

Department of Defence Annual Environmental Compliance Report 2024

EPBC Act Approval 2011/5896
Defence Training Facilities, Greenbank Training Area, QLD

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	Berlinda Bowler
Position	Director, Environmental Planning, Protection and Assessment
Organisation	Department of Defence ABN: 68706814312
Date	15 July 2024

Description of Activities

The approved action involved the construction of additional Defence training facilities at Defence's Greenbank Training Area (GBTA) located at Greenbank, approximately 20 km south southwest of Brisbane and 17 km east of Ipswich in Queensland. GBTA has an area of approximately 4,665 ha. The total footprint for the new Defence training facilities was approximately 69 ha, spread across areas of cleared, regrowth and remnant vegetation on the property.

Under the Enhanced Land Force project, Defence proposed to increase the capacity for training at GBTA through the introduction of new training and camp facilities. The facilities at GBTA comprised:

- An upgrade to, and extension of, an existing Battle Shooting Range (BSR) to a Marksmanship Training Range-Type B (MTR-B)
- New Safe Driver Training Area (SDTA) in a previously cleared area
- New access point from Goodna Road on the southern side of GBTA
- New Range Control compound near the new entry
- New 250 Person Camp at Accommodation Area L
- New 25/49 RQR working accommodation near the new Range Control, and
- New Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to treat wastewater from the Camp, 25/49 RQR, and Range Control and the existing Accommodation Block H.

The action was approved under the EPBC Act, subject to conditions, on 17 January 2012.

On 10 December 2018, the Environment delegate approved an extension of the period of effect for EPBC approval 2011/5896 to 1 June 2029. The extension accommodated the Greenbank Training Area Environment Offset Strategy delivery period and reporting requirements under the approval.

Condition 3 of the approval requires the submission of an Annual Environmental Offset Strategy Performance Report (as required in condition 2). The most recent annual Performance Report was submitted on 15 July 2024.

Condition 9 of the approval requires publication of an annual compliance report by 15 July of each year. This Annual Report will be published on the Defence Environmental Compliance website: [Environmental compliance reports | About | Defence](#).

Conditions of approval

Refer to **Table 1** for status of compliance.

Correcting Non-Compliances

No non-compliances.

New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks.

Table 1. Status of compliance.

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
1	To protect habitat for listed threatened species, the person taking the action must not clear more than 69 hectares of vegetation on the site.	Compliant	Less than 69 ha of vegetation was cleared for the project.
2	The person taking the action must prepare and submit for approval an Environment Offset Strategy to the Minister. The Environment Offset Strategy must be submitted and approved by the Minister within 6 months of the date of this approval. The Environment Offset Strategy must provide for: the enhancement and protection of native vegetation; the riparian zone of water courses; and habitat for threatened species within the Greenbank Training Area. The Environment Offset Strategy must include the following: a. A commitment to rehabilitate and protect no less than 350 ha of remnant vegetation or regrowth within the Greenbank Training Area. The area identified can comprise either one single, or a number of individual areas, provided those areas are greater than 50 ha in size. Information on the offset areas to be rehabilitated and protected must include (but not be limited to) the following: i. The location and boundaries of the area(s) through maps and textual descriptions as well as an accompanying shapefile(s); ii. A description of the regional ecosystem classification contained within the area(s) identified for remediation and protection. Information must also include records of high conservation value fauna and fauna species known from/likely to utilise these areas; iii. Detailed measures for controlling and managing invasive weeds in those areas identified for protection; Information on how the remediation and protection of the area(s) will improve habitat connectivity for threatened species with the Greenbank/Karawatha Wildlife Corridor; and v. Key performance indicators and indicative timeframes for undertaking the rehabilitation and protection. The key performance indicators must be sufficient to confirm whether any remediation actions have resulted in a net environmental gain to the environmental values of the	Compliant	The Defence Training Facilities, Greenbank Training Area, Environmental Offset Strategy was submitted to Environment Department on 31 October 2018 and approved by the delegate on 10 December 2018. The delegate approved an extension of the period of effect of the approval period (from 17 January 2010) to 1 June 2029. The extension accommodates the life of the offset delivery period and reporting requirements under the approval. The offset strategy is being implemented over a 10-year period from January 2019 to December 2028. The monitoring program as specified by condition 2(b) was hampered significantly by COVID-19, and repeated flooding incidents have limited site access. An internal audit into implementation up until year 4, was required as part of the Offset Strategy. The audit identified a number of issues with timings of delivery and internal management of the offset delivery, which have largely been addressed. The offsets strategy is aiming to have improvement works completed by the fifth year of the 10-year period. The Offset Strategy is available on the Defence Environmental Compliance Reporting webpage: Construction of Defence training facilities About Defence.

