



# Dundonnell Wind Farm Brolga Compensation Plan

Year 5 wetland performance report  
December 2025

## Always was. Always will be.

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We acknowledge the stories, traditions, living cultures and connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the lands and waters across Australia.

We respect and honour Elders past, present and emerging.



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### Related documents

*Dundonnell Wind Farm, Brolga Compensation Plan, Planning Permit No. 2015/23858 (Condition 55b), August 2019. Endorsed 14/10/2019 (BCP)*

### Cover image

Foraging Brolga caught on wildlife camera at DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads 17/7/25.

## Executive Summary

This Year 5 Wetland Performance Report is a requirement of the endorsed Dundonnell Wind Farm Brolga Compensation Plan (BCP), under Condition 55b of Planning Permit No. 2015/23858. The report outlines the performance of each of four wetlands restored under the BCP including:

- Summary of results of the wetland monitoring (across all wetlands) (BCP Table 5 and 6).
- Evaluation of each wetland against the performance targets, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the wetland management measures (BCP Table 7).
- Recommendations on the implementation of contingencies.

The wetlands were monitored for hydrological conditions, ecological response, and Brolga visitation and behaviour. These results are compared to performance targets and results from previous years.

Adaptive management activities undertaken at the wetlands are reported and compared to requirements in Landowner Agreements. This includes fence maintenance, hydrology management, grazing for biomass control, pest control, and weed control.

Wetland performance and Brolga activities declined in 2025 due to the third year of below average rainfall across the region. This followed the initially encouraging results from earlier years with average rainfall. However, Brolgas still regularly visit the wetlands to forage.

Management of the wetlands continues with regular site visits, Brolga observation both directly and using automatic cameras, vegetation surveys, effective biomass reduction by grazing, and pest and weed control. Land management could be improved by reminding the Landowners of their obligations under the Landowner Agreements.

Recommended contingencies and actions include:

- Supply Brolga nesting materials to the wetlands.
- Improve the existing sandbag drain-blocks.
- Consider cooperative fox hunting events with neighbouring properties.
- Consider reporting high threat weed detection during site visits.
- Consider additional site visits outside of breeding season to monitor high threat weeds and general wetland condition.

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## 1.0 Introduction

The Dundonnell Wind Farm Brolga Compensation Plan (BCP) is intended to ensure “zero net impact” on Victorian Brolgas (*Antigone rubicunda*) by the operation of the Dundonnell Wind Farm. Four previously drained natural wetlands were restored with the aim to increase Brolga breeding opportunities in the region, known as:

- DUN-BCP-001 Caramut
- DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads
- DUN-BCP-003 Woorndoo
- DUN-BCP-004 Westmere

These wetlands will be monitored and managed as Brolga breeding habitat for the 25-year duration of the BCP. Monitoring includes: hydrological conditions, ecological responses, and Brolga visitation and behaviours. Management includes: fence maintenance, hydrology management, grazing for biomass control, pest control, and weed control. These results are compared to wetland performance targets defined in the BCP and to Landowner Agreement requirements.

Appendices 1-4 contain the results specific to the 4 wetlands. The following sections compare the results to BCP targets and Landowner Agreement requirements.

## 2.0 Wetland Monitoring and Performance

### 2.1 Wetland Monitoring

Wetlands were monitored during the Brolga breeding season. In a typical year this is between July and November. In extraordinarily wet years this period is extended to February. Wetlands were monitored for the presence and behaviour of Brolgas, inundation extent, and vegetation composition.

#### **Brolgas**

Per BCP Section 5.1 for Years 3-25 the wetlands were visited at least monthly. Before entering a wetland, it was scanned with binoculars for the presence of Brolgas. If present then the wetland was not entered. Between August and October 2025, fortnightly visits to wetlands were made, as Brolga were sighted. As no Brolga chicks were observed this season, no weekly visits were made. See Table 20 in Appendix 6 for 2025 wetland visitation dates.

Two automatic, night-capable wildlife cameras were installed at each wetland on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for Caramut due to lambing). These cameras were used to observe Brolgas, other native wildlife, pest animals, and to capture inundation events. See Figure 25 for examples.

#### **Inundation**

The extent of wetland inundation was monitored by a combination of several methods:

- Walking with a GPS system to map the extent during routine visits.
- Depth gauge posts in combination with LiDAR contour mapping.
- Datalogging devices installed in the wetland.

These allowed the creation of maps of wetland inundation extent and estimation of inundation area as a percentage of each wetland basin. See Figure 24 for an example.

#### **Vegetation**

The vegetation composition at each wetland was estimated during November, this is done annually in spring. Each wetland has four, 120m long transects pre-defined and marked with a combination of stakes and GPS locations. See Figure 24 for an example. A tape measure was stretched along each transect. At intervals of 50cm observations were made of what the tape measure was touching.

These observations were compiled and analysed to create percentage of ground coverage based on:

- Native grasses
- Native sedges and rushes
- Native herbs

- Exotic plants
- Water
- Dead matter
- Animal scat
- Bare ground

## 2.2 Analysis

Observations from the wetland monitoring were analysed by comparison with previous years assessment against performance targets of the BCP and using the Decision Support Tool<sup>1</sup> (DST).

Note that the DST requires inundation data for the last 10 years. These wetlands had their artificial drainage channels blocked only 5 years ago. Inundation data for the last 5 years was extrapolated to 10 years for the purposes of the DST.

Results of this analysis are summarised in the next section in Table 1 and presented in detail in Appendices 1-4.

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<sup>1</sup> Roberts, J., Casanova, M.T., Morris, K. and Papas, P. (2017). Feasibility of wetland recovery: Decision Support Tool, version 1.0. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No. 283, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Heidelberg, Victoria.

## 2.3 Wetland Performance Against Targets

Table 1 performance against key indicators and performance targets per Table 7: Wetland Performance Targets of BCP

Measure	Performance target (Year 5)	Wetland ID	Performance target met	Observation summary	Contingency recommendation	Refer Appendix #	
<b>Wetland restoration and management</b>							
Water extent, depth and duration.	Inundation of minimum of 30 cm of 75% or more of wetland basin (every second year)	DUN-BCP-001	No	No inundation for the past 2 years	None, rainfall dependant	1	
		DUN-BCP-002	No	Low inundation in Year3, no inundation for the past 2 years		2	
		DUN-BCP-003	No	Low inundation in Year3, no inundation in the past 2 years		3	
		DUN-BCP-004	No	Low inundation levels since Year3		4	
Vegetation	80% or greater aquatic vegetation cover of 60% of the wetland	DUN-BCP-001	No	Weed grass species favoured by lack of inundation.	Stock grazing post breeding season. Autumn application of herbicide. See Figure 3.	1	
		DUN-BCP-002	Yes	Strong native vegetation performance		2	
		DUN-BCP-003	Yes	Strong native vegetation performance		None required	3
		DUN-BCP-004	Yes	Strong native vegetation performance		4	
Vegetation	DST assessment shows improvement in habitat objectives	DUN-BCP-001	No	Inundation rate compared to the DST target rate is a MAJOR change	None, rainfall dependant	1	
		DUN-BCP-002	No	Inundation rate compared to the DST target rate is a MAJOR change		2	
		DUN-BCP-003	No	Inundation rate compared to the DST target rate is a MAJOR change		3	
		DUN-BCP-004	No	Insufficient vegetation indicator species detected		None, wetland is being restored as Brolga habitat	4

