

Procedure		Document No.	2663
Document Title	Monitoring Program – Fauna		
Area	Olympic Dam Shared Services	Issue Date	27 July 2018
Major Process	Environment	Sub Process	Environment
Authoriser	Laura Tyler – Asset President Olympic Dam	Version Number	16

1	SCOPE	2
1.1	Responsible ODC personnel	2
1.2	Review and modification	2
2	DETAILED PROCEDURE	2
2.1	Feral and abundant species.....	2
2.2	GAB springs endemic invertebrates	3
2.3	Fauna losses.....	4
3	COMMITMENTS	4
3.1	Reporting.....	4
3.2	Summary of commitments	4
4	DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES	5
4.1	Definitions	5
4.2	References.....	5
4.3	Bibliography	5

1 SCOPE

The Fauna Monitoring Program (MP) describes the environmental monitoring activities that are undertaken by BHP Billiton Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd (ODC) in relation to fauna at Olympic Dam and the surrounding areas that may be impacted by current mining, processing, or construction activities. The purpose of this MP is to set out the measures ODC uses to quantify any change in the extent or significance of impacts of its activities on fauna, assess the performance of control measures employed to limit these impacts, and to meet relevant legal and other requirements.

The Fauna MP addresses a number of distinct elements of fauna monitoring. For each element, the MP sets out background information, the purpose of the monitoring and the deliverables which are produced as a result of the monitoring. The MP also includes a description of the methods for measuring achievement of **compliance criteria** and the movement of trends towards **leading indicators** (where applicable).

This MP relates to fauna that is normally associated with open rangeland ecosystems and Great Artesian Basin (GAB) springs in the wellfield areas.

Important Biodiversity and Ecosystems and feral and abundant species are monitored. Fauna losses associated with ODC are monitored to direct control efforts to avoid mortalities.

1.1 Responsible ODC personnel

The Olympic Dam Asset President is responsible for ensuring that all legal and other requirements described in this MP are met.

ODC employs an environmental scientist and sufficient other staff with experience and qualifications to fulfil the requirements of this MP.

1.2 Review and modification

The Fauna MP is reviewed annually. Major changes or amendments following the review are documented in the Annual EM Program Targets, Actions and Major Changes document.

It should be noted that as a result of operational activities or through optimisation of sample design some existing monitoring sites may be lost and others added (where possible) to maintain the integrity of the sampling program. Access restrictions can result in some sites occasionally being unable to be monitored.

2 DETAILED PROCEDURE

2.1 Feral and abundant species

2.1.1 Background

Kangaroos are native and commonly recorded within the region; however the presence of artificial water bodies and the lack of domestic grazing on the SML influence their abundance. Both kangaroo and rabbit numbers directly affect the condition of the vegetation on the mine and municipal leases. These herbivores also affect the success of rehabilitation measures and amenity plantings within the mine and municipal leases. Similarly, cat, wild dog (south of the dingo fence) and fox numbers have the potential to increase in response to land management practices and have an impact on native vertebrate populations. Therefore, these species can potentially have an impact on the ecology of the region. For this reason, feral and abundant mammal populations are monitored regularly and controlled when necessary.

2.1.2 Purpose

- Manage feral and abundant species within the SML and surrounding areas.

2.1.3 Deliverable(s)

- An annual report of monitoring and control actions undertaken within the SML and surrounding areas.
- An assessment of the abundance of specific feral and abundant species within the region.

2.1.4 Method

The focus of this program is the management of feral and abundant species based on control effectiveness, feasibility and alignment with current regional management priorities.

An annual risk assessment is undertaken to determine specific actions that are to be applied in the next 12 months and documented as a part of the EPMP review process. The risk assessment focuses on the feasibility of monitoring and management actions that can be undertaken to deliver broader regional outcomes in line with SAAL NRM conservation priorities.

The annual report will document all feral and abundant species management actions undertaken within the SML and surrounding areas for the financial year.

