



EPBC2021/9051 Annual Compliance Report 2025-26

Lower Vasse River Sediment Removal

City of Busselton

2 Southern Drive, Busselton, WA 6280

Prepared by:

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SLR Project No.: 675.072769.00001

19 May 2026

Revision: 1.0

Making Sustainability Happen

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
0.1	5 May 2026	AW	DH (CoB)	DRAFT
1.0	19 May 2026	AW	DH (CoB)	AW

Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with City of Busselton (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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1.0 Introduction

The Lower Vasse River Sediment Removal Project (the Project) was referred to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE, now the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [DCCEEW]) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in 2021. The Project involves the removal of nutrient-rich sediment from the Lower Vasse River (LVR) in Busselton and management of dredged sediments within an onshore laydown area (refer Figure 1 of Appendix A). The primary objective is to reduce the nutrient load of the LVR to minimise the proliferation of toxic algal blooms during summer.

The Project was determined to be a 'Controlled Action' due to the potential direct (dredging) and indirect (habitat disturbance) impacts on a locally significant population of *Westralunio carteri* (Carter's Freshwater Mussel) and potential water quality impacts to the downstream Ramsar Vasse Wonnerup Wetland System.

The Project, and associated technical management plans, was formally assessed, and received approval in February 2022 (EPBC2021/9051; Appendix A). The 'action', being the activities associated with sediment removal from the Lower Vasse River (LVR) in Busselton, Western Australia, was commenced on 4 April 2022 with the construction of an onshore laydown area.

1.1 Purpose and Scope

This annual compliance report (ACR) has been prepared in accordance with the Department of the Environment (DoE, now DCCEEW) Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (DoE 2014) to satisfy Condition 10 of EPBC2021/9051 (Appendix A).

This ACR presents a summary of the compliance items related to the action for the period 4 April 2025 to 4 April 2026. In accordance with the signed letter of commencement, this ACR is due by 3 June 2026.



2.0 Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular.

I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed _____
[Handwritten Signature]

Full name (please print) _____
Erin Hurv

Position (please print) _____
Chief Executive Officer

Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable) _____

Date 28 / 5 / 26



3.0 Description of Activities

Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Project consisted of targeted sediment removal in the Lower Vasse River during 2022 and 2023, respectively.

There were no physical project activities during the 2025-26 reporting period, with the next stage of sediment removal scheduled for late 2026.

3.1 Management Plans

3.1.1 Acid Sulfate Soils and Dewatering Management Plan

The Acid Sulfate Soils and Dewatering Management Plan (ASSDMP; 360 Environmental 2023) was prepared to satisfy condition 2 of EPBC 2021/9051. The ASSDMP details the management actions and contingency measures that will be implemented for the duration of the project. Of most relevance is the water quality monitoring program that is to be undertaken for the duration of dredging and return water discharge. The water quality data was assessed during the initial stage of dredging, and it was concluded that there was no impact to the downstream Vasse Wonnerup Wetland System. While there were elevated nutrient concentrations within the LVR during the dredging activities, the impacts were localised and dissipated quickly post-dredging.

No dredging occurred during this reporting period so there was no water quality monitoring undertaken.

3.1.2 Dredge and Disposal Management Plan

The Dredge and Disposal Management Plan (DDMP; 360 Environmental 2022) was prepared to satisfy condition 3 of EPBC 2021/9051. The DDMP details the management actions and contingency measure that will be implemented for the duration of the project. The primary commitment of the DDMP is to provide appropriate management controls that would ensure no adverse impact to the water quality of the Vasse Wonnerup Wetland System. The outcome of this objective is measured by the monitoring of water quality in the LVR upstream downstream and adjacent to the dredging and return water discharge locations. The data is compared to baseline data and derived trigger levels as per the requirements of the ASSDMP.

3.1.3 Carter's Freshwater Mussel Management Plan

The Environmental Management Plan for Carter's Freshwater Mussel *Westralunio carteri* (Beatty et al. 2023) was prepared to satisfy condition 1 of EPBC 2021/9051.

The primary reason for the action being a "Controlled Action" under the EPBC Act was the potential impacts of the action on a locally significant population of Carter's Freshwater Mussel (*Westralunio carteri*). Unfortunately, due to a saline intrusion event in April 2021, there were no live mussels within the area subject to the initial stages of the dredging.

The management objectives of the plan include minimising mortality and restoring population abundance within the sediment removal areas. Given that there was no sediment removal during this reporting period, the management measures and controls detailed in the plan, including relocation, was not required to be implemented.



