

EPBC Act referral



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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Title of proposal	2021/9045 - Byford Whitby Quarry, portion of Mining Lease M701240
Section 1	
Summary of your proposed action	
1.1 Project industry type	Mining
1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities	
<p>Ransberg Pty Ltd (WA Bluemetal) are proposing to undertake clearing associated with the Byford (Whitby) Quarry operations. The proposed works will necessitate the clearing of 13.2 ha of vegetation within a boundary of the same size. The clearing will take place within Mining Tenement M70/1240 Karrakup (the site) for storage purposes (Figure 1). The site is located within the Serpentine-Jarrahdale approximately 40 km southeast of Perth.</p> <p>The proposed clearing will facilitate construction of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storage and laydown areas;• Access tracks/roads; and• Associated quarry infrastructure. <p>A Clearing Permit (purpose permit) has been granted over the entirety of the proposal area (8038/1) which is valid from 5th December 2020 to 4th December 2025.</p> <p>Impacts are considered to be associated with the clearing of 13.2 ha of vegetation across Mining Tenement 70/1240 including habitat for Black Cockatoo species (Figure 2) and Chuditch, which are Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>The site is predominantly dominated by Jarrah-Marri forest with an area of Marri-Wandoo woodlands on clayey soils in the east. The vegetation ranges in condition from 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' (Mattiske 2005; 2017). Regional context for black cockatoo habitat is provided in Figure 3.</p>	
1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action?	
See Appendix B	
1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland)	
<p>The proposed action will be undertaken within Mining Lease 70/1240 Karrakup (the site), formerly part of State Forest No. 22, within the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The site is approximately 40 km southeast of Perth and the proposed action covers a total area of 13.2 ha.</p>	
1.6 What is the size of the proposed action area development footprint (or work area) including disturbance footprint and avoidance footprint (if relevant)?	
<p>The proposed action area covers a total area of 13.2 ha, of which the entirety is considered the disturbance footprint (Figure 1).</p>	
1.7 Proposed action location	
Address - South Western Highway, Whitby, WA, 6123, Australia	
1.8 Primary jurisdiction	Western Australia
1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	



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1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action	Start Date	03/01/2022
	End Date	04/12/2025
1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and state and/or local Government requirements		
<p>The Whitby Quarry is located on Lot 901 South Western Highway, Whitby. The proposed quarry was formally assessed by the EPA and approval was granted on the 5 August 1993 subject to the conditions of Ministerial Statement 318. Approval for the quarry covered activities on both Lot 901 and Lot 902. Following environmental concerns raised by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, and economic reasons regarding potential quarrying activities south of Manjedal Brook on Lot 902, a land swap was initiated for an area of State Forest northeast of Lot 901. This area of land was excised from State Forest in 2016 and Mining Lease M70/1240 was granted on the 1 November 2017.</p> <p>Clearing of vegetation has been assessed by relevant state government agencies through a native vegetation clearing permit (purpose permit for mineral production) which has been granted over the site. The clearing permit is valid for a period of five years from 5 December 2020 to 4 December 2025. The clearing permit covers a total area of 17.36 ha within a boundary of the site.</p> <p>The proponent originally applied to clear 25.87 ha within a permit boundary of approximately 83.86 ha equivalent to the tenement boundaries of Mining Lease 70/1240. The application area was reduced to 17.362 ha to avoid all trees with suitable Black Cockatoo breeding hollows. The revised clearing boundary also reduced the impact on the known population of Priority 2 flora species <i>Millotia tenuifolia</i> var. <i>laevis</i> by 54%.</p>		
1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders		
<p>Engagement with regulators, indigenous stakeholders and other interested parties has been ongoing since 1992, when the existing quarry was referred to the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority. The clearing permit granted in November 2020 (with commencement date of 5 December 2020) was subject to a period of public appeal. No appeals were received. Table 5 of the Revised Mine Closure Plan (Ransberg Pty Ltd, 2020) summarises all engagement undertaken from 1992-2019 (Attachment 1).</p>		
1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project		
<p>Environmental impact assessments completed to date for the site include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA assessment and Ministerial Approval on 5th August 1993 subject to the conditions of Ministerial Statement 318. - Assessment and grant of native vegetation clearing permit (purpose permit) by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) in November 2020 (CPS8038/1), valid from the 5 December 2020 to 4 December 2025. (Attachment 2). Ransberg Pty Ltd originally applied to clear 25.87 ha over Mining Lease 70/1240 which was subsequently reduced to 17.36 ha to reduce the impact on threatened black cockatoo species and Priority 2 flora species <i>Millotia tenuifolia</i> var. <i>laevis</i>. 		
1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		