2.2 GAB springs endemic invertebrates

2.2.1 Background

A diverse, endemic invertebrate fauna group occurs in springs associated with the GAB in South Australia and Queensland. As GAB springs are small aquatic habitats, widely separated in an arid environment, it has been found that localised groups of GAB springs support their own specific types of endemic invertebrates (Ponder 1986).

GAB springs in the Lake Eyre South region support at least six species of Hydrobiid in two genera (Trochidobia and Fonscochlea), a phreatoicid isopod (*Phreatomerus latipes*), an ostracod (*Ngarawa dirga*) and an amphipod (*Austrochiltonia* sp.). All these species are aquatic and are currently only known to occur in GAB springs between Marree and Oodnadatta (the only known exception is a species of Hydrobiid recorded in low abundance from Coward Springs Railway Bore) (Ponder et al. 1989).

The persistence of GAB spring aquatic invertebrates is intimately linked to the availability and chemistry of free-flowing water at GAB springs. While the aquatic populations have been exposed to natural spring processes of emergence and decline over considerable time periods, it is likely that populations would be susceptible to any accelerated spring changes over comparatively short periods, which may be caused by excessive drawdown.

2.2.2 Purpose

- Qualify the level of population change that may be attributed to water extraction from the wellfields.

2.2.3 Deliverables

- Comparison of the abundance of Hydrobiid species against baseline data to quantify population change.
- Triennial qualitative comparison of GAB spring monitoring data incorporating GAB spring flow

2.2.4 Method

Spring groups within the potential impact zones of the GAB are visited triennially and sampled for the presence/absence of endemic invertebrate species. Sampling and sorting analyses is to be completed during the same year.

Previous research has shown that presence/absence data provides the same level of information as measures of abundance (Tyre and Possingham 2001). Therefore a large number of springs are visited and sampled for presence/absence, as opposed to visiting a small number of springs and providing a quantitative analysis. This enables a broader impression of current population status to be gained.

Substrate samples are taken at each of the designated springs using a standardised scoop and tray, and analysed for presence/absence of key fauna species/groups.

Time series data are summarised and inspected for long-term trends. Baseline data consists of samples collected during 1995–1996 with further additional sampling conducted in more recent years. The next round of monitoring is scheduled for the latter half of 2020 (FY21). Monitoring sites are grouped in zones for analysis based on predicted levels of impact listed in Appendix D of the Great Artesian Basin Monitoring Program (Document No. 2789).

2.3 Fauna losses

2.3.1 Background

Evaporation ponds and tailings storage facilities (which together form the Tailings Retention System – TRS) are sometimes visited by fauna, which can result in deaths (particularly wetland birds). ODC seeks to understand the ongoing impact that the operation of the TRS has on native fauna and has trialled various measures to deter fauna from visiting the TRS. ODC is committed to ongoing improvement in this area by investigating new measures to decrease the attractiveness of the TRS waterbodies to fauna.

Potential impacts to listed fauna species from land disturbance activities are managed through ODC's internal Environmental Disturbance Permit (EDP) process, which is described in detail in Section 2.4 of the Flora MP.

2.3.2 Purpose

- Understand the current impact of the TRS on listed fauna species comparative to previous trends.
- Assess the performance of applicable control measures that aim to minimise the risk of listed fauna species interacting with the TRS.

2.3.3 Deliverable(s)

- An assessment of fauna activity and losses within the TRS.
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of applicable control measures in reducing the number of listed migratory birds lost within the TRS.

2.3.4 Method

Standardised monitoring of the TRS is conducted weekly to detect the presence of any fauna (dead or alive). This monitoring is conducted by trained staff members, and any fauna carcasses are removed when safe to do so. Opportunistic observations of fauna on the TRS are also made by trained staff and technicians. Analysis is conducted on the effectiveness of control measures and targets in reducing the number of **listed migratory bird** deaths within the TRS.

3 COMMITMENTS

3.1 Reporting

The results and a discussion of the results are presented in the annual EPMP Report, as outlined in the EMM. The monitoring results relating to fauna are made publicly available through the Annual EPMP Report.

