

**Concept Plan CF 2023-014**

# **Species and Communities Assessment**

**BCS Species and Communities**

## **Project Core Team**

X X **Supervising Scientist** Ruth Harvey  
**Data Custodian** Catherine Bourke

**Project status as of June 28, 2023, 4:51 p.m.**

X X New project, pending concept plan approval

**Document endorsements and approvals as of June 28, 2023, 4:51 p.m.**

X X  
**Project Team** granted  
**Program Leader** granted  
**Directorate** required



# Species and Communities Assessment Program

BCS Species and Communities

## Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

## Background

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provides specific mechanisms for the protection of threatened species and ecological communities. Robust government decision making is dependent on scientific advice being available and communicated to inform decision makers.

## Aims

Effectively translate and communicate scientific knowledge and information to policy makers decision makers and managers through appropriate processes.

Evaluate applications to take/modify under sections 40 and 45 of BC Act.

Provide advice to DWER and DMIRS for decisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). This includes ensuring conditions and offsets are appropriate, aligned and based on best available scientific knowledge.

## Expected outcome

Timely, transparent, consistent and defensible decisions on authorising the take and disturbance of threatened species and modification of occurrences of threatened ecological communities.

Scientifically robust information is available for assessment of applications to take and disturb threatened species and communities.

Accurate scientific information and advice is available to inform government environmental regulation and land use planning

## Strategic context

This is consistent with department strategy to respond to pressures to maintain and enhance ecosystem function, and to conserve, restore and manage plants and animals, ecosystems and landscapes using world-recognised science and best practice management.

## Expected collaborations

This project collaborates with all of the biodiversity conservation science to ensure decision making is based on best available and emerging knowledge.

Environmental Management Branch and Land Use Planning in Regional and Fire Management Services have key roles in communication with regulators.

S&C Assessment team liaises directly with regulators, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety in accordance with established Working Arrangements.

## 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