Measure	Performance target (Year 5)	Wetland ID	Performance target met	Observation summary	Contingency recommendation	Refer Appendix #
<b>Brolga utilisation and breeding activities</b>						
Brolga use of wetland	Brolga present and engaging in courting / pairing behaviour (most years in suitable conditions)	DUN-BCP-001	No	Brolga pair(s) observed in the wetland but no courting	None required	1
		DUN-BCP-002	No	16 separate Brolga pair sightings but no courting		2
		DUN-BCP-003	No	Brolga pair(s) observed in the wetland but no courting		3
		DUN-BCP-004	Yes	6 separate Brolga pair sightings, 1 courting behaviour event observed		4
Nesting behaviour	Brolga pair building nest and laying eggs (every second year)	DUN-BCP-001	No	None observed	Supply nesting materials	1
		DUN-BCP-002	No	None observed		2
		DUN-BCP-003	No	None observed		3
		DUN-BCP-004	No	None observed		4
Fledged young	One chick fledged every second year	DUN-BCP-001	No	None observed	Supply nesting materials	1
		DUN-BCP-002	No	None observed		2
		DUN-BCP-003	No	None observed		3
		DUN-BCP-004	No	None observed		4

## 2.4 Contingency Recommendations

A number of wetland performance targets were not met in Table 1. This was primarily due to the unusually dry conditions in recent years. These conditions led to the wetlands not meeting BCP or DST inundation targets. The lack of inundation is presumed to impact the likelihood of Brolgas nesting and raising young in the wetlands. However, Brolgas were certainly observed foraging in the wetlands on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, there are no realistic hydrology contingencies that could be implemented to improve this situation, other than hoping for more rain, the two main reasons for this are:

- The wetlands all rely on local runoff to fill. There is no additional water available to be diverted into the wetlands.
- Water that does enter the wetlands has been either evaporating or soaking into the soil. It has not been overflowing the drainage channel blocks. Relocating these blocks to form a smaller but more reliable inundation profile is not likely to work when the basin topologies are considered. That is, the blocks are not located in the lowest part of the natural wetland basin.

DUN-BCP-004 Westmere was the only wetland that achieved any significant level of inundation, although it still did not meet the DCP and DST targets. This wetland did show good Brolga presence during this inundated period.

Vegetation performance has also been impacted by recent dry conditions. The earlier, wetter years of the project saw significant positive changes to the vegetation composition. Exotic coverage decreased, native coverage increased, bare ground decreased, and native vegetation started changing from grasses to sedges and rushes. The more recent, dryer years have seen a reversal of these trends with the largest impact being seen at DUN-BCP-001 Caramut.

**The recent decrease in sedge and rush coverage along with an ongoing Brolga presence in the wetlands (but no nesting) suggests that a reasonable contingency is to supply suitable nesting materials. When inundation conditions improve, nesting materials will already be present for Brolgas to use. The BCP suggests inexpensive straw. Care must be taken to not introduce exotic seeds into the wetland.**

## 3.0 Wetland Management

### 3.1 Wetland Management Actions

All wetlands were adaptively managed across the reporting period. Regular visits to wetlands ensured that maintenance and management obligations were being met. Wetlands were managed by the landowner in accordance with individual Landowner Agreements. These were designed to ensure each wetland meets the performance targets outlined in *Table 7: Wetland Performance Targets* of the BCP.

The management actions are categorised under:

- **Fencing and grazing** - to protect the wetland and reduce weed biomass
- **Weed Control** - to control high threat weeds
- **Fox control** – to reduce Brolga egg and chick predation
- **Hydrology** - to maintain suitable wetland inundation

Table 2 summarises the management actions carried out at each wetland, these correspond with the Year 3-25 requirements of the Landowner Agreements. Note that in Year5 under Hydrology, the temporary drain-blocks were to be replaced with permanent structures.

Table 2 - Wetland Management Actions

Management action description	Timing	Wetland ID	Management action carried out	Dates and timing	
<b>Fencing and grazing</b>					
Fence maintained to allow stock exclusion	Ongoing	DUN-BCP-001	Routine maintenance	Ongoing	
		DUN-BCP-002	Routine maintenance	Ongoing	
		DUN-BCP-003	Routine maintenance	Ongoing	
		DUN-BCP-004	Routine maintenance	Ongoing	
Strategic grazing for biomass weed control during late summer to late autumn	Outside of breeding season (July-November)	DUN-BCP-001	Stock in	14/12/24	
			Stock out	25/2/25	
			Stock in	23/5/25	
			Stock out	11/7/25	
		DUN-BCP-002	Stock in	8/7/25	
			Stock out	10/7/25	
			Stock in	22/9/25	
			Stock out	25/9/25	
		DUN-BCP-003	Stock in	1/2/25	
			Stock out	15/2/25	
		DUN-BCP-004	Stock had access to the wetland throughout 2025. Reason unknown.		All of 2025
		<b>Weed control</b>			
Control high threat weeds by spot spraying	4 treatments per year	DUN-BCP-001	Landowner has been made aware of high Phalaris coverage. This will be grazed now and sprayed in autumn.	Dec 2025 grazing	
		Phalaris Yorkshire Fog		Autumn 2026 spray	
		DUN-BCP-002	Boom spraying of Wild Oats and Yorkshire Fog Grass on the basin perimeter.	10/10/25	
		Phalaris Scotch Thistle			
DUN-BCP-003	None undertaken	None			
DUN-BCP-004	None undertaken	None			
		Phalaris Scotch Thistle African Thistle			

Management action description	Timing	Wetland ID	Management action carried out	Dates and timing
<b>Fox control</b>				
Reactive to fox sightings – 8-week integrated program in consultation with Agriculture Victoria	Only if required	DUN-BCP-001	Shooting	1/5/25 9/8/25 25/8/25 27/11/25
		DUN-BCP-002	Shooting	Fortnightly May through July
		DUN-BCP-003	Shooting	Fortnightly May through July
		DUN-BCP-004	Shooting	16/6/25 8/9/25
<b>Hydrology</b>				
Install appropriately designed permanent structure. See Appendix 5 for pictures of the drain-block installations at all sites.	Year 5	DUN-BCP-001	None, original sandbags in place	n/a
		DUN-BCP-002	None, original sandbags in place	n/a
		DUN-BCP-003	None, original sandbags in place	n/a
		DUN-BCP-004	None, original sandbags in place and degrading	n/a
Regular inspections	Ongoing	DUN-BCP-001	Odonata visits sites at least monthly according to Table 5 of Dundonnell	Refer to Appendix 6
		DUN-BCP-002		
		DUN-BCP-003	Wind Farm Brolga Compensation Plan, August 2019	
		DUN-BCP-004		

### 3.2 Wetland Management Performance Against Targets

Table 3 summarises wetland management against performance targets. These are discussed in more detail below.

#### Fencing and Grazing

All sites met the target of maintaining suitable stock exclusion fencing around the wetland basin.

All sites use controlled stock grazing to manage biomass. Grazing is not permitted during Brolga breeding season. Typically, this is July through November. In extraordinarily wet years this can extend through until February as Brolgas may make two breeding attempts under such conditions. Grazing is also not permitted when the wetland is inundated or even waterlogged. This is to prevent stock from pugging the wetland. Pugging damages plant roots, soil structure, and can encourage weed growth.

Effectively managing biomass during spring growth is challenging as stock are excluded to avoid disturbing Brolgas during spring. Compliance with grazing restrictions is summarised below:

- DUN-BCP-001 Caramut followed the grazing timing restrictions.
- DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads did not follow the grazing timing restrictions, allowing sheep access to the wetland 22/9/25 – 25/9/25. The reason is unknown.
- DUN-BCP-003 Woorndoo followed the grazing timing restrictions.
- DUN-BCP-004 Westmere did not follow the grazing timing restrictions, allowing sheep access to the wetland throughout 2025. The reason is unknown.

#### Weed Control

All sites except DUN-BCP-001 Caramut met the weed coverage requirement to not exceed Year0 coverage.

At DUN-BCP-001 Caramut Phalaris and Rye dominate on Transects 1 and 4. These are the southernmost and northernmost transects respectively. Extended lack of inundation has allowed these species to flourish. Future inundations are expected to drown them. They should be sprayed, grazed or slashed at the end of the Brolga breeding season to reduce biomass.

The 2025 Spring rains occurred late in the season; this may have stimulated grass species growth while at the same time stock are excluded from the wetland producing a higher than expected weed grass coverage.