4.0 Compliance Summary

Table 1: Summary of Compliance with EPBC 2021/9051

Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
Part A – Conditions specific to the action			
1	The approval holder must not undertake dredging outside the project area .	Compliant	No dredging was undertaken during this reporting period.
2	For the protection of Carter’s Freshwater Mussels the approval holder must implement all avoidance, mitigation and management measures specified in the Carter’s Freshwater Mussel Management Plan for the life of the approval .	Compliant	No dredging was undertaken during this reporting period and hence no provisions of the plan were implemented.
3	For the protection of the ecological character of the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands the approval holder must implement all avoidance, mitigation and management measures specified in the Dredge and Disposal Management Plan for the life of the approval .	Compliant	No dredging was undertaken during this reporting period and hence no provisions of the plan were implemented.
4	For the protection of the ecological character of the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands the approval holder must implement all avoidance, mitigation and management measures specified in the Acid Sulfate Soils and Dewatering Management Plan for the life of the approval .	Compliant	No dredging was undertaken during this reporting period and hence no provisions of the plan were implemented.
Part B – Standard administrative conditions			
5	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action .	Compliant	The action commenced on 4 April 2022 and commencement was acknowledged by DAWE (now DCCEE) on 26 April 2022.
6	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records .	Compliant	Internal compliance record management system.
7	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request	Not Applicable	No such requests were received.



Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
8	The approval holder must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. submit plans electronically to the Department b. unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. if the version of the plan to be implemented is specified in these conditions, the date of this approval decision; or ii. the date a revised plan is approved by the Minister; or iii. the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister or the Department in accordance with conditions 17 and 18 c. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public d. keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval. 	Compliant	All plans were submitted electronically to the Department and posted to the City of Busselton website upon receipt of notification of approval by the Department.
9	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan , is prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan .	Not Applicable	No monitoring data was collected during this reporting period.



Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
10	<p>The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12 month period following the date of commencement of the action, or as otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website e. where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication. 	Compliant	<p>This document covers the requirements of Condition 10 and will be published on the website prior to the due date stipulated on the letter of commencement (Appendix B) being 3 June 2026.</p> <p>Notification and a weblink will be provided to DCCEEW following the posting of this EPBC compliance report.</p>
11	<p>The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any condition which is or may be in breach b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available. 	Not Applicable	There were no reportable non-compliances during this reporting period.



Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
12	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future b. the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. 	Not Applicable	There were no reportable non-compliances during this reporting period.
13	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister .	Not Applicable	No independent audit was requested by the Minister.
14	For each independent audit , the approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department b. only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department c. submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria. 	Not Applicable	No independent audit was requested by the Minister.
15	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Not Applicable	No independent audit was requested by the Minister.
16	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan approved by the Minister , or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act . If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.	Not Applicable	No RAMPs were provided to the Department during this reporting period.



Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
17	The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan approved by the Minister , or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act , if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact .	Not Applicable	The CFMMP was provided as a RAMP during this reporting period, however CoB were advised by DCCEEW that the revised plan would require submission under Condition 16 (section 143A) – this has not occurred yet.
18	If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 17 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. notify the Department in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the Department with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. an electronic copy of the RAMP ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the Department. b. subject to condition 20, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date. 	Not Applicable	The CFMMP was provided as a RAMP during this reporting period, however CoB were advised by DCCEEW that the revised plan would require submission under Condition 16 (section 143A) – this has not occurred yet. Accordingly, the RAMP was not implemented during this reporting period.
19	The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a RAMP under condition 17 at any time by giving written notice to the Department . If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 21, the approval holder must implement the action management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 21.	Not Applicable	No RAMPs were revoked during this reporting period.



Condition #	Condition	Compliance Status	Details
20	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a new or increased impact , then: a. condition 17 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP b. the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the Minister in the notice.	Not Applicable	No such notification was received.
21	At the time of giving the notice under condition 20, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 17 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans.	Not Applicable	-
22	Within 30 days after the completion of the action , the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data .	Not Applicable	Action is in progress.



5.0 References

360 Environmental 2022, Dredge and Disposal Management Plan (4513AA_Rev3), prepared for the City of Busselton, January 2022.

360 Environmental 2023, Acid Sulfate Soils and Dewatering Management Plan (4602AF_Rev5), prepared for the City of Busselton, February 2023.

