

7 Offset site management and protection additional to those that currently exist

Securing the offset area will add additional protection for biodiversity values from clearing¹⁷ and provide additional management of weeds and pest animals that are additional to the general requirements for biosecurity.

The offset areas are currently not protected from timber harvesting, the inappropriate use of hot fires or the under-sowing of exotic pasture species by either the VM Act or the EPBC Act due to exemptions within the legislative frameworks for the continuing use of the land. Remnant vegetation areas are protected from broadscale clearing under the VM Act; however, the clearing of regrowth is permitted (see the offsets maps at *Figure 8* to *Figure 10*). Maintaining the existing condition of regulated vegetation and land for habitat values is not addressed under the VM Act.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) (the **Biosecurity Act**) imposes a ‘general biosecurity obligation’ on all Queenslanders to manage biosecurity risks that are under their control and that they know about or could reasonably be expected to know about.¹⁸ In practical terms, this means that:

- If you are a livestock owner, you are expected to stay informed about pests and diseases that could affect or be carried by your animals, as well as weeds and pest animals that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.
- If you are a landowner, you are expected to stay informed about the weeds and pest animals (such as wild dogs) that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.

The Biosecurity Act assigns the pests identified in the offset areas as Restricted Matters in Categories 1-7 and requires the following management as shown below in *Table 17*.

Table 17: Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld) obligations

Category	What is required	Examples
1	Must advise an authorised officer within 24 hours of becoming aware	Electric ant/ Little Fire ant, Red imported fire ant
2	Must advise an authorised officer within 24 hours of becoming aware	Noxious fish, including alligator gar and black pacu
3	Must not distribute, be traded or released into the environment	Most invasive weeds, pest animals, noxious fish
4	Must not move	Certain weeds, pest animals, noxious fish such as feral pigs, feral deer, rabbits, Hudson pear and jumping cholla cactus
5	Must not possess or keep	Rabbits, carp, bunny ears cactus
6	Must not feed (except if undertaking a control program)	Feral deer, wild dogs, rabbits, foxes, noxious fish
7	Must, as soon as practicable, kill the restricted matter	Noxious fish, including tilapia, gambusia, carp

¹⁷ *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Schedule definitions)

¹⁸ See <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-act-2014/general-biosecurity-obligation>

The obligations in the OAMP are additional to these general obligations, in that control is required once thresholds as detailed in *Table 12* and *Table 13* are met, which initiates the respective controlling actions. For example, there is a requirement to control feral pigs if numbers in excess of 12 are observed in any one property inspection; this is above and beyond the requirements of the Biosecurity Act, as is the reduction of weed species to 10% of the offset area over the life of the management plan.

Tabooba is located within the Scenic Rim Regional Council LGA. The council has implemented a Scenic Rim Biosecurity Plan and is committed to the control of declared pest plants within the region. Council states only that 'landowners have a general biosecurity obligation to control declared pest plants on their land'.¹⁹

Greenridge is located within the Gold Coast City Council LGA. In the council's *Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan 2019-2024* landholder's responsibilities are listed as:²⁰

- management activities
- best management practice
- good neighbour policy
- general biosecurity obligation for biosecurity matters.

8 Monitoring and reporting

The offsets area monitoring methods are provided in *Table 18*. Habitat quality monitoring is to be undertaken in Years 1 (2025), 5, 10, 16 and 20 to assess comparative changes in habitat condition against baseline data collected on the offset site, as well as attainment and maintenance of the offset completion criteria (see *Section 6*). Further, the monitoring will measure changes resulting from the management actions and variability due to climatic conditions. This will inform the nature and frequency of management actions required and if trigger levels are breached, the use of corrective actions to bring the offset back into compliance.

Note that the methodologies listed, and the RE benchmarks used in the establishment of the baseline data, will be used consistently throughout the reporting period to enable the comparison of data.

The survey methods from the original survey work undertaken in 2022 is described in the OS (BAAM, 2022). A detailed description of these methods is also provided in *Appendix A* of this OAMP.

While undertaking monitoring activities, the responsible person will move between the permanent survey points in a random manner noting any substantial variation in the condition of the offset area between the permanent monitoring points. Any substantial variation is to be noted in the subsequent report.