While compiling this report the Landowners of DUN-BCP-001 Caramut were advised of these findings and plan to graze the Phalaris dominated areas at the end of Brolga breeding season (December 2025) and spray the Phalaris in autumn 2026, see Figure 3.

All sites are required to undertake spot spraying of specific high threat weeds 4 times per year. Specimens of these high threat weeds could be found at all the sites meaning that this requirement is still active:

- DUN-BCP-001 Caramut did not report spot spraying or surveying for high threat weeds.
- DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads did not report spot spraying or surveying for high threat weeds.
- DUN-BCP-003 Woorndoo did not report spot spraying or surveying for high threat weeds.
- DUN-BCP-004 Westmere did not report spot spraying or surveying for high threat weeds.

#### Fox Control

Fox control by shooting took place at all sites in response to detection of foxes on the wildlife cameras. During Brolga breeding season shooting did not occur in the wetland basins.

#### Hydrology

Dry conditions meant that no site met the inundation requirements of 30-50cm for at least 150 days.

No sites have installed the Year5 drain-block structures as required by the Landowner Agreement. Specifically:

*“The sandbag block is to be used for 5 years after which an appropriately designed structure will be installed. A non-invasive approach will firstly be considered; this approach includes the use of clay-based material with a capping of 150mm (diameter) aggregate to provide UV protection and maintain the sandbags integrity overtime. The use of vegetation growth over these structures will combine to further strengthen durability. These designs will be provided to DELWP for approval prior to installation and all permits obtained before construction begins”*

Inspection of the current sandbag structures revealed that, with one exception, they have settled into location well and are proving durable and functional, see Appendix 5 for photographs. The sandbags are filled with clay material and the bags themselves are made from UV Stable GeoTech material. Three have been covered in soil and vegetation cover further strengthens the structure. These sandbag structures could potentially continue to function as permanent structure following inspection by a suitably qualified person.

The exception is at DUN-BCP-004 Westmere, see Figure 30. Here the sandbags are exposed and have degraded. At least two sandbags have been displaced from the drain-block. This drain-block requires repair/rebuilding.

Table 3 Management actions against performance targets

Performance target	Wetland ID	Performance against target	Notes
<b>Fencing and grazing</b>			
Fence maintained to allow stock exclusion	DUN-BCP-001	Met	Fences are in good condition and can effectively exclude stock.
	DUN-BCP-002	Met	
	DUN-BCP-003	Met	
	DUN-BCP-004	Met	
Reduction of biomass.  Biomass is managed to a level that encourages suitable vegetation.	DUN-BCP-001	Met	Strategic grazing has reduced biomass and prevented stands of rank vegetation. Coverage of native vegetation is improving including native forbs within inter-tussock spaces.
	DUN-BCP-002	Met	
	DUN-BCP-003	Met	
	DUN-BCP-004	Met	
<b>Weed control</b>			
Weed cover does not increase beyond base level in Year 0 and shows a trend to lessening.	DUN-BCP-001	Not met	41% in Year0, decreased to 7% in Year2-3, now at 60%. See Appendix 1.
	DUN-BCP-002	Met	42% in Year0, decreased to 0% in Year2, now at 17%. See Appendix 2.
	DUN-BCP-003	Met	0% in Year0, now at 5%. This is negligible in the dry conditions. See Appendix 3.
	DUN-BCP-004	Met	6% in Year0, decreased to 0% in Year2-4, now at 6%. See Appendix 4.
High threat weeds do not spread.	DUN-BCP-001	Not met	Phalaris is now dominant in Transects 1 & 4. Some Thistle spp.
	DUN-BCP-002	Met	Some Phalaris. Some Thistle spp.
	DUN-BCP-003	Met	Some Phalaris. Some Thistle spp.
	DUN-BCP-004	Met	Some Phalaris. Some Thistle spp.
<b>Fox control</b>			
Fox predation threat is minimised.	DUN-BCP-001	Met	Fox shooting took place at all sites. No evidence of Brolga egg or chick predation as no nesting events occurred.
	DUN-BCP-002	Met	
	DUN-BCP-003	Met	
	DUN-BCP-004	Met	

<b>Performance target</b>	<b>Wetland ID</b>	<b>Performance against target</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Hydrology</b> (see also Table 1)			
Install appropriately designed drain-block structure	DUN-BCP-001	Not met	Original sandbags still in place
	DUN-BCP-002	Not met	Original sandbags still in place
	DUN-BCP-003	Not met	Original sandbags still in place
	DUN-BCP-004	Not met	Original sandbags still in place and degrading
Inundation depth between 30cm and 50cm for at least 150 days in reporting period.	DUN-BCP-001	Not met	Refer to Table 4 in Appendix 1
	DUN-BCP-002	Not met	Refer to Table 8 in Appendix 2
	DUN-BCP-003	Not met	Refer to Table 12 in Appendix 3
	DUN-BCP-004	Not met	Refer to Table 16 in Appendix 4

### 3.3 Wetland Management Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to improve wetland performance and ensure compliance with Landowner Agreements:

- DUN-BCP-004 Westmere repair or replace the degraded drain-block.
- DUN-BCP-001 Caramut control Phalaris. The landowner plans to crash graze at the end of breeding season and spray in autumn.
- DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads and DUN-BCP-004 Westmere comply with stock exclusion during breeding season and during waterlogged/inundated events.
- All sites comply with the Year5 requirement of the Landowner Agreements to improve the drain-blocks.
- All Sites comply with the Landowner Agreement requirement for spot spraying treatments of high priority weeds 4 times per year. Or, inspect and report that such treatments are not required.
- All sites consider cooperative fox hunting events with neighbouring properties.
- Consider reporting high threat weed detection during site visits. Consider additional site visits outside of breeding season to monitor high threat weeds and general wetland condition.
- Simplify Landowner Agreement management actions into single page for Landowners.

### 4.0 Conclusion

At the end of Year5 the Dondonnell Brolga Compensation Plan is working as well as could reasonably be expected. The below average rainfall of the last three years has significantly impacted performance of the wetlands. Inundation targets have not been met, vegetation quality has declined, and Brolgas have not nested or hatched chicks. In Year2 (2022) Brolgas constructed nests in three of the wetlands and laid eggs in at least two.

Brolgas continue to visit the wetlands regularly to forage. In 2025 they tended to remain at wetlands when there was residual water in the artificial drainage channels. Supplying nesting material may improve the likelihood of nest construction when inundation occurs. Additional wildlife cameras may improve Brolga presence and behaviour monitoring. Visits to the wetlands outside of breeding season may help to identify additional Brolga activity and improve detection of high priority weeds.

Fox management remains a difficult and contentious issue. Foxes exist throughout the landscape and cannot be excluded from the wetlands. Landowners generally do not use baiting, preferring to shoot foxes. Coordinated and ongoing hunting parties with neighbours and across neighbouring properties may reduce fox pressure on the wetlands.

Land management could be improved by reminding the Landowners of their obligations under the Landowner Agreements. Specifically: the Year5 requirement to upgrade the drain-blocks, dates and conditions when stock is not permitted inside the wetland basin, and spot spraying of high priority weeds four times per year.

## Appendix 1 DUN-BCP-001 Caramut

Wetland Area (Fenced):	33ha
Wetland Vegetation Type:	Temporary freshwater marshes and meadow
Wetland Currently supports:	EVC 125 Plains Grassy Wetland (VVP)
Reporting Period:	January 2025 through November 2025

### Inundation Conditions

Table 4 summarises inundation conditions for the wetland since the BCP started. Average annual rainfall is 662mm at BoM station 090062 Penhurst(The Gums) 15km distant<sup>2</sup>. Figure 4 and Figure 5 show inundation extent conditions for 2025. The wetland was not inundated in 2025.