360 Environmental, part of SLR, 2024, 4602AE Stage 2 LVR Sediment Removal Closure Report.

Beatty S, Cottingham A, Lymbery A, and Paice R, 2023, Environmental Management Plan for Carter's Freshwater Mussel *Westralunio carteri*, prepared for City of Busselton, March 2024.

Commonwealth of Australia: Department of Environment (DoE) 2014, Annual Compliance Report Guidelines.

Commonwealth of Australia: Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) 2018, Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data.





Appendix A EPBC 2021/9051 Approval

EPBC2021/9051 Annual Compliance Report 2025-26

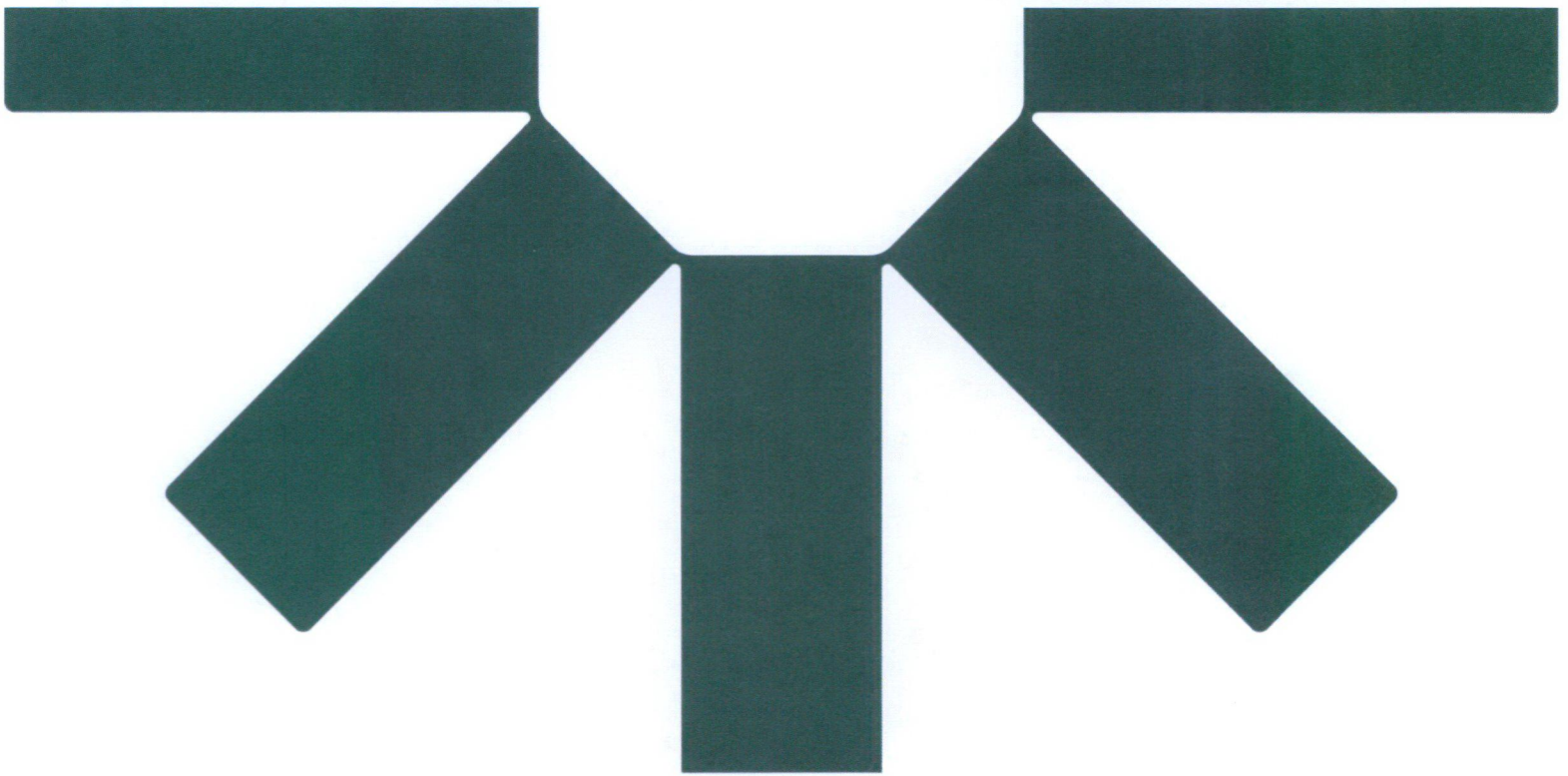
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SLR Project No.: 675.072769.00001

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