

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b><i>Fitzgerald River National Park Road Upgrade and Walk Trail Project</i></b>
<b>Location:</b>	Fitzgerald River National Park (FRNP)
<b>Region:</b>	South Coast
<b>District:</b>	Albany
<b>Client (Customer)</b>	DEC South Coast Region
<b>Sponsor</b>	Bruce Bone
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Tim Maisey

## ***Brief Description of Project***

The project is to reconstruct and seal sections of road into the Fitzgerald River National Park (FRNP) to provide all weather, two wheel drive access to popular coastal features, provide high quality visitor experiences and ensure good visitor and environmental management by upgrading recreation sites (end point facilities) in the National Park and develop a world class coastal walk trail from Bremer Bay to Hopetoun through FRNP.

## ***Environmental Management Framework Endorsement & Approval***

---

<b>Version No:</b>	1.0
<b>Version Date:</b>	11 November 2009

<b>Endorsed By</b>			
<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
DEC South Coast Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Deon Utber		
MRWA Great Southern Environment Officer	Melissa O'Toole		

<b>Approved By</b>			
<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
DEC South Coast Regional Manager	Bruce Bone		
DEC Assistant Director Parks and Visitor Services	Rod Annear		
MRWA Great Southern Regional Manager	Andrew Duffield		

# Table of Contents

Background.....	4
Project Environmental Objectives .....	5
Environmental Management Process .....	7
Environmental Assessment & Approval Processes .....	9
Key Reference Documents .....	15

# Background

The FRNP is located on the south coast of Western Australia between Bremer Bay and Hopetoun, close to Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup. The nearest regional centres are Albany to the west and Esperance to the east.

In January 2009, the Western Australian (WA) Government announced a package to assist the people of Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe following the closure of the BHP nickel mine.

A number of options for the assistance package were compiled by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA), Tourism Western Australia and the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission, which were then presented to the Premier.

A proposal for road upgrades and walk trail development to and in the Fitzgerald River National Park was referred to the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for a decision on whether the proposed action requires approval under the Act. DEWHA have advised that the proposal has been assessed as not being “a controlled action” and does not require further approval for the work identified in the submission.

From Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act Referral:

“The Western Australian Government is proposing to upgrade and seal existing roads at the eastern and western ends of the national park, and construct a coastal walk trail, in (and just outside) the Fitzgerald River National Park on the south coast of Western Australia. This proposal keeps roads to the scale of a tourist road with small scale tourist facilities, in keeping with the national park’s management plan and is not proposing a highway or major tourist development. Road upgrades, which will need to include associated facilities such as additional parking and recreation facilities, are based on existing unsealed. The walk trail will include shelters set at a distance of a day’s walk apart. The proposal aims to increase the reliability of access to the park for visitors and tour operators by providing year-round guaranteed access. The walk trail will provide a new recreation opportunity within the park.”

# Project Environmental Objectives

## Project Objectives (as per the project plan)

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Providing tourism infrastructure to support the economic sustainability of the Ravensthorpe regional area
- Increase the reliability of access to the park for visitors and tour operators by providing year-round guaranteed access and better facilities for visitors<sup>1</sup>
- Minimising the threat of the spread of infection by *Phytophthora*
- Improve road and walk trail facilities to and in the park to manage the increasing demand by visitors for access to the park and the coast<sup>2</sup>
- Strict adherence to the EPBC Act Referral and Referral Decision including:
  - No further spread of dieback to *special environmental areas* as a result of the development, its associated activities and/or its consequential impacts

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- Substantial increase in number of visitors to the area (cannot be directly controlled by the project)
- Minimise visitor impacts caused by increasing visitor numbers
- Extensive use of local contractors (during construction of road, walk trail and recreation sites)
- Improved siting, drainage and sealing to allow all-weather operation
- Construction of suitable car parks and recreation facilities at the end of the upgraded roads will aid management of any adverse impacts that may be expected from an increase in visitation to FRNP<sup>3</sup>
- The new coastal walk trail will improve management of walkers through the area by provision of better information to encourage minimal impact activity as well as improved walk trail alignment and camping facilities

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES

- Prevent further spread of current infestations or new infestations of *Phytophthora spp* as a result of road construction or subsequent improved access provided by the road upgrade and walk trail as per the EPBC Act Referral and Referral Decision including:
  - No further spread of *Phytophthora* dieback to *special environmental areas* as a result of the development, its associated activities and/or its consequential impacts
- Minimise impacts on threatened flora populations occurring within the road upgrade and walk trail footprint to within acceptable levels.