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
	Greenbank Training area. b. Details of ongoing vertebrate surveys at Greenbank Training Area (excluding the range impact area). The monitoring must be of a design that will detect any great changes to the numbers of threatened species within the Greenbank Training Area; c. Details of and a commitment to undertake landscape planting within the facilities. Plantings used must be naturally occurring within the Greenbank Training Area; d. Details of and a commitment to undertake the decommissioning, remediation and revegetation within the footprint of the existing sewage treatment plant; e. A commitment to undertake remediation actions that will halt soil erosion and increase bank stability from selected areas within Greenbank Training Area currently affected by soil erosion; and f. A description of how the environmental management systems of the Department of Defence will provide for the permanent protection of areas described in 2(a) from inappropriate activities or actions that are not consistent with the maintenance of the conservation values of the Greenbank Training Area. The Environment Offset Strategy must clearly state the legal person or persons responsible for implementation. If the Minister approves the Environment Offset Strategy then the approved Environment Offset Strategy must be implemented. <i>Note: It is not the intention that all training activities are excluded from the 350 ha area which is required to be protected under this condition. Activities that allow vegetation condition and habitat for the Spot-tailed Quoll and Koala to be maintained or enhanced will still be permissible</i>		
3	The person taking the action must prepare an annual Environment Performance Report and submit this to the department for approval within three (3) months of each anniversary of the date of commencement of construction. The Environment Performance Report must include detailed	Compliant	Environmental Performance Reporting against the Greenbank Training Area Environmental Offset Strategy (Condition 2) was required to commence 15 months after the date of approval of the strategy

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
	information on the following: - Provide a progress report on all activities and results from all works required in condition 2. The results must be sufficient to demonstrate progress with achieving any key performance indicators and timeframes identified in the Environment Offset Strategy; - Provide the results of ongoing monitoring by providing the records of individual animals and an annual population estimate of Spot- tailed Quolls and Koalas within the Greenbank Training Area; and - Provide the results of monitoring as required in condition 2(b). The results of the monitoring must include a comparison of inter-annual variation and document any significant changes to the numbers of the Spot-tailed Quolls and Koalas within the Greenbank Training Area. The Environmental Performance Report must be published, maintained and be made publicly available on the person taking the action's websites for the life of the action. The first Environment Performance Report must be submitted to the department 15 months from the date of approval of the Environmental Offset Strategy, with each subsequent report submitted 12 months from the date of the previous Environmental Performance Report.		(approved 10 December 2018). The first performance report - <i>Environmental Offset Strategy Performance Report May 2020, Greenbank Training Area EPBC 2011/5896 (the performance report)</i> was submitted to the Environment Department on 10 May 2020. The second performance report was submitted to the Environment Department on 10 May 2021. The third performance report was submitted to the Environment Department on 10 May 2022. The fourth performance report was submitted to the Environment Department on 10 May 2023. The fifth performance report was submitted to the Environment Department on 15 July 2024. Copies of all the performance reports are published on the Defence Environmental compliance Reporting webpage at: Construction of Defence training facilities About Defence. The next performance report is due 15 July 2025.
4	To reduce the likely impacts of the construction activities on the environment, the person taking the action must prepare a Construction Environment Management Plan for the Minister's approval. The Construction Environment Management Plan must include the following measures: - Measures to reduce the environmental damage from the movement of construction vehicles within and outside the Greenbank Training Area; - Detailed hygiene protocols suitable for controlling the introduction and spread of invasive weeds due to construction	Compliant	Construction was completed in early 2014. A Draft Construction Environment Management Plan was prepared and submitted to Environment Department October 2011 for approval. A revised draft plan was implemented by the project.

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
	activities; c. Sediment and erosion control measures to manage the movement of sediment on site; and d. Clearly state the legal person or persons responsible for implementing the Construction Environment Management Plan. The approved Construction Environment Management Plan must be implemented until all stages of construction have been completed.		
5	To mitigate potential impacts associated with ongoing operation activities within Greenbank Training Area, the person taking the action must manage the environmental impact of its activities within the Greenbank Training Area consistent with the Environmental Management System certified under ISO 14000:2004.	Compliant	Ongoing
6	Prior to the removal of any buildings identified as having heritage value in the preliminary documentation, the person taking the action must undertake a full archival photographic record of any heritage fabric identified as having heritage significance in section 2.33 of the preliminary documentation. The full archival photographic record must be consistent with the Queensland Government's 'Guideline: Archival Recording of Heritage Places'. The full archival photographic record must be submitted to the Department within three months of the commencement of construction.	Compliant	Correspondence to Environment Department dated 2 May 2012.
7	Within 30 days of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Compliant	Defence advised the Environment Department in writing on 22 February 2011.
8	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the Environment Offset Strategy required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the department. Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Defence's electronic filing system known as 'Objective' maintains all official records.

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
9	By 15 July of each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their websites addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	Compliant	This report will be made available on the Defence Environmental Compliance Reporting webpage: Construction of Defence training facilities About Defence .
10	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and noncompliance with any of the conditions in this approval must be provided to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	Compliant	No non-compliances were reported. Publication of all relevant reports relating to this approval are found on Defence's Environmental Compliance Reporting website: Construction of Defence training facilities About Defence , and documented in the electronic filing system known as 'Objective'.
11	Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report is submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	Not triggered	
12	If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan, in writing. The Minister will not approve the varied Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan unless the revised Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan, that Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan must be implemented in place of the Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan originally	Not triggered	

	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comment
	approved.		
13	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities and the environment from impacts by a Commonwealth agency to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action to make specified revisions to the Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan specified in the conditions of approval and submit the revised Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	Not triggered	
14	If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not triggered	
15	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish the Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. The Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan must be published on the website within one month of being approved and must remain published until all actions in the strategy are completed to the satisfaction of the Minister.	Compliant	The Greenbank Environment Offset Strategy (November 2018) and the Environmental Management Plan are published on the Defence Environmental Compliance Reporting webpage: Construction of Defence training facilities About Defence .
16	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must provide a copy of the approved Environment Offset Strategy or Construction Environment Management Plan referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request. Copies must be provided within a reasonable time of the request.	Not triggered	