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Section 2

Matters of national environmental significance

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

Yes No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

Yes No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

Yes No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

Yes No

Species or threatened ecological community

Calyptorhynchus banksii naso (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo; FRTBC)

Impact

The DE is located within the known distribution of this species, as per DEE (2017).

The following fauna and/or black cockatoo assessments have been undertaken within the site:

- Western Wildlife (2006) Level 1 fauna survey
- Kirkby (2017) Black Cockatoo habitat assessment
- Harewood (2017) summary of potential conservation significant fauna that may occupy the site
- Mattiske (2017) flora and vegetation survey review.

The proposed action will necessitate the clearing of up 13.2 ha of habitat for the species, representing 0.2% of habitat available within 6km of the DE. The proposed action may impact the species directly through the removal of suitable habitat and indirectly through impacts from noise, dust and vibration. No suitable breeding trees have been identified within the proposed action area.

An assessment of the impacts to Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo against the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DSEWPC, 2013) has been undertaken (Attachment 3). The outcome of the assessment is that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Species or threatened ecological community

Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's Black Cockatoo; BBC)

Impact

The site is located within the known distribution of this species, as per DEE (2017).

The following fauna and/or black cockatoo assessments have been undertaken within the site:

- Western Wildlife (2006) Level 1 fauna survey
- Kirkby (2017) Black Cockatoo habitat assessment
- Harewood (2017) summary of potential conservation significant fauna that may occupy the site
- Mattiske (2017) flora and vegetation survey review.

The proposed action will necessitate the clearing of up 13.2 ha of habitat for the species, representing 0.3% of habitat



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available within 6km of the DE. The proposed action may impact the species directly through the removal of suitable habitat and indirectly through impacts from noise, dust and vibration. No suitable breeding trees have been identified within the proposed action area.

An assessment of the impacts to Baudin's Cockatoo against the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DSEWPC, 2013) has been undertaken (Attachment 3). The outcome of the assessment is that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Species or threatened ecological community

Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo; CBC)

Impact

The site is located within the known distribution of this species, as per DEE (2017).

The following fauna and/or black cockatoo assessments have been undertaken within the site:

- Western Wildlife (2006) Level 1 fauna survey
- Kirkby (2017) Black Cockatoo habitat assessment
- Harewood (2017) summary of potential conservation significant fauna that may occupy the site
- Mattiske (2017) flora and vegetation survey review.

The proposed action will necessitate the clearing of up 13.2 ha of habitat for the species, representing 0.3% of habitat available within 6km of the DE. The proposed action may impact the species directly through the removal of suitable habitat and indirectly through impacts from noise, dust and vibration. No suitable breeding trees have been identified within the proposed action area.

An assessment of the impacts to Carnaby Cockatoo against the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DotE, 2013) has been undertaken (Attachment 3). The outcome of the assessment is that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Species or threatened ecological community

Dasyurus geoffroii (Chuditch)

Impact

The Chuditch has undergone a dramatic decline since European settlement (its former distribution was about 70% of the continent) and is now restricted to Western Australia. They are predominantly found within the south west of Western Australia, however there are occasional records from drier woodland and mallee shrubland in the Wheatbelt and Goldfield Regions (DEC 2012). The Chuditch disappeared from the Swan Coastal Plain in the 1930s, however, there have been records in the outer metropolitan areas such as Gooseberry Hill, East Martin and on the Swan Coastal Plain, Upper Swan Valley, High Wycombe, Wandi, Yalgorup National Park and Leschenault Conservation Park (DEC 2012). In much of its current range the Chuditch now occurs in the Jarrah forests and woodlands where it primarily requires hollow logs, earth burrows or rock crevices to den (DEC 2012).