TMR, its successors or assigns, will maintain accurate and complete compliance records, in keeping with approval condition 39. Additionally, and consistent with approval condition 40, if the

¹⁹ <https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/our-environment/biodiversity/pest-plants-and-weeds>

²⁰ <https://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/pdfs/policies-plans-amp-strategies/biosecurity-management-plan.pdf>

Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder will provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the specified timeframe.

TMR, its successors or assigns, will, as per the approval conditions of the action, provide a Compliance Report annually for each 12-month period following the date of the approval (17 March each year), for the period of the approval. Offset Area Reports describing the progress of the offset area over the relevant 12-month period will be part of those reports until the completion criteria are achieved or the end of the EPBC approval, whichever comes first. The monitoring methodology and schedule is outlined in *Table 18*. The reporting schedule is provided in *Table 19*. The location of the monitoring sites is shown at *Figure 11* and *Figure 12*. The coordinates of the existing baseline monitoring sites are shown in *Table 20*. There are three additional sites required to be established in year 1 to complete the required sampling density as per the *Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality: A toolkit for assessing land-based offsets under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy Version 1.3 (2020)*.

The Offset Area Reports will contain records substantiating all activities relevant to the implementation and management of the offsets.

TMR or a suitably qualified person appointed by TMR will undertake quarterly inspections of the offset area to observe and record dry matter, pest plants, accessibility (i.e. condition of fencing), evidence of fire and evidence of pest animal incursion. The inspection records will serve as the primary data source for the annual Offset Area Report.

Grass and weed cover measurement is to be undertaken as per the Level 1 methodology described in the *Land Manager's Monitoring Guide* (DERM, 2010).

Dry matter is to be assessed as per the South East Queensland pasture photo standards for pastures on basalt (see *Appendix D*).

Table 18: Monitoring schedule and methodology to be used

Monitoring	Attributes monitored	Timing	Method	Location/s
Surveys undertaken by ecologists in Year 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20				
Targeted Koala and GHFF surveys	Presence and abundance of Koala and GHFF in the offset area, including estimated numbers and location of sightings.	In May, in Year 1 (2025), 5, 10, 15 and 20 after the commencement of each Stage of the Project	<i>EPBC Act referral guidelines for the vulnerable Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)</i> (DoE 2014). <i>Survey guidelines for Australia’s threatened mammals</i> (SEWPaC 2011).	Across the Koala and GHFF offsets areas
Habitat quality assessments	<p>Landscape-scale attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of patch • Context • Connectivity <p>Site based attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer BioCondition <p>Species habitat attributes (Koala and GHFF only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and availability of food and habitat required for foraging • Quality and availability of habitat required for shelter and breeding • Quality and availability of habitat required for mobility <p>Absence of threats</p>	In May, in Year 1 (2025), 5, 10, 15 and 20 after the commencement of each Stage of the Project	<p>In accordance with the <i>Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality: A toolkit for assessing land-based offsets under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy Version 1.3</i></p> <p>For Koala and GHFF, details on habitat parameters relevant to threatened fauna species were evaluated as per the earlier guideline <i>Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality: A toolkit for assessing land-based offsets under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy</i> (State of Queensland 2014).</p> <p>The methodology to be utilised for determining the species attributes to be collected are at <i>Appendix A</i>.</p> <p>The habitat data scores from the original surveys are provided in Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 (Tabooba) and Section 6.2 and Appendix 3 (Greenridge) of the OS (BAAM 2022). The OAG outputs are shown in Section 10 of the OS (BAAM 2022).</p> <p>Data collection and OAG calculation methods are to be consistent during the life of the OMP</p>	At sites as shown in <i>Table 20, Figure 11 and Figure 12</i>

