

Department of Defence
Annual Environmental Compliance Report
Due: 9 January 2023

EPBC Act Approval 2010/5316
Cultana Expansion Area Project, near Whyalla, South Australia

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Document Version Control

Version	Date	Approved by	Details / Reason for Change
1.0	20 Dec 22	Kate Smith	Final draft

Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed	
Full name (please print)	Tom Calthorpe
Position (please print)	Acting Director of Environmental Planning, Assessment & Compliance
Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable)	Department of Defence ABN 68706814312
Date	20 December 2022

1. Description of Activities

The Cultana Expansion Area (CEA) project includes the expansion of the existing Cultana Training Area (CUTA) in South Australia westwards from 50,250 hectares to approximately 209,294 hectares, through the acquisition of pastoral leases. The project was assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) as described in Part 7 of the Referral submitted to the Environment Department on 23 December 2009 (EPBC referral number 2010/5316).

A Public Environment Report (PER) process was conducted for the project in accordance with Part 8 of the EPBC Act. The PER provided information about the likely impacts of the project on relevant controlling provisions under the EPBC Act including nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities (sections 18 & 18A) and protection of the environment from Commonwealth action (section 28).

The Cultana Expansion Area (CEA) project was approved subject to conditions under Part 9 of the Act by the (now) Department of Climate Change, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on 5 December 2013. Defence's use of the CEA is also subject to the environmental management requirements of the South Australian Government, made legally enforceable under a lease agreement made with Defence.

Condition 18 requires the preparation and submission of an annual compliance report within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the **commencement** of the action for the duration of the approval which remains in effect to 31 December 2114.

The action commenced on 9 October 2015 and the first annual compliance report was submitted on 9 January 2017. Annual reports for the CEA are due each year by 9 January and address compliance for the preceding year.

This report is the seventh annual compliance report for the CEA project and provides information on activities undertaken in 2022 to address compliance with the conditions of approval.

Measures to address the EPBC Act approval conditions for the project have been incorporated into the CEA Environmental Management System (EMS), Environmental Management Framework (EMF), Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and environmental management program for the site. These were formally endorsed by the South Australian Government in March 2016 and guide the use and environmental management of the site.

The project involved the expansion of the existing Cultana Training Area located near Whyalla, South Australia. The CEA's total area of CUTA increased from 50,250 hectares to approximately 209,294 hectares through the acquisition of pastoral leases and the subsequent grant by the South Australian Government of a Miscellaneous Lease for Defence Purposes (MLDP).

The expansion of the CUTA fulfils the following objectives:

- employment of a wide range of Army and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) individual or vehicle mounted weapons systems and platforms;
- development of a combined arms training area of sufficient size to allow Army and RAAF to train together;
- development of an all-weather training area of sufficient size that is easily accessible by both Darwin and Adelaide Army units and can be used during northern Australia's wet season, during which Defence training areas in the Northern Territory are closed;
- development of a training area to support the Army's force generation cycle and foundation warfighting requirements;
- individual and collective training that underpins operational capability;
- development of a training area of sufficient size to allow training activities to be rotated, and areas of land rested to facilitate sustainable use of the training area; and
- development of a training area sufficiently close to a fully equipped hospital to allow personnel to be evacuated within one hour of a medical emergency occurring.

Since acquiring the land, Defence has developed a range of new facilities (fences, gates, internal roads, camps, range control, etc.) and military training has been conducted.

The CEA is a key training area for supporting the pre-deployment training of Australian Defence Force personnel. The expanded training area is expected to contribute to the Australian Defence Force's training needs for the next 75 to 100 years.

2. Compliance Table

The following table identifies each condition of approval and describes the evidence for compliance up to December 2022.