Mattiske (2017) and Harewood (2017) suggest that the Chuditch is likely to occur within the site given the vegetation present is dominated by Jarrah-Marri Forest. Advice from DBCA (2018) suggests that unless there is a den site present within the site, or that the site is part of the core range of an individual, the proposed action is unlikely to impact the species. Given the assessment for the species was desktop, it is not currently known whether the site forms core habitat for the Chuditch.

If present within the Proposed Action Area, the Chuditch is considered that likely to be transient as it forages and moves through the area.

The proposed action will necessitate the clearing of up to 13.2 ha of habitat suitable for the species. The removal of this vegetation represents <1% of habitat suitable for the species within 12 km of the proposed action area. The presence of the Jarrahdale State Forest, bordering the proposed action area to the east, provides a large area of suitable habitat. An assessment of the impacts to the Chuditch against the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (DotE, 2013) has been undertaken. The outcome of the assessment is that the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species. This is described in Attachment 3

2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

Yes No



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2.5 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed migratory species or their habitat? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.7 Is the proposed action likely to be taken on or near Commonwealth land? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.9 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on a water resource from coal seam gas or large coal mining development? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by a Commonwealth agency? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage place overseas? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
2.13 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Section 3

Description of the project area

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area

To date, the following environmental surveys have been undertaken of the site and surrounding area:

- Matiske. (2005). Flora and Vegetation on the WA Bluemetal Quarry Survey Area at Serpentine. Report prepared for WA Bluemetal Quarry.
- Western Wildlife. (2006). Proposed land-swap. WA Bluemetal Mundijong Quarry: A fauna assessment. Prepared for WA Bluemetal.
- Matiske. (2017). Assessment of Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Values on the WA Bluemetal Quarry Survey Area at Serpentine. Report prepared for WA Bluemetal Quarry (Attachment 4)
- Kirkby. (2017). Black Cockatoo Habitat Survey, Proposed Byford Quarry Extension M70/1240. Report prepared for BlueMetal Quarry by Tony Kirkby (Attachment 5).

The above surveys covered a survey area substantially broader than the site of the proposed action. Sections 3.1 to 3.1.1 provide a summary of the results limited to the site.

Flora

Dominant species within the site include:

- Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*)
- Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*)
- Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*)
- Sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*)
- Bull Banksia (*Banksia grandis*).

None of the species recorded within the site, or the broader survey area, are listed as Threatened under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) or Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) or as a Priority species by the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Fauna

Based on a desktop assessment utilising the DAWE's Protected Matters Search Tool (See Section 2.4) 11 Threatened fauna species were considered to potentially occur within the vicinity of the site. Of these conservation significant species, those considered likely to utilise the site are Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (CBC; *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's Black Cockatoo (BBC; *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (FRTBC; *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*) and Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*).

The Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) is considered the most likely migratory species to utilise the area. As the proposed action is terrestrial based and absent habitat suitable to support this migratory species, specifically wetland habitat, it is considered likely that any occurrences of these species would opportunistic and temporary in nature.

Matiske (2005; 2017) identified vegetation suitable for foraging by all three Threatened species of black cockatoo across the site, totalling 13.2 ha.

The black cockatoo habitat assessment which was conducted by Tony Kirkby between 29th August and 4th September 2017 identified the following black cockatoo values within the site:

- Roosting habitat throughout the site due to the presence of mature Jarrah and Marri trees,
- Evidence of foraging by FRTBC and BBC with cockatoos present during the surveys,
- Immediately adjacent to breeding habitat with 14 trees with suitable hollows for black cockatoo use (13 Marri and one Jarrah), including ten with signs of old or recent use including seven with heavy chewing at the entrance.

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows)

The site is located within the Serpentine River catchment area. No surface water expressions are present within the site, with the nearest being Manjedal Brook with traverses M70/1240 500 m south of the site.

Regional geomorphic wetland mapping indicates that a Resource Enhancement wetland (dampland basin; UFI 12386) intersects the site. The nearest wetland areas are Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes (14.5 km north west of the site) and the Peel-Yalgorup System (33 km south of the site).