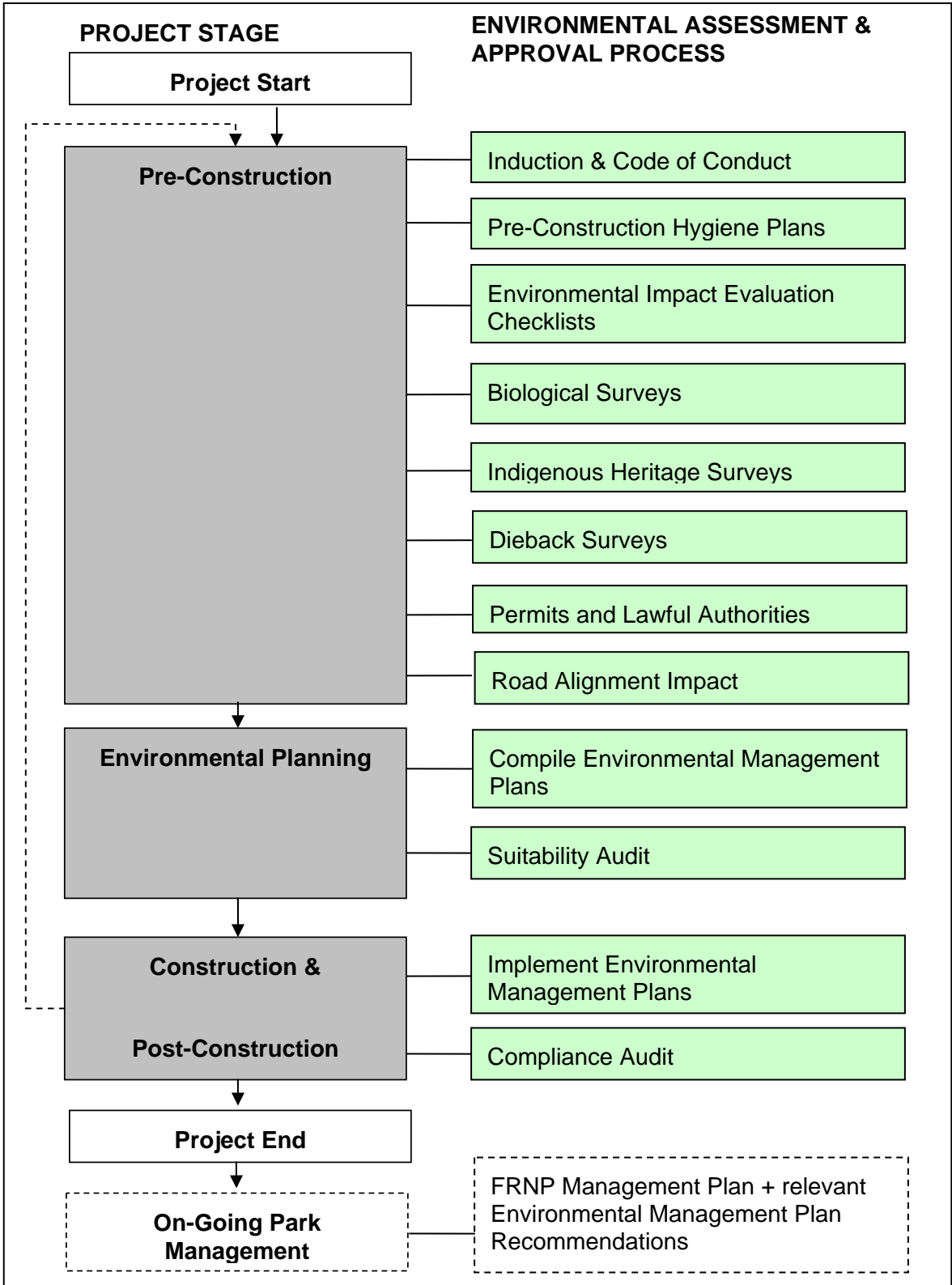
<sup>1</sup> Page 3 of EPBC Act Referral