Table 1 – Compliance Table

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
1.	Prohibited activities No chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear weapons may be taken onto or used within the boundaries of <i>the CEA</i> .	Compliant	Chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear (CBRN) weapons are not approved for use on Defence training areas. The Cultana Training Area Standing Orders (TASOs) include instructions addressing prohibited activities and what can be taken onto or used within the boundaries of the training area.
2.	Stakeholder Engagement The approval holder must establish and maintain an environmental advisory committee (EAC) for the duration of the approval to facilitate input from relevant stakeholders into environmental management of <i>the CEA</i> . The EAC must be established within twelve (12) months of this approval and meet at least every twelve (12) months thereafter.	Compliant	<p>Defence established the annual EAC in early 2014, and the inaugural EAC meeting was held on 18 June 2015.</p> <p>Membership of the EAC was finalised after Defence signed the Miscellaneous Lease for Defence Purposes (MLDP) with the South Australian Government on 20 June 2014. Members include stakeholder representatives from local councils, traditional owner groups, neighbours, State government agencies and the University of Adelaide.</p> <p>Defence held the annual Cultana Expansion Area Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) virtually, on 29 November 2022. Seven members attended the EAC in person, seven by phone and/ or virtually. There were seven apologies or were not present. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2023.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
3.	The approval holder must establish, maintain and advertise protocols for receiving, managing and resolving complaints in a timely and transparent manner. The protocols must be established prior to commencement of the action.	Compliant	<p>Activities at the CEA are promoted through Defence media releases, public notifications via local and State media, and Defence website Army 'Noise and Training Notices' https://www.army.gov.au/our-news/noise-and-training-notice.</p> <p>If the public has any concerns, inquiries or complaints about the CEA they can call the National Defence Switchboard (1300 333 362) and be connected to their nearest base (RAAF Base Edinburgh is closest to CEA or contact Defence via https://www1.defence.gov.au/about/contact-us</p> <p>Defence maintains a centralised set of protocols and processes to record, process and investigate complaints in the Defence Garrison Estate Management System (GEMS), an online SAP-based system that provides a single source of information for all estate management activities. In circumstances where access to GEMS is limited, personnel can use the existing environmental reporting process – Defence Webform AE530 (formerly Webform AE444).</p> <p>One environmental incident occurred in early July 2021 that was not captured in the 2022 compliance reporting period. The incident involved unauthorised clearing of native vegetation around a disused mine site at Cultana, in preparation for filling the mineshaft to make the area safe. The site appeared to be previously disturbed. Action was taken to stop the clearing activity works, and the construction crew were advised to minimise the disturbance of native vegetation. A comprehensive rehabilitation plan is being developed for the site. It has been observed that the vegetation (predominantly small chenopod shrubs and other native shrubs) are already growing back in the area.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
4.	<p>Environmental Management Framework</p> <p>The approval holder must establish and implement an environmental management system (EMS) for <i>the CEA</i>, consistent with <i>ISO 14001</i>. The EMS must include an overarching document that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) describes the interaction between elements of the EMS including the <i>Defence Environmental Management Framework</i>, and specific plans relevant to <i>the CEA</i> as well as other elements of <i>the CEA environmental management framework</i>; b) identifies roles and responsibilities for implementation of the elements of the EMS; and c) describes arrangements for ongoing review (and revision as necessary) of elements of the EMS. <p>Note: <i>The Department</i> understands that Defence may wish to amalgamate EMS documents relating to several individual sites. This condition would not preclude that approach, provided that commitments made in relation to <i>the CEA</i> are clearly identifiable, and that the conditions of approval are satisfied in full.</p>	Compliant	<p>As part of the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) for the CEA, Defence operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) consistent with ISO 14001. The EMS and its accompanying Environmental Management Plan (EMP) address the requirements of this condition and are available at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp.</p> <p>The EMS was developed in close consultation with representatives of the South Australian Minister for Environment and was endorsed by the SA Government on 29 March 2016. In addition to intergovernmental cooperation in developing the EMS, community consultation occurred through the Cultana EAC. The EMS and EMP documents were distributed to EAC members in March 2016, including local councils, Aboriginal groups and community representatives.</p> <p>The Defence Garrison and Estate Management System (GEMS) supports the implementation of the EMS at CEA. GEMS provides a repository for environmental data and informs on-ground environmental management. It enables a single, integrated environmental management tool to fulfil the requirements of the lease with the South Australian Government and the EPBC Act conditions of approval. It combines overarching management actions with matter-specific actions and helps monitor impacts and variations associated with the change from pastoral to Defence use.</p> <p>The Cultana EMP will be revised as necessary following the independent 5-yearly performance review that is currently underway, regarding the implementation of the EMP by Defence and the South Australian Government.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
			Defence completed the required Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) update in accordance with the EMP. Chapter 5, 'Cultana Training Area (CUTA) BMP 2016-2018' was replaced by the BMP (2019).
5.	<p>The approval holder must prepare and implement operational controls that reduce environmental impacts and maintain public amenity and safety. The operational controls must address at least the following public amenity matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) firing of projectiles from, into or within the CEA over any public road or railway or any other area occupied by civilians; b) noise, noting that training activities may occur at night; c) transport of equipment and personnel to, from and within the CEA; d) dust and smoke; e) electro-magnetic frequency interference (including electronic warfare activities); and f) light spill (including laser technologies). <p>Specific operational controls must be made available to the Department upon request. The approval holder must, upon request, demonstrate to the Minister that the operational controls provide for public safety from these matters.</p>	Compliant	<p>A range of operational controls are used at the CEA to reduce environmental impacts and maintain public amenity and safety. The primary operational controls include the EMF, EMP, the Defence Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) process (compliance controls), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Training Area Standing Orders (TASOs). When and where relevant to particular matters - safety templates and roads, perimeter fencing, firebreaks and warning signs, Emergency Services contacts, local media and Defence web pages, community engagement and information opportunities are also used.</p> <p>In response to the specific requirements of this condition the following controls are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Training Area Standing Orders (TASOs) cover firing procedures, permitted areas for firing and prohibited firing areas from, into or within the CEA. b) Noise is addressed in Chapter 6.2 of the EMP. Operational measures include establishing buffers between the noise source and sensitive receptors, such as residences. Buffers can be reduced or increased in accordance with equipment being used. c) Vehicle road movements and crossings are undertaken at times with the least amount of public traffic on roads. The TASOs set restrictions on off-road movement and prescribe speed limits to help