A deep groundwater table is contained within the granitic basement mostly located within fractures in the rock. The water table is at depth, near or below the elevation of the local creeks with some perched and isolated water occurring fractures within the granite at a higher elevation. The granite is tight and forms an aquiclude or aquitard. The proposed action requires shallow surface excavation only that will not intercept groundwater and therefore groundwater resources will not be impacted by the proposed action.

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area

Soil

The site is located within the Darling Plateau System with soils characterised by duplex sandy gravels, loamy gravels, shallow and deep gravels, deep sands, and wet and semi-wet soils. Soil-landscape units that comprise the site are predominantly the Dwellingup 2 Phase (dominant) and Yarragil 1 Phase to a lesser extent in the southeast (DPIRD 2018). These are described as:



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- Dwellingup 2 Phase: very gently to gently undulating terrain (<10%) with well drained, shallow to moderately deep gravelly brownish sands, pale brown sands and earthy sands overlying lateritic duricrust, and
- Yarragil 1 Phase: very gently to moderately inclined concave sideslopes. Moderately well drained yellow duplex soil and yellow and brown massive earths and gravels.

Vegetation

The site contains a total of 13.2 ha of remnant vegetation, the entirety of which is considered to be in 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' condition (Mattiske 2005; 2017). Five vegetation types were identified across the site, described as:

- CW: Woodland to Open Forest of *Eucalyptus rudis* and *Corymbia calophylla* over dense *Taxandria linearifolia* and *Astartea scoparia* on creek and water
 - PS: Open Forest of *Allocasuarina fraseriana*, *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* and *Corymbia calophylla* over *Grevillea wilsonii*, *Adenanthos barbiger*, *Baeckea camphorosmae* and *Hypocalymma angustifolium* on mid and upper slopes
 - PW: Open Forest of *Allocasuarina fraseriana*, *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* and *Corymbia calophylla* over *Grevillea wilsonii*, *Adenanthos barbiger*, *Baeckea camphorosmae* and *Hypocalymma angustifolium* on mid and upper slopes
 - S: Open Forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*, *Banksia grandis* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana* over *Adenanthos barbiger*, *Leucopogon capitellatus* and *Styphelia tenuiflora* on upper slopes and ridges
 - SW: Open Forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Banksia grandis* over *Adenanthos barbiger*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium* and *Styphelia tenuiflora* on upper gullies and lower slopes
- None of the vegetation types were determined to be ecological communities of conservation significance.

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area

The nearest natural features of important value is Manjedal Brook, approximately 300 m south of M70/1240, and will not be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed action.

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area

The site is located within the Jarrah Forest IBRA region and Northern Jarrah Forest subregion. This area is characterised by vegetation comprising Jarrah and Marri on laterite gravels and, in the eastern part, by woodlands of Wandoo and Marri on clayey soils. Eluvial and alluvial deposits support *Agonis* shrublands (Williams & Mitchell 2001).

Regional vegetation mapping undertaken by Beard (1981) indicates that the site lies within vegetation associations 3 and 4, described as:

- Vegetation association 3: Medium forest of Jarrah and Marri, and
- Vegetation association 4: Medium woodland of Marri and Wandoo.

Based on regional vegetation complex mapping undertaken by Heddle et al. (1980) the site lies predominantly within the Dwellingup vegetation complex with a small portion in the southeast within the Yarragil 1 vegetation complex. These are described as:

- Dwellingup D2: Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* – *Corymbia calophylla* on lateritic uplands in subhumid and semiarid zones, and
- Yarragil 1: open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *thalassica* – *Corymbia calophylla* on slopes with mixtures of *Eucalyptus patens* and *Eucalyptus megacarpa* on the valley floors in humid and subhumid zones.

The flora and vegetation assessment undertaken by Mattiske (2005; 2017) determined that all vegetation within the site is in Very Good to Excellent condition. Vegetation is consistently dominated by Jarrah, Marri, Sheoak, and Flooded Gum. None of the vegetation types present were determined to represent an ecological community of conservation significance.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area

Topography across the site is generally undulating, ranging from 310 m AHD to 240 m AHD with steepest elevation towards the south.