Monitoring	Attributes monitored	Timing	Method	Location/s
BioCondition assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of woody perennial species in EDL • Native plant species richness – trees • Native plant species richness – shrubs • Native plant species richness - grasses • Native plant species richness – forbs • Tree canopy height • Tree canopy cover • Shrub canopy cover • Native perennial grass cover • Organic litter • Large trees • Coarse woody debris • Non-native plant cover • Quality and availability of food and foraging habitat • Quality and availability of shelter 	In May, in Year 1 (2025), 5, 10, 15 and 20 after the commencement of the action	<p>Field observations, vegetation assessment as per the <i>BioCondition: A Condition Assessment Framework for Terrestrial Biodiversity in Queensland Assessment Manual</i> (Eyre et al., 2015)</p> <p>Data for each of the ecological condition attributes monitored will be collected at each site (final site locations are to be established) and reported on and presented in a sequential manner (including previous data collected) to quantify change from the baseline condition. This will record the change in each attribute measured and hence the condition of the habitat, thus enabling a statistical comparison to previous years' data and tracking towards attainment of the offset interim and final completion criteria.</p> <p>Scoring is to be consistent with the <i>Guide to Determining Terrestrial Habitat Quality Version 1.3</i> (Department of Environment and Science, 2020).</p>	At sites as shown in Table 20, Figure 11 and Figure 12.
Habitat quality scores for each matter including Coastal Swamp Oak TEC, Koala and GHFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site condition • Site context • Species stocking rate 	In May, in Year 1 (2025), 5, 10, 15 and 20 after the commencement of the action	<p>As per the document <i>How to use the offsets assessment guide</i> (DSEWPaC, 2012) and baseline methods for scoring Coastal Swamp Oak TEC, Koala and GHFF, as described in the OS (BAAM, 2022).</p> <p>Baseline habitat quality scores for each matter have been provided in Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 (Tabooba) and Section 6.2 and Appendix 3 (Greenridge) of the OS (BAAM 2022).</p>	Per matter area
<p>Note that the methodologies listed, and the RE benchmarks used in the establishment of the baseline data, will be used consistently throughout the reporting period to enable the comparison of data. Refer to Appendix A for a description of the methodology.</p>				

Monitoring	Attributes monitored	Timing	Method	Location/s
Quarterly landholder/approval holder records and monitoring (report to approval holder – end of September, December, March and June each year)				
Forestry operations, native timber harvesting and general vegetation impacts	Any incidence of native plant destruction	Monitored quarterly and reported annually in Offset Area Reports until the offset completion criteria are achieved.	Forestry operations, native timber harvesting and general vegetation impacts	Across the offset areas
Unauthorised impacts to vegetation from activities such as illegal access/ camping	Vegetation, woody debris, grass cover, weed cover, feral animal damage and presence		Monitored monthly during grazing periods at Tabooba (dry season) and reported annually until the offset completion criteria are achieved.	
Grazing	Livestock stocking rates	Monitored quarterly and reported annually in Offset Area Reports until the offset completion criteria are achieved.		
Unplanned fire	Occurrence, control measures implemented, timing and result of the control measures.		Quarterly inspections will involve traversing the offset area along streams, low lying areas and vehicle access tracks, to record the presence of wallow holes, tracks and any visual incidents. If detected, GPS locations will be recorded and photographed and rechecked at the next quarterly inspection. Any evidence of predation on Koalas and/or GHFF must be	
Weeds	Occurrence, control measures implemented, timing and the result of the control measures.			
Pest animals	Occurrence, control measures implemented, timing, number and type of species and the result of the control measures.			

²¹ Available at: <https://futurebeef.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Wide-Bay-and-South-East-Queensland.pdf>

Monitoring	Attributes monitored	Timing	Method	Location/s
			reported immediately to the approval holder and corrective actions implemented.	

Table 19: Reporting schedule

Report Details to DCCEEW	Reporting period	Submission due date
<p>Annual Offset Area Report, which contributes to the Annual Compliance Report detailing photo points (including coordinates), implementation of management actions, any triggers for corrective actions and implementation of those corrective actions, if implemented, and offset condition outcomes, including habitat quality scores, condition of Koala habitat and results of Koala and GHFF surveys, achieved for preceding reporting period.</p>	<p>Annual Offset Area Report for each 12-month period following the date of the approval (17 March each year)</p>	<p>Within 60 business days following the end of each 12-month period (as per approval condition 47).</p>
	<p>17 March annually until the offset completion criteria are achieved and then every 5 years until the end of the approval (30 June 2045).</p>	
<p>Compliance report detailing compliance with approval conditions under the EPBC Act, including compliance with the offset conditions, as detailed in the OAMP.</p>	<p>Compliance Report for each 12-month period following the date of the approval (17 March each year).</p>	
<p>Offset Habitat Quality Reporting including results of targeted fauna surveys, habitat quality and BioCondition monitoring and overall habitat quality scores. Including comparison on habitat quality scores to baseline scoring and provide recommendations for improving habitat quality.</p>	<p>Year 1 (2025), 5, 10, 15 and 20 after the commencement of the action</p>	<p>Contained within the Annual Offset Area Report.</p>

