

Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Your Ref: A3885735 EPBC Ref: 2018/8262

Mr Owen Thomas Executive Director Infrastructure Planning and Land Services Public Transport Authority PO Box 8125 Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Dear Mr Thomas Yanchep Rail Extension

As you are aware, on 12 November 2018, the proposed action to clear vegetation to construct Part 2 of the Yanchep Rail Extension, an extension of the Joondalup railway line from Eglinton Station to Yanchep Station, including construction of a new station and a turn back facility at Yanchep Station in Wanneroo, 40km north of Perth, Western Australia (EPBC 2018/8262), was determined a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that the proposal requires further assessment, which is being carried out under an accredited process by the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Once a proposal to take an action has been referred under the EPBC Act, it is an offence under section 74AA of the Act to take the action while the decision making process is on-going (unless that action is specifically excluded from the referral or other exemptions apply). As EPBC 2018/8262 is under assessment under the EPBC Act, the action covered by that referral may not proceed.

The Department confirms that the impacts of Part 1 of the Yanchep Rail Extension are within the scope of these earlier approvals:

- EPBC 2010/5777
- EPBC 2017/7872
- EPBC 2008/4601
- EPBC 2015/7561
- EPBC 2008/4638
- EPBC 2011/6021.

Where impacts may extend beyond clearing for the rail development (e.g. indirect impacts such as weed invasion, spread of dieback or change in hydrology) appropriate measures - as proposed during the assessment of any existing approval - must be applied. In addition, actions must be undertaken prior to the expiry date of the relevant approval.

The approval holder is responsible for ensuring that the action is undertaken in accordance with the conditions of approval. Where a clearing limit applies to an approval, the maximum clearing hectare value approved for each project must not be

exceeded and must not extend into areas that are specified in existing approvals as areas to be retained uncleared.

If any current EPBC Act approvals require variation or change of approval holder, please contact the Post Approvals Section on <u>PostApproval@environment.gov.au</u>.

If you have any questions about the EPBC 2018/8262 assessment process, please contact Angela Gillman, by email or telephone (<u>Angela.Gillman@environment.gov.au</u>, (02) 6274 2450.

Yours sincerely

Rod Whyte Director Project Assessments West Section

6 February 2019