3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area

Vegetation within the entirety of the site was classified as in Very Good to Excellent condition according to the scale established by Keighery and recommended by the EPA (EPA 2016).

There were 11 weed species identified within the site (Mattiske 2005) and areas of Dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) present within the Mining Lease 70/1240 (Mattiske 2017). Dieback has the potential to reduce the understorey species in the area which can in turn lead to an increase of weed species.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project

No commonwealth listed heritage places are located within 1 km of the site.

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area

A search of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – Aboriginal Heritage Places mapping tool did not identify any



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registered Aboriginal Heritage Sites, or “other heritage places” within the site. The nearest registered site is located approximately 4 km away and will not be impacted by the proposed action.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area

The tenure of the action area is a Mining Lease (M70/1240) and is held by Ransberg Pty Ltd.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area

The site is currently zoned as “State Forest” under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), however was excised from State Forest No. 22. The proposed storage area will support the quarry operations on Lot 901.



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Section 4

Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action

The proposed area of clearing has been reduced from the broader tenement area to a 13.2 ha portion in order to limit the impact of clearing. The site has been reduced to avoid all suitable black cockatoo breeding hollows such that none will be impacted by the proposed clearing.

A number of measures will be implemented through the application of the mitigation hierarchy to avoid and minimise impacts from the proposed action on MNES. Key measures include:

- Reduction in clearing area to avoid black cockatoo nesting trees,
- Surveying and demarcating clearing areas,
- Application of direction clearing (west to east) to encourage fauna to move into adjacent state forest,
- Dust suppression during clearing activities to minimise dust emissions, as required during windy conditions,
- Application of appropriate hygiene protocols to reduce risk of the introduction or spread of weeds or pathogens.

In addition, revegetation is planned that will provide suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna, including black cockatoo habitat, once operations have ceased. The Revised Mine Closure Plan (Attachment 1) and the revegetation is estimated to provide foraging habitat within eight years after post closure (Lee et al, 2013).

Revegetation following the completion of operations will be designed to focus on the use of locally native species that provide foraging resources for black cockatoos. Specifically, the tree species *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana* will be planted to reinstate the current dominant overstorey and provide future foraging, nesting, and breeding habitat in the long term.

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved

Black Cockatoo habitat

The proposed action will necessitate the clearing of a maximum 13.2 ha of foraging habitat for black cockatoos (CBC, BBC and FTBC) inclusive of a mature overstorey of Jarrah and Marri that present roosting and future breeding habitat for the three species. The site is immediately adjacent to the Jarrahdale State Forest that is considered to contain foraging habitat of an equivalent type and quality to that within the site. Given this, and the absence of current breeding habitat within the site by way of suitable hollows, the proposed clearing is not considered to constitute a significant impact on the conservation status of each species.

A consideration proportion of the vegetation within the area surrounding the site is within land managed by DBCA, with much of the vegetation containing foraging resources for black cockatoo species. Within 6 km of the site, there is an estimated 6,014 ha of foraging habitat suitable for CBC, of which 4911.22 (81.8%) ha is within lands managed by the DBCA. Within 12 km of the site, there is an estimated 23,190 ha of foraging habitat for CBC, of which 18,569.22 ha (80.1%) is within lands managed by the DBCA. The clearing of a maximum 13.2 ha therefore represents 0.2% of foraging habitat available within 6 km of the site and 0.06% of that within 12 km. These figures were derived utilising the Black Cockatoo foraging habitat mapping by DBCA (2018) and clipped to the most recent native vegetation extent available through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD 2020). The following lands managed by DBCA provide large areas of intact native vegetation containing suitable foraging resources. Large habitat nodes within 12 km of the site are provided within the areas listed below:

- Jarrahdale State Forest: 14,497.85 ha of potential habitat (200 m from site)
- Serpentine National Park: 2,707.70 ha of potential habitat (3.8 km from site)
- Cardup Nature Reserve: 71.40 ha of potential habitat (4.7 km from site)
- Gooralong Conservation Park: 62.68 ha of potential habitat (4.2 km from site).

