

**Subject:** Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Pre-Referral Meeting for the Irwin Hills Grade Control Proposal

**Date:** 19/3/2021

**Time:** 11.00-11.30am (AWST)

**Attendees:** Phillip Cook (Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment), David Loch (Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment), Luke Vernon (MMO), Louise Whitley (Strategen)

**Notes:**

- Presentation (attached) given by LV and LW.
- Referral under the EPBC Act is determined via self-assessment (to determine if an action is 'significant') and DAWE can't give advice about whether a proposal should be referred or not.
- DAWE noted that the disturbance envelope of 1800 ha was significant and when assessing a referral will look at impacts over the entire disturbance envelope.
- DAWE commented that other proponents often refer a proposal for 'peace of mind' when in doubt.
- If MMO do refer the proposal (due to Malleefowl) then we were advised to refer to the National Malleefowl Recovery Plan and ensure that our Malleefowl Management Plan is not at odds with the recovery plan and note this in the application.
- DAWE would like to know (if referred) if the proposal is part of a future larger action.
- Timeframes if referred:
  - Once a proposal is referred to DAWE under the EPBC Act then it is a statutory 20 business day assessment period (after the referral has been validated).
  - Delays may occur if further information is required, although DAWE noted that the flora and fauna surveys appeared comprehensive.
  - Possible outcomes after this first assessment:
    - Determined to not be a Controlled Action (assessment finished and no further action required)
    - Determined to not be a Controlled Action with conditions (eg implement the Malleefowl Management Plan)
    - Determined to be a Controlled Action (further assessment is then undertaken which will add an additional 2 months to any WA EPA assessment)