Concept Plan CF 2023-016

Threatened ecological community conservation and recovery

BCS Species and Communities

Project Core Team

X X **Supervising Scientist** Ruth Harvey
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Project status as of June 1, 2023, 10:09 a.m.

X X New project, pending concept plan approval

Document endorsements and approvals as of June 1, 2023, 10:09 a.m.

X X
Project Team granted
Program Leader granted
Directorate required

Threatened ecological community conservation and recovery

Program

BCS Species and Communities

Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

Background

An ecological community is a naturally occurring assemblage of organisms that occurs in a particular habitat. Ecological communities may comprise various life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, and provide an important level of biological diversity in addition to genetics and species.

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) provides for the statutory listing of TECs by the Minister as threatened. The legislation also describes statutory processes for preparing recovery plans for TECs, the registration of their critical habitat, and penalties for unauthorised modification of TECs.

Because ecosystems and the links between their community members are so complex, it is important to identify, maintain and manage whole ecosystems, their processes and communities (including the many thousands of species of invertebrates, non-flowering plants like fungi and seaweeds, and micro-organisms), rather than just on a species-by-species basis.

DBCA manages the parks and reserves under its care in accordance with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.* TECs and PECs are given priority consideration when planning and carrying out activities including the management of weeds, pests, diseases, fire, hydrology and visitor access, with the aim of protecting them, restoring their values and decreasing their vulnerability to threatening processes.

Aims

Develop, test and review Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) identification and monitoring techniques to ensure guideline is kept up to date with current scientific knowledge and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are based on correct identification of TECs.

Promote the development and implementation of monitoring techniques and provide guidance for monitoring activities.

Coordinate the preparation of and prepare recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities. Contribute to combined listing and conservation advice led by the Commonwealth government.

Provide scientific knowledge to guide development of effective mitigation strategies for management of threats acting on terrestrial, aquatic, estuarine and marine ecosystems and contribute to regional conservation planning with scientific knowledge.

Recovery planning and teams leverage opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

Provide advice to land managers on appropriate fire management strategies.

Expected outcome

Best-practice threatened species TEC identification and monitoring techniques are available to members of the environmental community.

Strategic planning and guidance documents to guide conservation translocations proposals.

Information and advice to minimise impacts of precribed burns on threatened ecological communities is available for planning.

Ecosystem management and planning to mitigate threats to ecosystems and associated values is evidence-based and effective.

Recovery Plans and Teams are in place to inform and collaborate on the implementation of effective recovery actions.

Strategic context

Use world-recognised science to build and share biodiversity knowledge to support evidence-based management.

Expected collaborations

The Species and Communities team collaborates with on-ground managers, scientists and members of the community through Recovery Teams.

Proposed period of the project

May 25, 2023 – June 30, 2025

Staff time allocation

to | X | X | X | X |

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist			
Technical			
Volunteer			
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

to | X | X | X | X |

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DBCA)			
External Funding			