A number of confirmed roosting sites are located within 6 km of the site (three white-tailed black cockatoo roosts, one FRTBC roost and two joint roosts). The proposed action will not directly impact any known roosting sites. In considering potential indirect impacts of clearing, by way of the removal of foraging habitat within the 'critical habitat area' of the roost sites, these impacts are not expected to be significant given the large quantum of intact native vegetation that presents foraging habitat within the surrounding area, as outlined above.

Chuditch habitat

The site is considered likely to contain suitable habitat for Chuditch, however it is unknown whether the site is part of the home range for any individuals. Chuditch are generally solitary species that occupy relatively large home ranges, males over 15km² and females 3-4 km² (DEC, 2012) and the proposed action area represents only a small area (0.13 km²) in comparison. The availability of similar habitat within the adjacent Jarrahdale State Forest associated with the proposed action is not considered likely to impact the conservation status of the species. Current management practices at the site include number of mitigation measures that will further minimize the risk of impact to the species, including directional clearing west to east to allow fauna to escape into adjacent areas of vegetation.



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Section 5

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

5.1 You indicated the below ticked items to be of significant impact and therefore you consider the action to be a controlled action

- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- Wetlands of international importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)
- Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community
- Listed migratory species
- Marine environment outside Commonwealth marine areas
- Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development
- Protection of the environment from nuclear actions
- Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions
- Commonwealth Heritage places overseas
- Commonwealth marine areas

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action

Refer to Attachment 3 for considered assessment of the proposed action against the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1. A summary of the reasons for which the proposed action (proposed clearing of 13.2 ha or Very Good to Excellent condition native vegetation) is not considered likely to have significant to MNES is provided as follows

BLACK COCKATOOS - Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Whilst the vegetation provides suitable foraging habitat for all three species, the proposed action is not expected to:

- lead to a long-term decrease in the size of Black Cockatoo species' populations or significantly reduce the area of occupancy of any these species, as the clearing represents 0.2% of the total available potential foraging habitat within 6km of the proposed action. The proposed action area is surrounded by extensive areas of State Forest to the east, with three nature reserves occurring within 6km west of the proposed action area, all of which contain relatively large areas of remnant vegetation of similar quality foraging habitat.
- interfere with breeding habitat, as no trees with suitable hollows will be cleared to facilitate the Proposed action.
- fragment populations of any of the Black Cockatoo species into two or more populations as a gap of more than 4km between patches of habitat for this species will not be created as a result of the proposed action.
- modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the Black Cockatoo species is likely to decline - whilst the reduction in this relatively small area of foraging habitat may result in a minor localised impact, when considered in context of contiguous habitat available within the surrounding area as well as nearby Conservation estate, it is considered highly unlikely that this will result in the decline of any of the Black Cockatoo species.

CHUDITCH

While no targeted survey has been undertaken for the Chuditch, it is considered likely to occur within the proposed action area based on potential foraging habitat. Dens are located in hollow logs, tree limbs, rocky outcrops and burrows. It is considered that the species would likely be transient within the proposed action area as it forages and moves through the area. However, the proposed action is not considered likely to:

- lead to the long-term decrease in the size of an important population of Chuditch, when considered in the context of the adjacent vegetation, as the removal of this habitat represents <1% of the available habitat within the local area of the proposed action area (12 km) the majority of which is contained within the Jarrahdale State Forest.
- reduce the area of occupancy of an important population as the removal of 13.2 ha represents 0.0009% of the current area of occupancy for the species.
- fragment populations of Chuditch, given the adjacent available habitat within the remaining uncleared vegetation within the site and the adjacent State Forest
- to interfere or disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population or impact the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the Chuditch is likely to decline as the clearing represents <1% of potentially suitable habitat within 12 km of the proposed action area. It is considered unlikely that habitat required for breeding is present within the proposed action area and that habitat within the adjacent Jarrahdale State Forest will contain more suitable habitat to support breeding.

MIGRATORY SPECIES:

As the proposed action is terrestrial based and habitat suitable to support migratory species is absent, specifically wetland habitat, it is considered likely that any occurrences of these species would opportunistic and temporary in nature. As a result, the proposed action is not considered likely to result in a significant impact to listed migratory species.