Lower than average rainfall made 2025 the third consecutive year where the wetland did not meet the wetland performance target of 30cm inundation over 75% of the wetland basin. This has had a significant impact on the composition of vegetation observed at the site, the DST outcome, and likelihood of Broilgas visiting the site. See the sections below.

Plan Year	Inundated	Comments	Annual Rainfall (mm)
0 (2020)	NA		820
1 (2021)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	696
2 (2022)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	793
3 (2023)	No	Maximum inundation to >30cm was <2%	690
4 (2024)	No	No significant inundation	571
5 (2025)	No	Surface water only seen in the drainage channel. See Figure 4.	404(Oct)

Table 4 Caramut inundation summary.

### Vegetation Recovery and Assessment

Table 5 and Figure 1 show the results of this year's transect vegetation survey along with previous years' results. It has been positive to see that since the start of the BCP, the coverage of bare ground and dead matter has decreased to negligible amounts.

However, the recent lack of inundation has resulted in a decline in vegetation performance from previously encouraging results:

- Exotic coverage generally decreased from Year 0 to Year 3. However, in the last 2 years exotic coverage has increase to 60% exceeding the Year 0 value of 41%. This is mostly due large stands of Phalaris – *Phalaris aquatica* and Rye Grass – *Lolium sp.*
- Sedge and Rush coverage increased from 2% in Year 0 to as high as 65% in Year 3. It has decreased in the last 2 years to a value of 5%.
- Wetland appropriate native vegetation started at 3% in Year 0, peaked at 75% in Year 4 and is now at 37%.

It is expected that future inundations will drown the exotic vegetation that has produced these disappointing results<sup>3</sup>.

The DST worksheet results are summarised in Table 6. Obtaining “No” answers for Q1 and Q3 shows a deterioration in meeting habitat objectives. This result was primarily due to the lack of recent inundation

<sup>2</sup> <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

<sup>3</sup> Herring, Matthew (2005), *Threatened Species and Farming Broilga: Management of Breeding Wetlands in Northern Victoria*, Arthur Rylah Institute, Heidelberg.

and a lack of detection of indicator vegetation species. Overall, the wetland has not met its vegetation performance targets.

However, it was encouraging to see significant growth of native herb species in typically inundated areas and often NOT on the survey transects. In particular (also see Figure 7):

- Blue Devils - *Eryngium vesiculosum*
- Australian Buttercup - *Ranunculus lappaceus*
- Poison Lobelia - *Lobelia pratioides*
- Prickly Starwort - *Stellaria pungens*

Plan Year	Date	Coverage Type (%)							
		Bare Ground	Grasses	Sedges/Rushes	Forbs	Water	Exotic	Droppings	Dead Matter
0	10/12/2020	24	1	2	0	0	41	1	28
1	7/12/2021	4	2	12	24	1	58	0	0
2	28/02/2023	6	2	62	18	0	7	0	4
3	7/12/2024	2	3	65	0	0	7	22	0
4	27/11/2024	0	16	13	47	0	33	1	5
5	11/11/2025	1	1	5	31	0	60	1	1

Table 5 Caramut vegetation surveys summary.

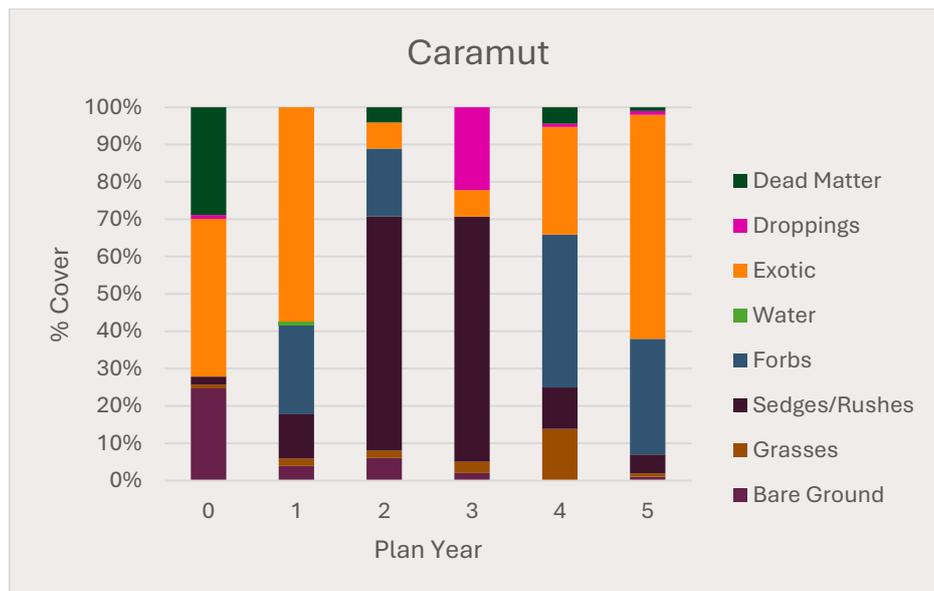


Figure 1 Caramut coverage % by type.

	DST Question	Answer	
<b>Q1</b>	Do the EVC tolerances match site hydrology and water quality?	No	Low inundation rates in the last 5 years led to "No" answers
<b>Q2</b>	Is the target EVC appropriate for that part of Victoria?	Yes	
<b>Q3</b>	Is natural regeneration feasible in the target area?	No	Low detection of indicator species in good condition led to "No" answer. Area surveys may yield higher results than linear surveys.
<b>Q4</b>	Is assisted regeneration feasible for the target area?	Unknown	Availability of suitable seed or tube stock is unknown
<b>Q5</b>	Is the target area free of establishment constraints?	Maybe	
<b>Q6</b>	Can the target area be made free of establishment constraints?	Yes	
<b>Q7</b>	Is it possible to negate establishment constraints?	Yes	

*Table 6 Caramut summary of DST questions.*

### Brolga and Wildlife Monitoring

Table 7 shows all brolgas sightings from the reporting period. See Figure 4 and Figure 6.

Date	Total	Age	Breeding	Comments
<b>1/08/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	Seen by landholder in area
<b>30/08/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>4/10/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera

*Table 7 Caramut Brolga sighting summary.*

### Pest Animal Monitoring and Control

Foxes were detected by the installed wildlife cameras according to the following:

- July 10 sightings
- August 22 sightings
- September 10 sightings
- October 11 sightings
- November 26 sightings

The Landholder reported fox control activities in and around the wetland according to the following:

- 1/5/25 hunters destroyed 12 foxes
- 9/8/25 hunters destroyed 4 foxes
- 25/8/25 hunters destroyed 4 foxes
- 27/11/25 hunters destroyed 3 foxes

## Reported Land Management Activities

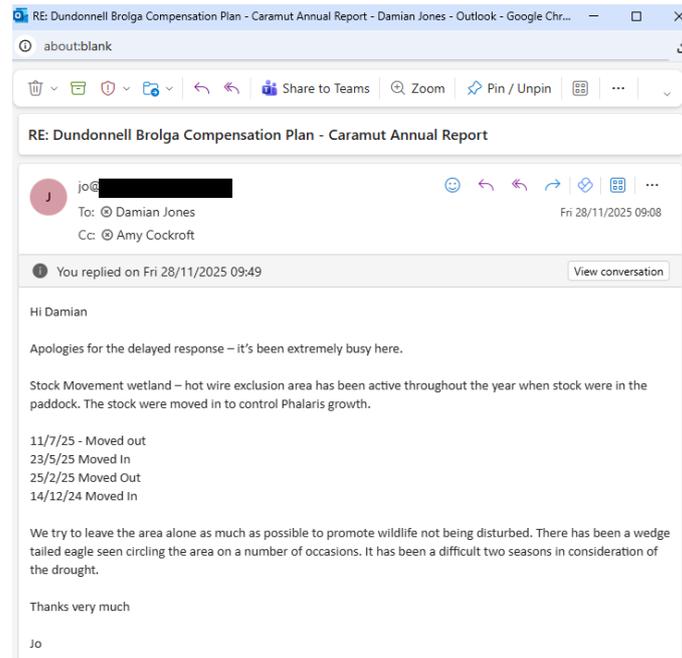


Figure 2 Caramut stock movements reported by email 28/11/25.