<sup>2</sup> Page 3 of EPBC Act Referral

<sup>3</sup> Page 18 of EPBC Act Referral

- Minimise impacts on threatened fauna populations and areas of significant habitat within the road upgrade and walk trail footprint to within acceptable levels.
- Ensure that the upgraded road and walk trail design are such that the resultant infrastructure does not lead to adverse environmental impacts.
- Development of information and interpretation products that promote environmentally appropriate activities and foster greater understanding of environmental values associated with Fitzgerald Biodiversity.

# Environmental Management Process



The Environmental Management Process describes each of the project phases together with the Environmental Controls to be used to manage Environmental Impact risks.

Certain Project Stages will be iterative as during the life of the Project the Stages can be repeated as shown below.

<u>Expected Project Iterations</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road: Eastern end of FRNP</li> <li>• Road: Western end of FRNP</li> <li>• Visitor Infrastructure: Eastern end at each visitor site</li> <li>• Visitor Infrastructure: Western end at each visitor site</li> <li>• Walk Trail: Hamersley Inlet to Point Ann</li> <li>• Walk Trail: Bremer Bay to Hopetoun</li> </ul>

The table below describes the Environmental Project Phases together with a description of each phase.

<u>Project Stage</u>	<u>Description</u>
Pre-Construction	This initial stage commences from when the Project starts up to the point when all environmental surveys and information have been completed. This stage will include contour surveying, gravel searches and all project work prior to any construction commencing.
Environmental Planning	This stage involves compiling and gaining approval of the Environmental Management Plan appropriate to the information received during Pre-Construction.
Construction	This stage is during the Construction of the Road, Visitor Infrastructure or Walk Trail and involves monitoring and auditing on site works against the Environmental Management Plan.
Post-Construction	This stage is after the Construction has completed and can include rehabilitation.



# Environmental Assessment & Approval Processes

## Stage: Pre-Construction

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Induction & Code of Conduct	Best practice for individuals working on the project to minimise environmental impacts.	All staff required to understand and sign the Code of Conduct before working on the project.	1 week	Conservation Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>Environment Officer</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer
Pre-Construction Hygiene Plans	Documented hygiene procedures to reduce the risk of spread of dieback	All actions that involve travelling within the FRNP	2-3 weeks	Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>District Phytophthora Management Coordinator</li> <li>Regional Ecologist</li> <li>Albany District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer

FRNP Road Upgrade and Walk Trail Project – Environmental Management Framework

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Environmental Impact Evaluation Checklists	To document and assess potential environmental impacts based on the proposed action.	All actions that have the potential to environmentally impact the FRNP e.g. Gravel search	2-3 weeks	Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Officer</li> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Albany District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer
Biological Surveys	Mapping of Priority and Declared Rare Flora & Fauna to feed into the Environmental Management Plan	Areas within FRNP that will be potentially impacted by on ground works	1-2 months	Botanists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Officer</li> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Albany District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer

FRNP Road Upgrade and Walk Trail Project – Environmental Management Framework

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Indigenous Heritage Surveys	To investigate potential impacts to heritage values and determine compliance with Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.	Areas within FRNP that will be potentially impacted by on ground works	1-6 months	Aboriginal Heritage Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Officer</li> <li>• Regional Leader Parks and Visitor Services</li> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Albany District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer
Dieback Surveys	Mapping of actual and potential infestations to feed into the Environmental Management Plan	Areas within FRNP that will be potentially impacted by on ground works	1-3 months	Phytophthora Management Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• District Phytophthora Management Coordinator</li> <li>• Regional Ecologist</li> <li>• Albany District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer

FRNP Road Upgrade and Walk Trail Project – Environmental Management Framework

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Road Alignment Impact	Assessment of the impact of the proposed road and walk trail alignment and design on known threatened species and significant habitat / ecosystems	Any situation where road design indicates an impact on known threatened species and significant habitat / ecosystems	2-3 weeks	Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Albany District Manager</li> <li>• Regional Ecologist</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer
Permits and Lawful Authorities	Permits and lawful authorities will be required where the activity contravenes the CALM Act	Any situations which require a Permit or Lawful Authority	2-3 weeks	District PVS Co-ordinator	-	Albany District Manager	Environment Officer

**Stage: Environmental Planning**

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Compile Environmental Management Plans	Documents the Environmental Controls that will be implemented based on the Pre-Construction surveys	Prior to construction commencing	1-2 months	Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Leader Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Regional Botanist</li> <li>• District Manager</li> </ul>	Regional Manager	Environment Officer
Suitability Audit	Independently auditing the suitability of the Environmental Management Plan	Prior to construction commencing	1-3 weeks	3 <sup>rd</sup> party	Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Regional Manager	-

**Stage: Construction & Post-Construction**

<u>Process</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Situation Required</u>	<u>Lead Time</u>	<u>Compiled By</u>	<u>Endorsed By</u>	<u>Approved By</u>	<u>Implementation &amp; Monitoring</u>
Implement Environmental Management Plans	Implementation of the Environmental Management Plan to reduce the risk of environmental impacts.	During construction and post-construction	-	-	-	-	Environment Officer
Compliance Audit	Independently auditing the compliance of the Environmental Management Plan	During construction and post-construction	1-3 weeks	3 <sup>rd</sup> party	Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Regional Manager	-

# Key Reference Documents

The following key documents should be referenced during the project. Note some documents are public and some are internal.

## Key Acts

- [Conservation and Land Management Act 1984](#)
- [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950](#)
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#)
- [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972](#)
- [Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990](#)

## Key Regulations

- [Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002](#)
- [Environment Protection Regulations 1987](#)
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000](#)

## EPBC Act Referral

- [Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 \(the EPBC Act\) Referral of proposed action and Referral Decision \(2009/4958\)](#)
- Approved referral amendment for clarification



T:\416-Operations  
(Region)\Shared Data

## Key Policies

- [Policy documents are located here](#)
- Policy 1: CALM Policies, Administrative Instructions, Circulars and Manuals/Guidelines
- Policy 1A: Planning (Parks, Rec, Plan, Tourism)
- Policy 3: Management of Phytophthora and disease caused by it (NC)
- Policy 9: Conservation of threatened flora in the wild (NC)
- Policy 10: Rehabilitation of disturbed land (NC)
- Policy 14: Weeds on CALM lands (NC)
- Policy 15: Community involvement (PVS)
- Policy 18: Recreation, tourism and visitor services (PVS)
- Policy 25: Community education and interpretation (Corporate Relations)
- Policy 34: Visual Resource management of lands and waters managed by CALM (PVS)
- Policy 40: Road management (Regional Services)
- Policy 51: Access for commercial fishing through CALM lands (PVS)
- Policy 53: Visitor risk management policy (Corporate Services)
- Policy 56: Risk management (Corporate Services)
- Policy 57: DEC Enforcement and Prosecution Policy
- Policy 60: Occupational Safety and Health

- Policy 62: Identification of Wilderness and surrounding areas<sup>4</sup>
- CALM's Media Relations Policy
- Public Participation Policy

**Management Plans**

- [Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan 1991-2001](#)

**Guidance Statements**

- [Guidance Statement No. 56 Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia \(EPA 2004\)](#)
- [Guidance Statement No. 51 Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia \(EPA 2004\)](#)

**MRWA Documents**

- [Environmental Policy Statement](#)
- [Environmental Management System Manual](#)
- [Environmental Guideline - Environmental Assessment And Approval](#)
- [Contractors Environment Specification 204](#)

---

<sup>4</sup> EPBC Act Referral p 16