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 6

Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Explain in further detail

All WA Bluemetal (Ransberg Pty Ltd) sites and projects are certified to ISO 14001.
The WA Bluemetal Whitby Quarry has successfully operated since 1999.
No environmental incidents or substantiated complaints in the past 10 years.
The environmental performance of the quarry was recognised in 2018 by Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia with a "Highly Commended" award for Environmental Innovation.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application

There are no known past or present proceedings under any Australian law for the protection of the environment against either the person proposing to take the action.

6.3 If it is a corporation undertaking the action will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and framework?

Yes No

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

The proponent's environmental policy is provided in Attachment 6 and evidence of their ISO 14001 certification is provide in Attachment 7.

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

Yes No

6.4.1 EPBC Act No and/or Name of Proposal

- 2020/8726 PMR Quarries Pty Ltd/Mining/near Port Hedland/Western Australia/Wilga Quarry Expansion
- 2020/8830 WA Limestone Contracting Pty Ltd/Commercial Development/City of Kwinana, near Perth/Western Australia/Lot 170 Hope Valley Road, Hope Valley
- 2017/7873 PMR Quarries T/A WA Limestone/Mining/The project lies on M47/325, M47/488, L47/416, G47/1252. /Western Australia/Roebourne Quarry
- 2013/6832 PMR Quarries Pty Ltd T?A WA Limestone/Mining/Lot 800 Kerosene Lane, Baldivis/WA/Continuation of quarrying sand and limestone, Lot 800 Kerosene Lane, Baldivis, WA
- 2011/5955 PMR Quarries Pty Ltd T/A WA Limestone/Natural resources management/15km south east of Yanchep and 24km west of Muchea/WA/Vegetation Clearing, Wanneroo Rd and Nowergup Rd
- 2010/5650 PMR Quarries P/L t/a WA Limestone/Mining/Lots 290 & 291 Kerosene Lane Baldivis 9km east of Rockingham/Western Australia/Clearing of 18.80 ha of vegatation ahead of quarrying operations
- 2010/5649 PMR Quarries P/L t/a WA Limestone/Mining/2170 Millar Road Baldivis 9km east of Rockingham/Western Australia/Clearing of 22 ha vegetation to allow for the continuation of quarrying
- 2009/5101 PMR QUARRIES PTY LTD T A WA LIMESTONE/Mining/Dawesville/Western Australia/Earthworks and Excavation of Lots 2, 13 & 22 Old Coast Road
- 2008/4562 WA Limestone/Mining/Lots 2, 13 and 22 Old Coast Road, Dawesville/WA/Proposed excavation and earthworks at existing quarry, prior to subdivision



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 7

Information sources

Reference source

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (2012). Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) Recovery Plan. Wildlife Management Program No. 54.

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None

Reference source

Department of the Environment and Energy (2017). Revised draft referral guideline for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Commonwealth of Australia, 2017.

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None

Reference source

Department of Water and Environment Regulation (2020). Perth Groundwater Map. Online. Available: <https://maps.water.wa.gov.au/Groundwater/>

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None

Reference source

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (2012). EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species.

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None

Reference source

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016). Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Reference source

Williams, K. & Mitchell, D. (2013) Jarrah Forest 1 (JF1 - Northern Jarrah Forest subregion). Available from: https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/about/science/projects/waaudit/jarrah_forest01_p369-381.pdf

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

None

Reference source

Hedde, E. M., O. W. Loneragan and J. J. Havel. (1980). Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

Reliability

Reliable

Uncertainties

Not applicable



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 8

Proposed alternatives

Do you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action?