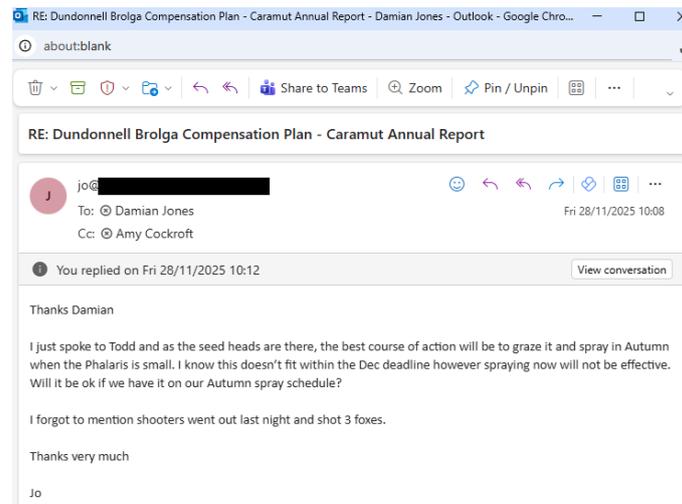


Figure 3 Caramut Landowner plans to deal with Phalaris using stock grazing now and spraying in Autumn. Received by email 28/11/25.

Figures



Figure 4 Caramut at maximum inundation.



Figure 5 Caramut inundation extent



*Figure 6 Caramut Brolga sighting 4/10/25.*



Figure 7 Caramut native herbs (L-R T-B) Blue Devils, Australian Buttercup, Poison Lobelia, Prickly Starwort.

## Appendix 2 DUN-BCP-002 Cross Roads

Wetland Area (Fenced):	7.8ha
Wetland Vegetation Type:	Temporary freshwater marshes and meadow
Wetland Currently supports:	EVC 647 Sedgy Wetland (VVP) mapped in NatureKit EVC 125 Plains Grassy Wetland (VVP) on ground assessment
Reporting Period:	January 2025 through November 2025

### Inundation Conditions

Table 8 summarises inundation conditions for the wetland since the BCP started. Average annual rainfall is 594mm at BoM station 089082 Beaufort (Sheepwash) 7km distant<sup>4</sup>. Figure 10 and Figure 11 show inundation extent conditions for 2025. The wetland only filled within the drainage channel covering an area of about 0.2ha or 3% of the wetland to a maximum depth of <20cm. Despite this low area of inundation, the water remained in place for several months appearing to attract Brolgas and allowing frogs to breed, see Figure 12 and Figure 13.

Lower than average rainfall made 2025 the second consecutive year where the wetland did not meet the wetland performance target of 30cm inundation over 75% of the wetland basin. This has begun to impact on the composition of vegetation observed at the site, the DST outcome, and likelihood of Brolgas visiting and nesting at the site. See the sections below.

Plan Year	Inundated	Comments	Annual Rainfall (mm)
<b>0 (2020)</b>	NA		670
<b>1 (2021)</b>	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	691
<b>2 (2022)</b>	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	765
<b>3 (2023)<sup>5</sup></b>	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	557
<b>4 (2024)</b>	No	No significant inundation	452
<b>5 (2025)</b>	No	Surface water only seen in the drainage channel.	347(Oct)

Table 8 Cross Roads inundation summary.

### Vegetation Recovery and Assessment

Table 9 and Figure 8 show the results of this year's transect vegetation survey along with previous years' results. It has been positive to see that since the start of the BCP, the coverage of bare ground and dead matter has decreased to negligible amounts.

Despite the recent lack of inundation vegetation performance has remained strong:

- Exotic coverage had decreased from 42% in Year 0 to negligible amounts by Year 3. However, in the last 2 years exotic coverage has increased again to 17%. This is mostly due large stands of exotic grass species.
- Sedge and Rush coverage has increased steadily from 0% in Year 0 to as high as 93% in Year 3. It has decreased in the last 2 years to a value of 72%.
- Wetland appropriate native vegetation started at 19% in Year 0, peaked at 96% in Year 3 and is now at 77%.

<sup>4</sup> <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

<sup>5</sup> Data for 2023-25 from BoM station 089109 Buangor (Craigie)

It is expected that future inundations will drown the exotic grasses allowing rushes and sedges to reestablish to previously higher levels. Overall, the wetland has met the native vegetation performance target.

The DST worksheet results are summarised in Table 10. Obtaining “No” answers for Q1 and Q3 shows a deterioration in meeting habitat objectives. This result was primarily due to the lack of recent inundation and a lack of detection of indicator vegetation species. Overall, the wetland did not meet the DST performance target.

However, it was still encouraging to see good quantities of native herb species, typically in previously inundated areas and often NOT on the survey transects. In particular (also see Figure 14):

- Common Woodruff - *Asperula conferta*
- River Buttercup - *Ranunculus inundatus*
- Common Cudweed - *Euchiton involucratus*
- Poison Lobelia - *Lobelia pratioides*

Plan Year	Date	Coverage Type (%)							
		Bare Ground	Grasses	Sedges/Rushes	Forbs	Water	Exotic	Droppings	Dead Matter
0	30/11/2020	36	19	0	0	0	42	3	0
1	15/02/2021	12	56	30	0	0	3	1	0
2	20/03/2023	5	18	73	0	0	0	0	3
3	6/12/2024	0	3	93	0	0	3	0	2
4	28/11/2024	2	4	88	1	0	4	0	1
5	10/11/2025	0	1	72	4	1	17	0	5

Table 9 Cross Roads vegetation surveys summary.

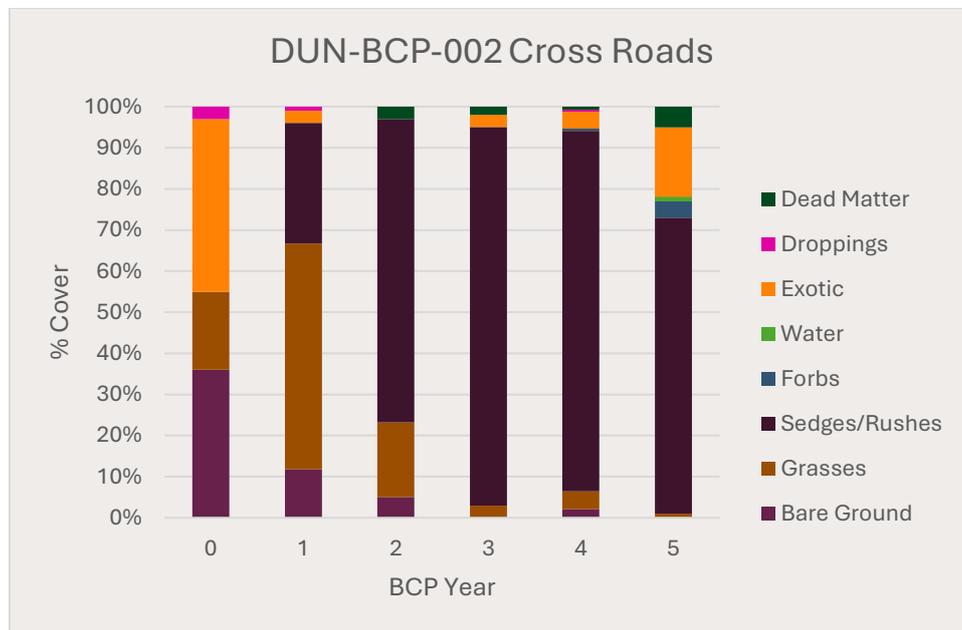


Figure 8 Cross Roads coverage % by type.

