



Sandy Ridge - Fauna

Detailed desktop and field investigations have been completed to establish the potential impacts on fauna populations during construction and operation of the proposed Sandy Ridge Facility. These studies have included Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Assessment undertaken by qualified, local biologists.

The studies found:

- Two fauna habitats occur within the proposed development envelope (open woodland and shrubland). These habitats support a diverse array of fauna (including amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) adapted to a semi-arid environment.
- Evidence of two fauna species of conservation significance was recorded within the proposed development envelope. These were *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) listed as Vulnerable under the WC Act and the EPBC Act and, *Merops ornatus* (Rainbow Bee-eater) listed as Migratory under the WC Act and the EPBC Act.
- Four conservation significant species may possibly occur within the proposed development envelope. These species include *Nyctophilus (timoriensis)* sp. 1 (Central Long-eared Bat), *Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* (Western Rosella (Mallee)), *Apus pacificus* (Fork-tailed Swift) and *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon).

Direct impacts to fauna include the loss of habitat through the removal of native vegetation. The removal of up to 276.05 hectares (ha) of native vegetation would result in the loss of fauna foraging, breeding, roosting, sheltering and/or dispersal habitat. The removal of this habitat would have a negligible impact on fauna present in the vicinity of the proposed development envelope given the presence of large areas of suitable adjoining habitat.

Clearing of vegetation would unlikely have a significant impact on conservation significant fauna listed under the WC Act or the EPBC Act. All would readily move to adjacent undisturbed habitat once vegetation clearing commences.

Other indirect impacts to fauna were identified, including: light, noise and vibration; fauna displacement; increased predation and competition for resources; fire; increased feral fauna attracted to water and food resources; and injury or death from fauna ingress into a cell or from collisions with vehicles.

Fauna management plans and procedures would be implemented to minimise their likelihood, and impact, as necessary.

With these procedures in place, fauna within the proposed development envelope would not be significantly impacted by the proposed Sandy Ridge Facility.

