

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Native Vegetation Act 1991

Guide for Development Applicants

Protecting the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren



This document provides guidance to development applicants who are seeking a change of land use for land that has been identified as:

- Known or potential habitat for the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren
- Containing Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps

Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren

The Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren is a small bird that inhabits the dense dry heath vegetation of Deep Creek and Cox's Scrub Conservation Park, as well as a select number of Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps. Due to the fragmented nature of the remaining Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps; the poor flying ability of the bird; and land use impacts including habitat degradation, fire, altered hydrological regimes, predation and inbreeding depression; many local extinctions have occurred over the last 20 years. The Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren is listed as an endangered species under the EPBC Act 1999.

Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps

Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps are defined as isolated wetland areas within the local catchment areas of Tookayerta, Hindmarsh, Parawa, Myponga, Yankalilla, Onkaparinga, Currency and Finniss. They occur in high rainfall areas, ranging from annual falls of 600 – 950 mm. The swamps are freshwater communities, however, they become brackish toward the mouth of the Finniss River. The communities occur on waterlogged peat bog, silt, silty-peat, black clay or loamy soils around low-lying creeks and flats, beneath gullies or perched. Intact Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps are densely and diversely vegetated. The plants associated with the swamps are distinct, and occur in a mosaic of structural forms which merge into one another, depending on soil, hydrology and terrain. Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps are listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act 1999.

WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED IN YOUR APPLICATION?

The following highlights the information that you should provide with your application **in addition** to the general information requirements (refer Planning SA, General Information Guide) and any other Guides for Applicants specific to the proposed land use.

SITE PLAN

The site plan of the property (minimum scale 1:500 or another suitable scale) shall include the following :

- Location of any watercourses, wetlands, specifically identifying the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, dams and/or bores and the distances of any plantings, structures or infrastructure from such features

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- Vegetation which is to be retained or enhanced, specifically identifying any dry heath habitat and any vegetation proposed to be removed and if so an aerial photograph of the site be provided.
- Details and locations of artificial drainage systems and bores (including sub-surface drainage and site of disposal)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

A written description of the proposal, including details on:

How it is proposed to protect the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren from any potential adverse impacts associated with the development, during both the construction phase and the ongoing operation of the development, in the form of a management plan.

The management plan should include information as detailed as below:

SOIL MANAGEMENT

- Details of how soil erosion will be managed both during the construction phase and during the ongoing operation of the development to prevent soil and silt entering any watercourse, wetland or swamp.
- Details of how the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry heath vegetation will be protected from the risk of *Phytophthora spp.*

WATER RESOURCES (WATER DEMAND AND USE)

Estimate the amount of water that the land use will need per year in kilolitres.

- Identify sources of water (e.g. dam, bore, reticulated supply, treated waste water, stormwater)
- Details of any dam (construction materials, capacity etc) or bore to be constructed.
- Describe the quality of the water being used for irrigation(e.g. bacterial and salinity levels)
- Details of how the risk of alterations to the hydrological regime associated with intended water use is minimised, in particular that the land use does not infringe upon the environmental water requirements of the swamp by altering surface water flows and groundwater availability

POLLUTION

- Describe what practices will be used to minimise the risk of accidents (e.g. bunded storage areas), chemical drift, wastewater discharge and contaminated (eg with herbicides, fertilizer) surface water run-off from entering a watercourse, lake, wetland, or swamp which might pollute the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, the dry heath environment, and the associated flora and fauna

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE)

- Details of how any trees or crops planted as part of the development will be positioned in such a way as to ensure that:
 - The risk of the tree canopies shading out the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry heath is minimised
 - The risk of alterations to the hydrological regime associated with the plantings is minimised, in particular that they do not infringe upon the environmental water requirements of the swamp by altering surface water flows and groundwater availability.

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- Details of how any trees or crops planted as part of the development will be maintained and harvested in such a way as to:
 - Minimise the need for native vegetation clearance, and
 - Ensure the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry heath flora and fauna will be protected from indirect adverse impacts, eg inundation by large amounts of wood chips or harvested fruit.
- Describe what practices will be used to minimise the risk of weedy crop species invading the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or the dry heath vegetation
- Details of how the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry heath vegetation will be protected from the risk of native vegetation clearance through grazing

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Details of how the infrastructure, including any internal road network, stormwater system, building, dam and/or mine, will be located, constructed, and maintained in such a way as to:
 - Minimise the need for vegetation clearance, and
 - Ensure the Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry heath flora and fauna will be protected from indirect adverse impacts, eg obstruction of drainage lines by roads.

FIRE

- Describe procedures to mitigate against fire impacts on Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps and/or dry-heath habitat, including:
 - Details of fire risks associated with the proposed development.
 - Details of fire prevention strategies associated with the proposed development.
 - Details of any proposed (subject to relevant approvals) deliberate burning activities.

REFERRAL MAY BE REQUIRED

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

Referral/Approval to the Commonwealth Environment Minister – Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), assessment and approval is required for actions (eg projects, development or other activities) that are likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

When a person proposes to take an action that they believe may need approval under the EPBC Act, they must refer the proposal to the Commonwealth Environment Minister. The Act identifies seven matters of national environmental significance, including threatened species and ecological communities.

Contact the (Commonwealth) Department of Environment and Heritage for further information. Contact details are listed below.

Under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*:

Approval for clearance of native vegetation is limited in particular circumstances, including circumstances in which the clearance will facilitate the management of other native vegetation or will facilitate the efficient use of land for primary production.

Contact the Native Vegetation Council for further information. Contact details are listed below.

Sources for Further Information

Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren and Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Team

Anthony Abley
Normanville Natural Resources Centre
Shop 5
75 Main Road, Normanville SA 5204
Phone: 8558 2779
Email: anthony.abley@ccsa.asn.au

Tim Vale
Strathalbyn Natural Resources Centre
1 Coleman Terrace
Strathalbyn, SA 5255
Phone: 8536 4042
Email: tim.vale@ccsa.asn.au

Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth)

EPBC Unit (General)
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (0)2 6274 1111
Fax: (0)2 6274 1666

EPBC Community Information Unit
Phone: 1800 803 772
Email: ciu@deh.gov.au

www.deh.gov.au/epbc

Native Vegetation Council (State)

GPO Box 2834
Adelaide SA 5001
Phone: 8124 4700
Fax: 8124 4745

<http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/native/nvc>