DST Question	Answer	
<b>Q1</b> Do the EVC tolerances match site hydrology and water quality?	No	Low inundation rates in the last 5 years led to "No" answer
<b>Q2</b> Is the target EVC appropriate for that part of Victoria?	Yes	
<b>Q3</b> Is natural regeneration feasible in the target area?	No	Low detection of indicator species in good condition led to "No" answer. Area surveys may yield higher results than linear surveys.
<b>Q4</b> Is assisted regeneration feasible for the target area?	Unknown	Availability of suitable seed or tube stock is unknown
<b>Q5</b> Is the target area free of establishment constraints?	Maybe	
<b>Q6</b> Can the target area be made free of establishment constraints?	Yes	
<b>Q7</b> Is it possible to negate establishment constraints?	Yes	

*Table 10 Cross Roads summary of DST questions.*

### Brolga and Wildlife Monitoring

Table 11 shows all brolgas sightings from the reporting period. See Figure 12 for examples of Brolga images from wildlife cameras.

Date	Total	Age	Breeding	Comments
<b>17/07/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>2/08/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>1/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>2/09/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>9/09/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>9/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>12/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>15/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	Reported by landholder 2km SW of wetland.
<b>21/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>22/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>28/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>29/09/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>13/10/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>21/10/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>10/11/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	Observed by Odonata on roadside 5km away
<b>13/11/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>14/11/2025</b>	1	Adult	No	On camera
<b>19/11/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>27/11/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera
<b>4/12/2025</b>	2	Adult	No	On camera

*Table 11 Crossroads Brolga sighting summary.*

### Pest Animal Monitoring and Control

Foxes were detected by the installed wildlife cameras according to the following:

- July 7 sightings
- August 3 sightings
- September 10 sightings
- October 4 sightings
- November 2 sightings

The Landholder reported fox control activities in and around the wetland according to the following:

- May, June and July every second weekend. Approximately 4 foxes shot.

## Reported Land Management Activities

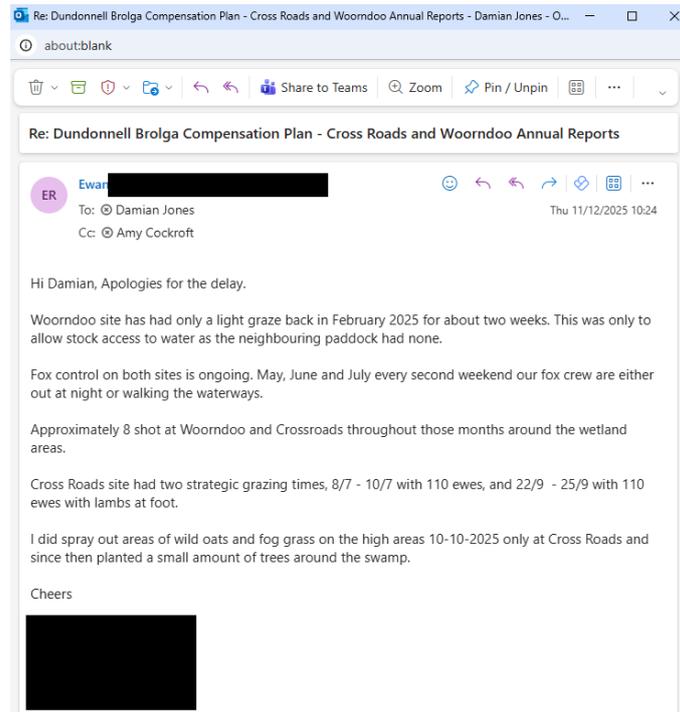


Figure 9 Cross Roads land management reported by email 11/12/25.

## Figures



Figure 10 Cross Roads at maximum inundation.



Figure 11 Cross Roads inundation extent



Figure 12 Cross Roads Broлга sightings (L-R T-B) 17/7/25, 12/9/25, 22/9/25, 13/10/25.



*Figure 13 Cross Roads frog eggs.*





Figure 14 Cross Roads native herbs (L-R T-B) Common Woodruff, River Buttercup, Common Cudweed, Poison Lobelia.



Figure 15 Cross Roads impact of boom spraying of wild oats on the wetland boundary.

### Appendix 3 DUN-BCP-003 Woorndoo (Warralinga)

Wetland Area (Fenced):	18ha
Wetland Vegetation Type:	Temporary freshwater lakes
Wetland Currently supports:	EVC 691 Aquatic Herland/Plains Sedgy Wetland Mosaic (VVP)
Reporting Period:	January 2025 through November 2025

#### Inundation Conditions

Table 12 summarises inundation conditions for the wetland since the BCP started. Average annual rainfall is 563mm at BoM station 089016 Lake Bolac 14km<sup>6</sup>. Figure 18 shows inundation extent conditions for 2025. The wetland only filled within the drainage channel covering an area of about 50m<sup>2</sup> or <0.1% of the wetland to a maximum depth of <10cm.

Lower than average rainfall made 2025 the third consecutive year where the wetland did not meet the wetland performance target of 30cm inundation over 75% of the wetland basin. This has begun to impact the composition of vegetation observed at the site, the DST outcome, and likelihood of Broilgas visiting the site. See the sections below.

Plan Year	Inundated	Comments	Annual Rainfall (mm)
0 (2020)	NA		614
1 (2021)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	NA
2 (2022)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	719
3 (2023)	No	Maximum inundation to >30cm was 37%	460
4 (2024)	No	No significant inundation	367
5 (2025)	No	Surface water only seen in the drainage channel. See Figure 4.	288(Oct)

Table 12 Woorndoo inundation summary.

#### Vegetation Recovery and Assessment

Table 13 and Figure 16 show the results of this year's transect vegetation survey along with previous years' results. It has been positive to see that since the start of the BCP, the coverage of bare ground and dead matter has remained at low levels.

Despite the recent lack of inundation vegetation performance has remained strong:

- Exotic coverage started low at 0% in Year 0. Exotic coverage remained negligible until Year 5 when it became 5%.
- Sedge and Rush coverage has increased from 8% in Year 0 to 42% in Year5.
- Wetland appropriate native vegetation started at 83% in Year0. It has remained high and is now at 91% in Year5.

Overall, the wetland has met the native vegetation performance target.

The DST worksheet results are summarised in Table 14. Obtaining "No" answers for Q1 and Q3 shows a deterioration in meeting habitat objectives. This result was primarily due to the lack of recent inundation and a lack of detection of indicator vegetation species. Overall, the wetland did not meet the DST performance target.

<sup>6</sup> <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

However, it was still encouraging to see good quantities of native herb species, typically in previously inundated areas and often NOT on the survey transects. In particular (also see Figure 20):

- Wiry Buttons - *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*
- Water Buttons - *Cotula coronopifolia*
- Jersey Cudweed - *Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*
- Poison Lobelia - *Lobelia pratioides*

Plan Year	Date	Coverage Type (%)							
		Bare Ground	Grasses	Sedges/Rushes	Forbs	Water	Exotic	Droppings	Dead Matter
0	18/11/2020	4	65	8	10	0	0	0	0
1	22/12/2021	0	42	37	14	7	0	0	0
2	7/03/2023	20	73	6	1	0	0	0	0
3	7/12/2024	1	48	43	8	1	0	0	0
4	5/12/2024	1	37	30	6	0	3	0	23
5	11/11/2025	0	22	42	27	0	5	0	3

Table 13 Woorndoo vegetation surveys summary.

