

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF PERTH PEEL REGION (SAPPR)

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP (SRG)

CHAIR'S SUMMARY NOTES OF MEETING held on 30 April 2015

The second Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meeting for 2015 was held on 30 April. Stakeholders were provided with an update on the SAPPR Project, a presentation on the outcomes being sought by the Commonwealth from the SAPPR Project, and a high-level description of the Strategic Conservation Plan expected to be released for public comment towards the end of this year.

Simon Taylor (Director, DPC) briefed SRG members on the progress of key SAPPR activities, including:

- Infrastructure master planning is nearing completion;
- Basic Raw Materials draft master planning completed;
- Development of funding and offsets measures is well underway;
- A framework is being developed for the impact assessment of MNES;
- The EPA and SAPPR State Working Group have endorsed the approach for the State Impact Assessment Report; and
- DPC, in conjunction with other state agencies, is developing a SAPPR communications strategy.

It is anticipated these draft documents will be released for 3 months public consultation in late 2015 following Cabinet consideration. SRG members were asked to provide ideas to DPC regarding ways to make the public consultation phase informative and engaging for their members/constituency.

On a separate but related matter, Stakeholders were advised of the imminent release by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) of the draft *Perth and Peel @ 3.5million* suite of strategic planning documents. The suite of documents includes the over-arching *Perth and Peel @ 3.5million* report and four draft sub-regional planning frameworks for the Central, North-West, North-East and South Metropolitan Peel sub-regions and will be open for public comment until 31 July.

The WAPC planning documents are based on a spatial plan which is consistent with the spatial plan being used for the SAPPR impact assessment. Further details of how the spatial plan has been derived will be provided in the SAPPR documents.

Tim Wyndham from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (DotE) explained the approach being taken to the SAPPR by the Commonwealth. DotE currently assesses approximately 35 individual projects each year under the EPBC Act. Following approval of the SAPPR a high proportion of projects in the Perth and Peel regions will no longer require DotE assessment and approval by the Commonwealth Minister. DotE's focus is on the SAPPR providing better environmental outcomes at a landscape scale, and establishing clear 'goal post' for protection of Commonwealth matters. A key issue is achieving a balance between certainty in outcomes and flexibility through adaptive management. Assurance will be an important aspect. It will be risk-based and will include monitoring, reporting obligations, periodic review (where the adaptive management comes in) and

occasionally independent auditing. [See PowerPoint presentation slides provided separately on this website].

Stakeholders sought further clarification around responsibility for compliance with SAPPR requirements – does this lie with the State or developers? What sanctions are there for non-compliance and how are these applied? Is non-compliance determined in regard to process or outcomes or both? DotE made it clear that it was still the responsibility of the Commonwealth to act in instances of non-compliance as per the requirements under the Act.

The important elements of the Strategic Conservation Plan (SCP) and Impact Assessment Report were described by the consultants assisting DPC to draft the documents. The SCP will be an integration of the EPBC Act requirements for a strategic assessment (i.e. the MNES Plan) with the response to the EPA strategic environmental advice under section 16(e) of the WA EP Act. It will include conservation outcome statements for both MNES and State factors, an implementation framework (with details to be provided in several related action plans), and an assurance framework (including the adaptive management strategy). The particular elements to be approved by the Federal Minister will be clearly identified in the SCP. The related action plans will provide the details of implementation of both the 'classes of action' and the conservation commitments.

See the PowerPoint slide presentations [available separately on the website] for a description of the conservation hierarchy being applied in the SCP to the MNES identified in the Strategic Assessment area. These slides also describe the approach to be taken with data uncertainty and how an adaptive management approach will deal with new data post-SAPPR. The slides also show how high-resolution aerial mapping is being used to identify habitat including roosting and foraging areas for Carnaby's Cockatoo. (It was noted that most breeding happens outside the SAPPR area; suitable woodlands have been identified within a 12 Km feeding radius of the breeding sites within the SAPPR).

Feedback on all the material presented was sought from the SRG as well as advice on what other areas of interest the SRG wishes to discuss in future meetings. Importantly, members were asked to disseminate to their respective constituencies the information provided on the day.

The next meeting of the SRG is scheduled for 17 June, 2015.

Jim Limerick

Chair, Stakeholder Reference Group