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
			<p>dust suppression. Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and South Australian Police (SAPOL) traffic management are engaged as required; signs are also put in place when necessary.</p> <p>d) The dust management procedures are included in Chapter 6.3 of the EMP. Dust is managed via a combination of a 1 km vehicle movement buffer along roadsides and boundaries. Time lapse cameras operate to monitor dust and wetting and binding applications are used if required. Dust management is also adaptive according to climatic conditions. If strong winds are likely to send dust clouds towards a road then the buffer size is increased or training moved to another location.</p> <p>When hazard reduction burns are conducted, consideration is given to the effects of smoke on the amenity of neighbours and the safety of public road users.</p> <p>e) In accordance with the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i>, specific radiofrequency (RF) bands are designated to be used for national defence. The Draft Defence Electromagnetic Spectrum Manual governs Defence's use of the radiofrequency (RF) spectrum and includes consideration of public amenity and safety. This draft publication has replaced the former Defence Spectrum Manual (SPECMAN). The update was structural and the content regarding the use of RF bands, public amenity and safety remains unchanged.</p> <p>f) Chapter 6.2.3 of the EMP details the management of light impacts at CUTA, including the use of lasers. The use of laser technologies at Defence training areas is further addressed in Annex 6B of the Defence Radiation Safety Manual.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
6.	<p>Management plans</p> <p>The approval holder must, within twelve (12) months of the commencement of the action, provide the Minister with a threatened species habitat management plan (TSHMP), prepared by a suitably qualified expert. The TSHMP must identify specific areas of important habitat and / or known occurrence of threatened species within the CEA and describe how those areas will be managed for the protection of those species. The TSHMP must make reference to any relevant conservation advices or recovery plans approved under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Once approved by the Minister, the TSHMP must be implemented. Any work undertaken prior to the Minister's approval of the TSHMP must be preceded by a pre-activity survey for all threatened species and, if any are detected, relevant work may not proceed until the TSHMP is approved.</p> <p>At least once every ten (10) years, the TSHMP must be reviewed and updated as required in consideration of all available sustainability monitoring reports (refer Condition 12), and provided to the Minister for approval. The revised TSHMP must not be implemented until it has been approved by the Minister.</p> <p>Note: This condition may be satisfied by a single document, or separate documents dealing with individual species or groups of species.</p>	Compliant	<p>A Threatened Species Habitat Management Plan (TSHMP) addressing the requirements of this condition was included in the EMP (Chapter 3.4) and submitted to Environment on 7 October 2016. The only known EPBC Act listed resident threatened species at CEA is Western Grasswren/Thick-billed Grasswren (Gawler Ranges subspecies) (<i>Amytornis textilis myall</i>). There is also one State listed threatened species, Sandalwood (<i>Santalum spicatum</i>).</p> <p>The management of threatened species and their habitat is outlined in Chapter 3.4 of the EMP. Broader biodiversity management is also addressed in Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the EMP.</p> <p>The Cultana EMP will be revised as necessary following the independent 5-yearly performance review, which is currently ongoing. The 5-yearly performance review results will allow critical assessment of the effectiveness or need for improvement of the risk management strategies in the various elements of the EMP including the Threatened Species Habitat Management Plan (Chapter 3).</p>