3.2 Summary of commitments

Table 3.1: Summary of commitments

Action	Parameter	Frequency
Manage	Feral animal and kangaroo abundance	Ongoing
Monitor	Endemic invertebrate abundance in GAB springs	Triennially
Monitor	Fauna presence and losses within the TRS	Weekly
Assess	Effectiveness of applicable control measures and targets in reducing the number of listed migratory birds lost within the TRS	Annually
Employ	Environmental Specialist to undertake the requirements of the MP – Fauna	Ongoing
Report	Monitoring results in the Annual EPMP Report to the Indenture Minister and make fauna data publicly available through the Annual EPMP Report.	Annually
Review	Important Biodiversity and Ecosystems Register and modify as appropriate	Annually
Review	The Fauna MP and modify as appropriate	Annually

4 DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES

4.1 Definitions

Throughout the EPMP some terms are taken to have specific meaning. These are indicated in bold text in the documentation and are defined in the glossary in section 5 of the EMM. Defined terms have the same meaning wherever they appear in bold text. Some other terms and acronyms are also defined in the glossary, but do not appear in bold text.

4.2 References

BHP Billiton Olympic Dam 2009, Draft Environmental Impact Statement 2009.

IUCN 2013, 'IUCN Red List of Threatened Species', Version 2013.2.

Ponder, WF 1986, 'Mound Spring Snails of the Great Artesian Basin', in *Limnology in Australia*, eds DeDecker P & Williams WD, CSIRO Australia, Melbourne.

Ponder, WF, Hershler, R & Jenkins, B 1989, 'An endemic radiation of Hydrobiid Snails from artesian springs in Northern South Australia: their taxonomy, physiology, distribution and anatomy', *Malacologia* 31 (1): pp. 1–140.

Tyre, AJ & Possingham, HP 2001, 'Risk Management for ecologically sustainable development: predicting extinction and recolonisation in the Mound Springs of SA – Final Report', Unpublished report for WMC Olympic Dam, University of Queensland.

4.3 Bibliography

Anon 1991, 'Environmental Assessment Wellfield A Extension'.

Australian Nature Conservation Agency 1996, 'A directory of important wetlands in Australia Second Edition', ANCA, Canberra.

Badman, FJ 1991, 'Birds', in 'A natural history of the Lake Eyre region: A visitors guide', pp. 29–38, eds Badman FJ, Arnold BK and Bell SL, NPWS Northern Consultative Committee, Port Augusta.

Badman, FJ 1991, 'Mound Springs', in 'A natural history of the Lake Eyre region: A visitors guide', pp. 51–58, eds Badman FJ, Arnold BK & Bell SL, NPWS Northern Consultative Committee, Port Augusta.

Bowen, ZE & Read, JL 1998, 'Factors influencing breeding and survivorship of rabbits in the Roxby Downs region', *Wildlife Research* 25, pp. 655–662.

Casperson, KC 1979, 'Mound Springs of South Australia. Part 1, Physical features, history, biota and conservation requirements', *South Australian Department of Environment and Planning SADE* 20, pp. 1–23.

Colgan, DJ & Ponder, WF 1994, 'The evolutionary consequence of restrictions in gene flow: examples from Hydrobiid snails', *Nautilus*, Supplement 4, pp. 25–43.

DeDecker, P 1979, 'Ostracods from the mound springs between Strangways and Curdimurka, South Australia', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 103, pp. 155–168.

Dobrzinski, I 1994, 'Mound Springs in SA: Potential effects from aquifer drawdown to mining', Department of Mines and Energy South Australia, Adelaide.

Ferguson, D 1985, 'The mound springs: Lens on a Looming tragedy for Australia's desert lands', *Habitat* 13 (2), pp. 32–33.

GAB Consultative Council 1998, 'Draft Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan', Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

GAB Consultative Council 1998, 'Great Artesian Basin resource document', Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

Greenslade, J & Reeves, A 1985, 'South Australia's Mound Springs', Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide.

Harris, CR 1981, 'Oasis in the desert: The mound springs of northern South Australia', *Proceedings of Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (South Australian Branch)* 81, pp. 26–39.

Harris, CR 1992, 'Mound springs: South Australian conservation initiatives', *Australian Rangelands Journal* 14 (2), pp.157–73.

