins) | <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> | | | Occasionally mixed with <i>Acacia mearsii</i> or very occasionally with <i>A. dealbata</i> on river flats. Grows on river and stream banks between normal water levels and maximum flood levels, in particular on sandy and shingle terraces and among boulder areas within sandy or silty matrix of alluvium. |
| ACT24 | <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> Tableland Riparian Woodland | Wet Sclerophyll Forests (Grassy subformation) | On alluvial soils of terraced floodplains, river flats and lower broad creeklines from Angle Crossing and Kambah Pool but concentrated as far down as Point Hut Crossing in Tidbinbilla Valley and the Lower Cotter River. | <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> , <i>E. pauciflora</i> | | | |
| 99 | Native Plantation | | | | | | |
| 66 | Exotic Plantation | | | | | | |

Table 2. Vegetation zone designations for woodland/forest communities, with details for meeting listed community definition for ACT16

| PCT Zone | Groundstorey Dominance is cover of perennial native plants > than cover of perennial exotic plants | Mature characteristic Greater than 4 mature (>40 cm DBH) trees across the patch (native understorey) | Regeneration of characteristic canopy (<5 cm DBH) | Native Forb Diversity Low = < 12 sp. (disturbance tolerant spp. only) Mod-High = ≥12 sp.; incl. ≥ 1 important sp.; +/- disturbance sensitive spp. | EPBC or NC Act definition (ACT16) |
|-----------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| PCT.1.1 | Native | Present | Present | High | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.1.2 | Native | Present | Present | Low | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.1.3 | Native | Present | Absent | High | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.1.4 | Native | Present | Absent | Low | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.2.1 | Native | Absent | Present | High | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.2.2 | Native | Absent | Present | Low | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.2.3 | Native | Absent | Absent | High | EPBC Act, NC Act |
| PCT.2.4 | Native | Absent | Absent | Low | - |
| PCT.3.1 | Exotic | Present | Present | High | NC Act ¹ |
| PCT.3.2 | Exotic | Present | Present | Low | NC Act |
| PCT.3.3 | Exotic | Present | Absent | High | NC Act |
| PCT.3.4 | Exotic | Present | Absent | Low | NC Act |
| PCT.4.1 | Exotic | Absent | Present | High | - |
| PCT.4.2 | Exotic | Absent | Present | Low | - |
| PCT.4.3 | Exotic | Absent | Absent | High | - |
| PCT.4.4 | Exotic | Absent | Absent | Low | - |

¹ Zone 3.1 to 3.4 can meet NC Act definition of listed community if there is a characteristic canopy of Yellow Box and/or Blakely Red Gum (i.e. not single isolated tree or clump).

Figure A. Veg mapping in locality of 2024 Koala record



Legend

Spring 2024 Veg Mapping in locality of Koala record

Jacka_TreeAssessment

- Eucalyptus dalrympleana
- Eucalyptus rubida
- Eucalyptus viminalis

Jack Veg Map Prelim

- PCT_Jacka_Extent

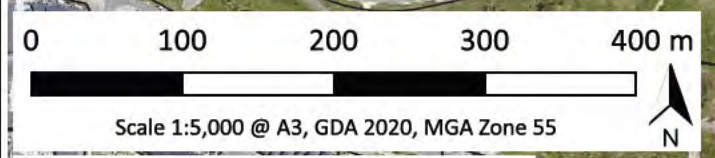
Jacka_Veg_Mapping_CapEcology_20250212.V2

- 16.1.1
- 16.1.3
- 16.2.3
- 16.3.1
- 16.4.3
- 16.4.4
- 25.1.1
- 25.1.2
- 25.2.3
- 25.3.1
- 25.4.2
- 25.4.3
- 25.4.4
- 99.1.1

ACT SHP Layers (Group Drive)

- ACTGOV_BLOCK

Capital Ecology Project No: 3238
 Drawn by: R. Speirs
 Date: 12 February 2025



Acknowledgement: Image (c) ACT Gov 2024 CC4.0