7.	<p>The approval holder must, within twelve (12) months of the commencement (of the action, provide the Minister with a biosecurity and overabundant native species management plan (BONSMP), prepared by a suitably qualified expert. The BONSMP must describe measures to monitor and control animal pests, weeds and pathogens, including but not limited to the following species, within the CEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral Cat (<i>Felis catus</i>) • Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>) • Feral Goat (<i>Capra hircus</i>) • Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) • Rodents (<i>non-native Mus and Rattus spp.</i>) • tramp ants • Buffel Grass (<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>) • Carrion Flower (<i>Orbea variegata</i>) <p>The BONSMP must make reference to any relevant threat abatement plans approved under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Once approved, by the Minister, the BONSMP must be implemented. Any work undertaken prior to the Minister's approval of the BONSMP, must have clear and effective protocols in place to monitor and control animal pests, weeds and pathogens. These protocols must be provided to the Minister upon request.</p>	Compliant	<p>A Biosecurity and Overabundant Native Species Management Plan (BONSMP) addressing the requirements of this condition was included in Chapter 4.2 of the EMP was submitted to the former DoEE on 7 October 2016.</p> <p>Defence has continued to implement, monitor and control BONS. Weed control was undertaken in 2021 and two new Carrion flower populations were identified and mapped in 2022. Due to access restrictions from flooding, not all priority areas were treated. These areas are priority areas for future works. Weeds are mapped annually and ground-truthing occurs along the tracks to monitor effectiveness.</p> <p>Wild goat management was concentrated in the Mount Whyalla area with approximately 1076 goats removed between February 2021 and September 2022. This is double the number removed from the previous 18 month period.</p> <p>The Cultana EMP will be revised as necessary following the independent 5-yearly performance review is currently ongoing. Monitoring activities (identified in Chapter 10 of the EMP) allow for critical assessment of the effectiveness of the BONSMP and help identify the need for improved risk management strategies in the various elements of the EMP.</p>
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Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
8.	<p>The approval holder must, within twelve (12) months of the commencement of the action, provide the Minister with a pollution prevention and contamination management plan (PPCMP), prepared by a suitably qualified expert. The PPCMP must address at least the following matters in relation to the CEA:</p> <p>a) identification of, and management prescriptions for, existing contamination by waste fuels and other hazardous and toxic substances.</p> <p>b) protocols for the safe storage, handling, use, transport and disposal of fuels and other anticipated hazardous and toxic substances;</p> <p>c) measures for monitoring contamination against known baselines, making reference to any applicable Australian standards; and</p> <p>d) contingency measures for reporting, containing and remediating spills and other accidental pollution events.</p> <p>Once approved by the Minister, the PPCMP must be implemented. Any work undertaken Prior to the Minister's approval of the PPCMP, must have clear and effective protocols in place to prevent pollution and manage contamination consistent with the requirements of 8a) to 8d) above. These protocols must be provided to the Minister upon request.</p> <p>Material described in 8a) above must be provided to the Minister within twenty-four (24) months of commencement of the action.</p>	Compliant	<p>A Pollution Prevention and Contamination Management Plan (PPCMP) addressing the requirements of this condition was included in the EMP submitted to DoEE on 7 October 2016.</p> <p>Established protocols are in place to address specific requirements for items a) and d) to prevent pollution, and monitor and manage existing minor contamination previously identified at CUTA (refer to Chapter 6). Defence conducted primary and detailed site investigations in accordance with Chapter 6 of the PPCMP in 2019.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
9.	<p>Within six (6) months of <i>commencement</i> of the action, the approval holder must provide evidence to <i>the Department</i> that the following organisations have been consulted in relation to transport management, and that any concerns raised have been addressed, through <i>the CEA environmental management framework</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Aviation Safety Authority, in relation to airspace management; • South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure; • Port Augusta City Council, in relation to local road traffic; • Whyalla City Council, in relation to local road traffic; and • Royal Flying Doctor Service, in relation to their operational needs. <p>Note: <i>The Department</i> acknowledges that in some cases consultation may already have occurred.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Public Environment Report (PER) provided information about the consultation with relevant organisations. Liaison with the organisations now occurs as and when necessary, noting that representatives of Port Augusta and Whyalla City Councils participate in the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which is required to meet at least once per year.</p> <p>The annual Environmental Advisory Committee met virtually on 29 November 2022. Representatives from the Whyalla Council, SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and a Barngarla Elder attended the meeting.</p>
10.	<p>Environmental planning framework</p> <p>Construction and training activities may only be undertaken in accordance with the Defence environmental assessment process as described in <i>the PER</i> and with reference to <i>the CEA environmental management framework</i>. If an environmental assessment identifies any residual impacts on matters protected under <i>the EPBC Act</i>, the approval holder must provide to <i>the Minister</i> for approval:</p>	Compliant	<p>Defence applied the environmental assessment processes described in the PER to all construction and training activities at the CEA. Examples of activities undertaken in 2022 include: the remediation of former pastoral waste dumps; remediation of an exposed mine shaft; and military training activities. In each case, no residual impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act were identified.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a report of the environmental assessment in question including a copy of Defence's environmental assessment; the corresponding construction environmental management plan (CEMP) if one has been prepared; and an evaluation, with reference to <i>the EPBC Act offset policy</i>, of whether any offset (compensation) is required. <p>Where an offset is required, the approval holder must prepare an environmental offset strategy (EOS) in accordance with <i>the EPBC Act offsets policy</i> and in consultation with the relevant agencies within the South Australian Government.</p> <p>The construction or training activity must not commence until <i>the Minister</i> has approved it on the basis of any environmental assessment, CEMP or EOS provided, and imposed any additional environmental protection measures that are deemed necessary. Such plans and measures must be implemented as approved.</p>		
11.	<p>Monitoring and reporting</p> <p>The approval holder must engage <i>a suitably qualified expert</i> to prepare an environmental baseline condition report (EBCR). The EBCR must describe the condition of the environment at <i>the CEA</i> at the <i>commencement</i> of the action at least in the following terms:</p> <p>a) comprehensive ground-truthed mapping of vegetation communities, using a relevant regional or statewide vegetation classification system;</p>	Compliant	<p>An Environmental Baseline Condition Report (EBCR) addressing the requirements of this condition was submitted to Environment Department in October 2016 and is available on the Defence Environmental Compliance Reporting website: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp.</p> <p>Surveying was undertaken in 2019 to assess land degradation (bare earth). A combination of ground truthing and remote sensing was used to identify any areas within the CEA requiring rehabilitation or restoration.</p>