- Keane, D 1997, 'The sustainability of use of groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin, with particular reference to the south western edge of the basin and impact on the mound springs', unpublished thesis.
- Kinhill-Stearns Roger 1982, 'Olympic Dam Project draft environmental impact statement', Kinhill Stearns Roger Joint Venture, Adelaide.
- Kinhill Engineers 1994, 'Supplementary environmental studies Wellfield B, Mound Springs and meteorology desktop study', Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd, Adelaide.
- Kinhill Engineers 1995, 'Survey and assessment report: Supplementary environmental studies, Borefield B development', Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd, Adelaide.
- Kovac, KJ & Niejalke, DP 2004, 'Observation and breeding records of the Painted Finch *Emblema pictum* associated with artesian springs in South Australia', *South Australian Ornithologist* 34 (5), pp.181–182.
- Lamb, KJ 1998, 'Grazing impacts on mound spring spider communities', unpublished honours thesis, Flinders University of South Australia.
- McLaren, N, Wiltshire, D & Lesslie, R 1985, 'Biological assessment of South Australian mound springs', unpublished report prepared for South Australian Department of Environment and Planning.
- Mudd, GM 1998, 'The sustainability of mound springs in South Australia: Implications for Olympic Dam', International Association of Hydrogeologists, Commission on Mineral and Thermal Waters Meeting, Ballarat.
- Munro, NT, Kovac, K, Niejalke, D & Cunningham, RB 2009, 'The effect of a single burn event on the aquatic invertebrates in artesian springs', *Austral Ecology* 34 (8), pp. 837–847.
- Murphy, D 1985, 'Mound springs: threatened outback ecosystem', *Australian Conservation Foundation Newsletter* 17 (8), p. 8.
- Niejalke, DP 1998, 'Proceedings to the 2nd Mound Spring Researchers Forum and spring management workshop', November 24 at Kinhill Engineers, Adelaide.
- Noble, JC, Habermehl, MA, James, CD, Landsberg, J, Langston, AC & Morton, SR 1998, 'Biodiversity implications of water management in the Great Artesian Basin', *Rangeland Journal* 20 (2), pp. 275–300.
- Ponder, WF 1994, 'Australian freshwater Mollusca: Conservation priorities and indicator species', *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 36, pp. 191–196.
- Ponder, WF 1995, 'Mound spring snails of the Australian Great Artesian Basin', in 'The conservation biology of molluscs', Kay, EA (ed.), IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, pp. 13–18.
- Ponder, WF 1997, 'Conservation status, threats and habitat requirements of Australian terrestrial and freshwater Mollusca', *Memoirs of the Museum of Victoria* 56 (2), pp. 421–430.
- Ponder, WF 1997, 'Nomenclatural rectifications in Australian Hydrobiidae', *Molluscan Research* 18, pp. 67–68.
- Ponder, WF 1998, 'Conservation', in 'Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis', Vol. 5A, Beesley, PL, Ross, GJB & Wells, A (eds), CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, pp. 105–115.
- Read, JL 1992, 'Influence of habitats, climate, grazing and mining on terrestrial vertebrates at Olympic Dam, South Australia', *The Rangeland Journal* 14 (2), pp. 143–56.
- Read, JL 1999, 'A strategy for minimising waterfowl deaths on toxic ponds', *Journal of Applied Ecology* 36, pp. 345–350.
- Read, JL 1999, 'Bird colonisation of a remote arid settlement', *Australian Bird Watcher* 18 (2), pp. 59–67.
- Read, JL & Badman FJ 1999, 'The birds of the Lake Eyre South region', *Lake Eyre South Monograph Series, Volume 3*, WJH Slaytor, Royal Geographical Society South Australia (eds).
- Read, JL & Bowen Z 2000, 'Population dynamics, diet and aspects of the biology of feral cats and foxes in arid SA', *Wildlife Research* 28, pp. 195–203.
- Read, JL & Pickering, R 1999, 'Ecological and toxicological effects of exposure to an acidic, radioactive tailings storage', *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 54, pp. 69–85.