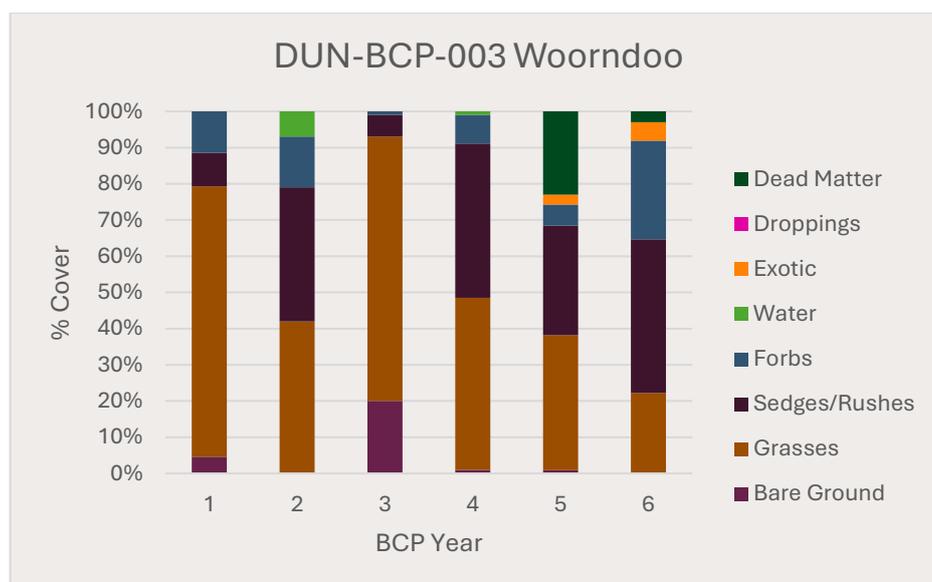


Figure 16 Woorndoo coverage % by type.

DST Question	Answer	
Q1 Do the EVC tolerances match site hydrology and water quality?	No	Low inundation rates in the last 5 years led to "No" answers
Q2 Is the target EVC appropriate for that part of Victoria?	Yes	
Q3 Is natural regeneration feasible in the target area?	No	Low detection of indicator species in good condition led to "No" answer. Area surveys may yield higher results than linear surveys.
Q4 Is assisted regeneration feasible for the target area?	Unknown	Availability of suitable seed or tube stock is unknown
Q5 Is the target area free of establishment constraints?	Maybe	
Q6 Can the target area be made free of establishment constraints?	Yes	
Q7 Is it possible to negate establishment constraints?	Yes	

Table 14 Woorndoo summary of DST questions.

## Brolga and Wildlife Monitoring

Table 15 shows all brolgas sightings from the reporting period. See Figure 12 for examples of Brolga images from wildlife cameras.

Date	Total	Age	Breeding	Comments
15/07/2025	2	Adult	No	Observed in area, not at wetland
30/08/2025	2	Adult	No	Observed foraging by Odonata staff
5/09/2025	2	Adult	No	Captured on remote camera
11/11/2025	2	Adult	No	Observed overhead during veg survey

Table 15 Woorndoo Brolga sighting summary.

## Pest Animal Monitoring and Control

Foxes were detected by the installed wildlife cameras according to the following:

- June 2 sightings
- July 17 sightings
- August 11 sightings
- September 11 sightings
- October 6 sightings
- November 7 sightings

The Landholder reported fox control activities in and around the wetland according to the following:

- May, June and July every second weekend. Approximately 4 foxes shot.

## Reported Land Management Activities

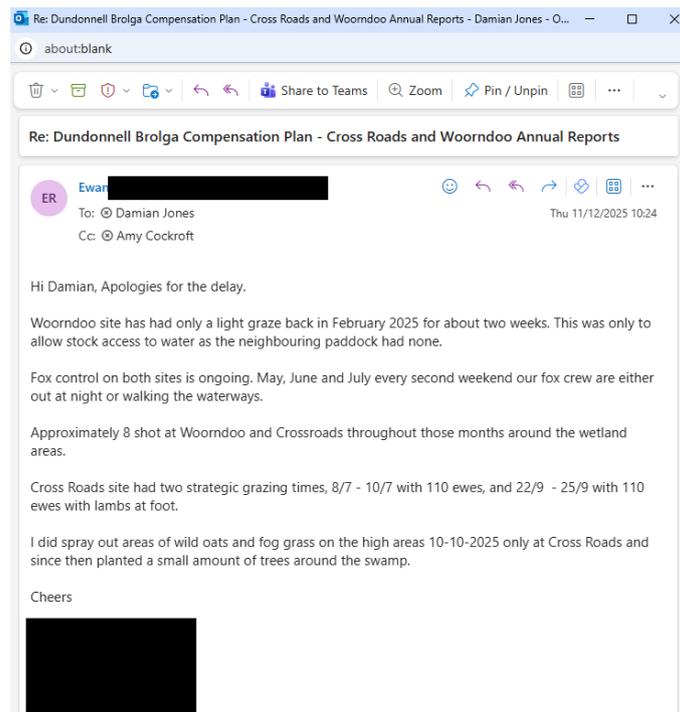


Figure 17 Woorndoo land management reported by email 11/12/25.

Figures



Figure 18 Woorndoo inundation extent



Figure 19 Woorndoo Brolga sightings. (L-R) 30/8/25 through binoculars, 5/9/25 by wildlife camera.



Figure 20 Woorndoo native herbs (L-R T-B) Wiry Buttons, Water Buttons, Jersey Cudweed, Poison Lobelia.

## Appendix 4 DUN-BCP-004 Westmere

Wetland Area (Fenced):	29ha
Wetland Vegetation Type:	Temporary freshwater marshes and meadow
Wetland Currently supports:	EVC 647 Plains Sedgy Wetland (VVP) NatureKit EVC 291 Cane Grass Wetland (VVP) on ground assessment
Reporting Period:	January 2025 through November 2025

### Inundation Conditions

Table 16 summarises inundation conditions for the wetland since the BCP started. Average annual rainfall is 513mm at BoM station 089112 Westmere 4km distant<sup>7</sup>. Figure 23 and Figure 24 show inundation extent conditions for 2025. The wetland filled to an area of about 4ha or 14% of the wetland to a maximum depth of <10cm.

Lower than average rainfall made 2025 the third consecutive year where the Caramut wetland did not meet the wetland performance target of 30cm inundation over 75% of the wetland basin. This begun to have an impact on the composition of vegetation observed at the site, the DST outcome, and likelihood of Brolgas visiting the site. See the sections below.

Plan Year	Inundated	Comments	Annual Rainfall (mm)
0 (2020)	NA		630
1 (2021)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	635
2 (2022)	Yes	Significant inundation >30cm depth	NA
3 (2023)	No	Maximum inundation to >30cm was 20%	480
4 (2024)	No	No significant inundation	324
5 (2025)	No	Inundation of <10cm to 14% of the basin	329(Oct)

Table 16 Westmere inundation summary.

### Vegetation Recovery and Assessment

Table 17 and Figure 21 show the results of this year’s transect vegetation survey along with previous years’ results. Despite the recent lack of inundation, vegetation performance has remained strong:

- Exotic coverage started low at 6% in Year 0. Exotic coverage remained negligible until Year 5 when it returned to 6%.
- Sedge and Rush coverage has increased from 1% in Year0 to 22% in Year5.
- Wetland appropriate native vegetation started at 66% in Year0. It has remained high and is now at 86% in Year5.

Overall, the wetland has met the native vegetation performance target.

The DST worksheet results are summarised in Table 18. Obtaining a “No” Q3 shows a deterioration in meeting habitat objectives. This result was primarily due to a lack of detection of indicator vegetation species. Overall, the wetland has not met its DST performance target.

However, it was encouraging to see growth of native herb species in typically inundated areas and often NOT on the survey transects. In particular (also see Figure 7):

- Ferny Buttons – *Cotula bipinnata*

<sup>7</sup> <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

- Common Woodruff – *Asperula conferta*
- Australian Bluebell – *Wahlenbergia gracilis*
- Australian Bindweed - *Convolvulus remotus*

Plan Year	Date	Coverage Type (%)							
		Bare Ground	Grasses	Sedges/Rushes	Forbs	Water	Exotic	Droppings	Dead Matter
0	8/12/2020	15	65	1	0	8	6	0	5
1	14/01/2022	4	65	3	1	25	2	0	0
2	7/03/2023	2	63	0	0	29	0	0	6
3	6/12/2023	7	92	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	28/11/2024	15	70	0	0	0	0	1	14
5	12/11/2025	5	62	22	2	1	6	0	1

Table 17 Westmere vegetation surveys summary.