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	<p>b) descriptions of all vegetation communities occurring within the CEA, including information on key species, conservation status, soil, geographic and climatic preferences, relevant threats and general condition;</p> <p>c) comprehensive ground-truthed mapping of environmentally sensitive features including claypans, contaminated sites and highly erodible or saline soils;</p> <p>d) comprehensive ground-truthed mapping of waterbodies and watercourses (including floodplains) within the CEA;</p> <p>e) comprehensive mapping (unless culturally inappropriate) of culturally significant sites and areas, based on local, state and Commonwealth heritage databases as well as consultation with relevant traditional owners;</p> <p>f) identification of all weeds and pests identified on the site, and mapping of the distribution of prescribed / listed and major pest and weed populations;</p> <p>g) an inventory of all species known to occur within the CEA; and</p> <p>h) descriptions, justifications and limitations (eg. due to climatic conditions) of survey methodology employed.</p> <p>The EBCR must be provided to the Minister within twenty-four (24) months of the complete acquisition of the CEA. No native vegetation may be cleared without having been surveyed.</p>		<p>The report was finalised and signed in 2020. Only minimal impact from training activities, which were some new vehicle tracks were detected. No new surveys were undertaken in 2021.</p> <p>In January 2022, Cultana experienced a large rainfall event which resulted in flooding. A satellite imagery assessment of pre- and post-flooding event was undertaken to understand any erosion impacts. The outcome of the study was that a number of medium erosion likelihood areas were found, associated with areas of bare earth.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
12.	<p>The approval holder must, within twelve (12) months of the commencement of the action, provide the Minister with a sustainability monitoring and reporting plan (SMRP) for the CEA. The SMRP must be prepared with reference to the EBCR (see Condition 11) and must include:</p> <p>a) clearly defined thresholds and indicators including occurrence, extent, abundance and condition for the following parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) soil; ii) water; iii) air; iv) noise; v) threatened species vi) animal pests, weeds and pathogens; and vii) indigenous and non-indigenous heritage; <p>b) establishment of a representative network of longitudinal reference sites;</p> <p>c) establishment of a periodic vegetation remapping regime (at least every ten (10) years);</p> <p>d) a clearly articulated 'rest and rotation' policy for the protection of areas potentially damaged by overuse;</p> <p>e) descriptions and justifications of survey methodology to be employed;</p> <p>f) a recovery planning process linked to the thresholds and indicators defined in 12 a) above; and</p> <p>g) a requirement for the preparation of annual sustainability monitoring reports on implementation of</p>	Compliant	<p>A Sustainability Monitoring and Reporting Plan (SMRP) addressing the requirements of this condition was included in the EMP submitted to DoEE on 7 October 2016.</p> <p>Specifically, Chapter 10 of the EMP outlines the SMRP and combines monitoring and reporting of all key sustainability measures into a snapshot of performance against standards and thresholds established in the EMP.</p> <p>Monitoring activities are identified in the SMRP at Chapter 10 of the EMP, including Jessup transects which were undertaken in 2021. These transects measure vegetation density, cover and condition. Increases in density thresholds were observed for Bluebush, Saltbush and Perennial shrubs on the site. The density of vegetation on the site is now greater than noted in the EMP. No Jessup transect monitoring occurred in 2022.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
	<p>the SMRP (including any management responses undertaken or intended).</p> <p>Once approved by <i>the Minister</i>, the SMRP must be implemented. Any work undertaken prior to <i>the Minister's</i> approval of the SMRP must have clear and effective protocols in place to monitor the parameters in 12a) above and this information must be included in any reporting on the SMRP.</p>		