Yes



No



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 9

Person proposing the action

9.1.1 Is the person proposing the action an organisation or business?
 Yes No

Organisation

Organisation name (as registered for ABN/ACN) Ransberg Pty Ltd
 Business name
 ABN
 ACN 009468464
 Business address 401 Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake, 6163, WA, Australia
 Postal address
 Main Phone number 089434 7777
 Fax
 Primary email address roger.s@walimestone.com
 Secondary email address

9.1.2 I qualify for exemption from fees under Regulation 5.23(1)(ii) of the EPBC Regulations because I am:
 Small business
 Not applicable

9.1.2.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations
 Yes No

9.1.3 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name David
 Last name Della Bona
 Job title Director
 Phone 08 9434 7777
 Mobile
 Fax
 Email david.db@walimestone.com
 Primary address 401 Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake, 6163, WA, Australia
 Address

Declaration: Person proposing the action (To be signed by the person at 9.1.3)

I, David Della Bona, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 05/10/2021

I, David Della Bona, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of _____ as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 05/10/2021



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Proposed designated proponent

9.2.1 Is the proposed designated proponent an organisation or business?

Yes No

Organisation

Organisation name (as registered for ABN/ACN) Ransberg Pty Ltd
 Business name
 ABN
 ACN 009468464
 Business address 401 Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake, 6965, WA, Australia
 Postal address
 Main Phone number 0894347777
 Fax
 Primary email address roger.s@walimestone.com
 Secondary email address

9.2.2 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name David
 Last name Della Bona
 Job title Director
 Phone 08 9434 7777
 Mobile
 Fax
 Email david.d@walimestone.com
 Primary address 401 Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake, 6163, WA, Australia
 Address

Declaration: Proposed Designated Proponent

I, David Della Bona, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action dBC Act Referral.

Signature: Date: 05/10/2021



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Referring party (person preparing the information)

9.3.1 Is the referring party an organisation or a business?
 Yes No

Organisation

Organisation name (as registered for ABN/ACN)	JBS&G AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Business name	Strategen JBS&G
ABN	62100220479
ACN	
Business address	50 Subiaco Square Rd, Subiaco, 6008, WA, Australia
Postal address	
Main Phone number	93803100
Fax	
Primary email address	adminwa@jbsg.com.au
Secondary email address	

9.3.2 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name	Annette
Last name	Latto
Job title	Senior Associate
Phone	0893803100
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	alatto@jbsg.com.au
Primary address	50 Subiaco Square Rd, Subiaco, 6008, WA, Australia
Address	

Declaration: Referring party (person preparing the information)

I, Annette Latto,
 declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature:  Date:05/10/2021



Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Appendix A	
Attachment	
Document Type	File Name
action_area_images	60891_01_ProposalArea.pdf
action_area_images	60891_02_BCHabitat.pdf
action_area_images	60891_03_RglBCHabitat.pdf
govt_approval_conditions	Att 2 Clearing Permit.pdf
public_consultation_reports	Att 1 Mine closure plan.pdf
supporting_tech_reports	Att 3 Technical Memo SJBSG.pdf
flora_fauna_investigation	Att 4 Matiske 2017.pdf
flora_fauna_investigation	Att 5 Kirkby 2017.pdf
corp_env_policy_docs	Att 6 Environment Policy.pdf
corp_env_policy_docs	Att 7 ISO14001 Certification.pdf

Appendix B
Coordinates
Area 1
-32.284366798893,116.03504199986
-32.284423878238,116.03504139536
-32.284419399389,116.03466019969
-32.284286398951,116.03466160016
-32.284366798893,116.03504199986
Area 2
-32.277932599048,116.03836280017
-32.280959798833,116.03837160007
-32.280949399394,116.03747380041
-32.281544399067,116.03747760029
-32.281544799306,116.03550540029
-32.283613762072,116.03550970385
-32.283610045946,116.03502332302
-32.282955599327,116.03511200018
-32.282956750793,116.03491554601
-32.282592004685,116.03495923405
-32.282014795841,116.03501030081
-32.281556658306,116.03502639075
-32.281404217722,116.03506733935
-32.281329060553,116.03514326515
-32.281318425593,116.03539697021
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-32.280091143543,116.03533410297
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-32.27891768537,116.03527635752
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-32.278923399281,116.03607019985
-32.277935599059,116.03608399977
-32.277932599048,116.03836280017
Area 3
-32.276354940896,116.03476705811
-32.276354803526,116.03474908587
-32.276354274733,116.03469105135
-32.276330598224,116.0346911581
-32.273526399489,116.03470380032
-32.273531399497,116.03534080018
-32.276359336172,116.03534227115
-32.276354940896,116.03476705811