13.	<p>Sustainability monitoring reports must be provided to <i>the Minister</i> annually within ten (10) business days of their finalisation, and must be permanently published at a suitable location on the internet within one (1) month of their finalisation.</p>	Compliant	<p>The SMRP for the CEA was provided to the Environment Department on 7 October 2016, as part of the EMP (Chapter 10). The Cultana EMP will be revised as necessary following the independent 5-yearly performance review that is currently ongoing, regarding the implementation of the EMP by Defence and the South Australian Government.</p> <p>The detailed results of that monitoring will allow critical assessment of the effectiveness or need for improvement of the risk management strategies in the various elements of the EMP, including the SMRP (Chapter 10).</p>
14.	<p>Miscellaneous environmental management</p> <p>Prior to any <i>commencement</i> of the action, the approval holder must provide <i>the Department</i> with a copy of <i>the CEA lease agreement</i></p> <p>Note: The conditions of approval have been prepared in consideration of a draft of the agreement described above.</p> <p>Substantial deviations from this draft may result in variations to the conditions of approval under Section 143 of <i>the EPBC Act</i>.</p>	Compliant	<p>A copy of the signed Miscellaneous Lease for Defence Purposes (MLDP) was provided to the Environment Department on 30 July 2014 prior to commencement of the action on 9 October 2015.</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
15.	<p>The following environmental themes must be managed in accordance with <i>the CEA lease Agreement</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flora and fauna (except for <i>threatened species</i> as defined for the purposes of these conditions); • bushfire; • water conservation; • noise and vibration; • air and water pollution; and • decommissioning and closure. <p>Any documents required in accordance with <i>the CEA lease agreement</i> must be provided to the Department upon request.</p>	Compliant	<p>The site is being managed in accordance with the Miscellaneous Lease for Defence Purposes (MLDP) issued by the South Australian Government.</p> <p>Defence submitted environmental management documentation for the CEA to the South Australian Government which was endorsed in March 2016.</p> <p>All CEA environmental management activities are required to comply with the requirements of the CEA MLDP.</p> <p>Defence completed the required Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) update in accordance with the EMP. Chapter 5, 'Cultana Training Area (CUTA) BMP 2016-2018' was updated and replaced by the BMP (2019).</p> <p>All CEA Bushfire Management Plan requirements were completed prior to 1 November 2020. Fire breaks comply with the requirements of the CEA MLDP.</p>
16.	<p>Administrative conditions</p> <p>Within fourteen (14) days after the <i>commencement</i> of the action, the approval holder must advise <i>the Department</i> in writing of the actual date of <i>commencement</i>'.</p>	Compliant	<p>Actions involving the demolition of redundant structures commenced on 9 October 2015. The Environment Department was notified on 3 November 2015.</p>
17.	<p>The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement all <i>management documents</i> required by this approval, and make them available upon request to <i>the Department</i>. Such records may be subject to audit by <i>the Department</i> or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of <i>the EPBC Act</i>, or used to verify compliance with the conditions</p>	Compliant	<p>Relevant records are stored on Defence's electronic record management system known as 'Objective'.</p> <p>The Defence Garrison Estate Management System (GEMS) is used as a centralised set of protocols and processes to record, process and investigate complaints (refer to condition 3).</p> <p>All Defence reports and management documents relevant to the implementation of conditional approvals that are required to be made available for public access are published on the Defence</p>

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
	of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on <i>the Department's</i> website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.		environmental compliance website at: (https://defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp)
18.	<p>Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the <i>commencement</i> of the action, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of approval, including implementation of any <i>management documents</i> as specified in the conditions of approval.</p> <p>Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of approval must be provided to <i>the Department</i> at the same time as the compliance report is published.</p> <p>Note: To facilitate administration, this requirement may be addressed concurrently with the annual sustainability monitoring reporting process described in Conditions 12 and 13.</p>	Compliant	<p>Department of Defence submitted the first Annual Environmental Compliance Report for the Cultana Expansion Area to Environment Department in January 2017 (which reported on activities undertaken 2016).</p> <p>This Annual Compliance Report is the seventh report, submitted by the due date of 9 January 2023. Annual Compliance Reports are published on Defence's Environmental Compliance Reporting website at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp</p>
19.	Upon the direction of <i>the Minister</i> , the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to <i>the Minister</i> . The independent auditor must be approved by <i>the Minister</i> prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by <i>the Minister</i> and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of <i>the Minister</i> .	Not Applicable	Not triggered.
20.	If the approval holder wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with a <i>management document</i> specified in the conditions of approval, the approval holder must submit to <i>the Department</i> for	Not Applicable	Not required.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
	<i>the Minister's</i> written approval a revised version of that management document . The varied activity shall not commence until <i>the Minister</i> has approved the varied management document in writing. <i>The Minister</i> will not approve a varied management document unless the revised management document would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If <i>the Minister</i> approves the revised management document , that management document must be implemented in place of the management document originally approved.		
21.	If <i>the Minister</i> believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of the environment to do so, <i>the Minister</i> may request that the approval holder make specified revisions to management documents specified in the conditions of approval and submit the revised management documents for <i>the Minister's</i> written approval. The approval holder must comply with any such request. The revised approved management documents must be implemented. Unless <i>the Minister</i> has approved the revised management document , then the approval holder must continue to implement the management document originally approved, as specified in the conditions of approval.	Not Applicable	Not required
22.	If, at any time after five (5) years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not substantially commenced the action, then the approval holder must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of <i>the Minister</i> .	Not Applicable	The action commenced on 9 October 2015.
23.	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by <i>the Minister</i> , the approval holder must publish all management documents referred to in the conditions of approval on their website. Each management document must be	Compliant	Management Plans and other documents are made publicly available on Defence's Environmental Compliance Reporting website at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant Non-compliant	Evidence Comment
	published on the website within one (1) month of being approved.		

3. Correcting Non-Compliances

No non-compliances were identified for the Cultana Expansion Area project.

4. New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks have been identified for the Cultana Expansion Area project.