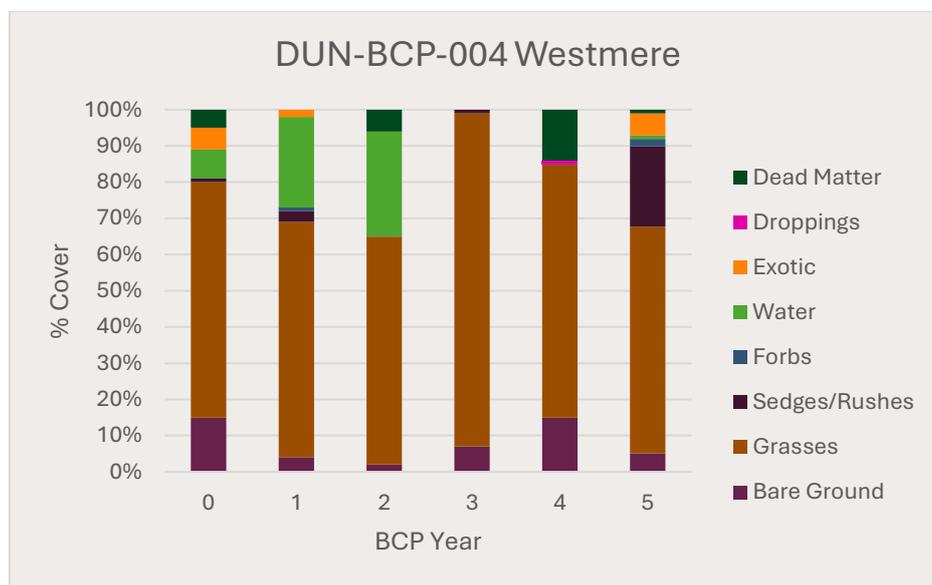


Figure 21 Westmere coverage % by type.

DST Question	Answer
Q1 Do the EVC tolerances match site hydrology and water quality?	Yes The wetland did not meet DBCP inundation targets but it did meet the waterlogging/inundation target for the DST
Q2 Is the target EVC appropriate for that part of Victoria?	Yes
Q3 Is natural regeneration feasible in the target area?	No Low detection of indicator species in good condition led to "No" answer. Area surveys may yield higher results than linear surveys.
Q4 Is assisted regeneration feasible for the target area?	Unknown Availability of suitable seed or tube stock is unknown
Q5 Is the target area free of establishment constraints?	Maybe
Q6 Can the target area be made free of establishment constraints?	Yes
Q7 Is it possible to negate establishment constraints?	Yes

Table 18 Westmere summary of DST questions.

## Brolga and Wildlife Monitoring

Table 19 shows all brolgas sightings from the reporting period. See Figure 25.

Date	Total	Age	Breeding	Comments
16/07/2025	2	Adult	No	Odonata staff observed 2 adults foraging
28/07/2025	1	Adult	No	On camera
5/08/2025	1	Adult	No	On camera
6/08/2025	2	Adult	No	On camera
31/08/2025	2	Adult	No	On camera
1/09/2025	1	Adult	No	On camera
3/09/2025	2	Adult	No	On camera, possibly dancing
11/09/2025	1	Adult	No	On camera
16/09/2025	1	Adult	No	On camera
12/11/2025	4	Adult	No	Observed overhead during veg survey

Table 19 Westmere Brolga sighting summary.

## Pest Animal Monitoring and Control

Foxes were detected by the installed wildlife cameras according to the following:

- June 2 sightings
- July 41 sightings
- August 5 sightings
- September 10 sightings
- October 12 sightings
- November 6 sightings

The Landholder reported fox control activities in and around the wetland according to the following:

- 16/6/25 fox shot in wetland
- 2/8/25 fox hunting, results unknown
- 9/8/25 two foxes destroyed adjacent to wetland

## Reported Land Management Activities

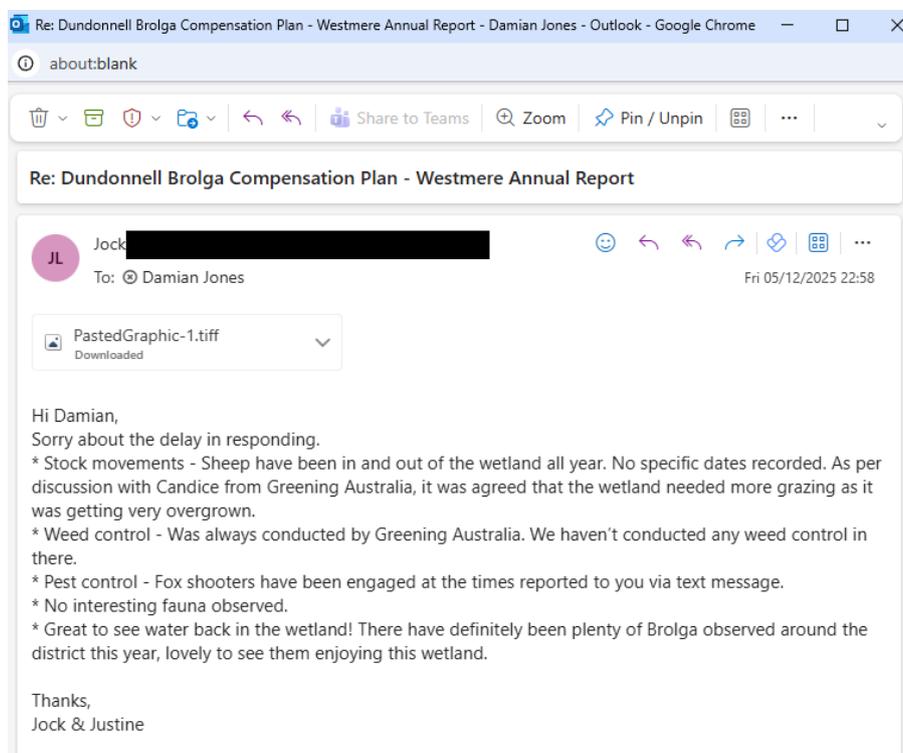


Figure 22 Westmere land management actions reported by email 5/12/25.

Figures



Figure 23 Westmere at maximum inundation, depth <10cm.



Figure 24 Westmere inundation extent



Figure 25 Westmere Brolga sighting examples. (L-R T-B) 31/8/25, 1/9/25, 3/9/25 (courting), 12/11/25 (overhead during veg survey).



Figure 26 Westmere native herbs (L-R T-B) Ferny Buttons, Common Woodruff, Australian Bluebell, Australian Bindweed.

## Appendix 5 Drain-Block Structures



*Figure 27 Caramut drain-block sandbags.*



*Figure 28 Cross Roads drain-block sandbags.*



*Figure 29 Woorndoo drain-block sandbags.*



*Figure 30 Westmere drain-block sandbags.*

## Appendix 6 Odonata Site Visits

Wetland	Visit Date	Notes
Caramut DUN-BCP-001	25/06/2025	Visit postponed due to lambing
	16/07/2025	DGJ introduction, install 2 cameras
	1/08/2025	Inventory depth gauges and data loggers
	15/08/2025	
	30/08/2025	
	19/09/2025	
	17/10/2025	
	11/11/2025	Vegetation survey
Cross Roads DUN-BCP-002	6/12/2025	
	25/06/2025	DGJ introduction, install 2 cameras
	16/07/2025	
	1/08/2025	Inventory depth gauges and data loggers
	15/08/2025	
	30/08/2025	
	19/09/2025	
	16/10/2025	
Woorndoo DUN-BCP-003	10/11/2025	Vegetation survey
	6/12/2025	
	25/06/2025	DGJ introduction, install 2 cameras
	16/07/2025	Check cameras
	1/08/2025	Inventory depth gauges and data loggers
	15/08/2025	
	30/08/2025	2x adults Broilgas present, wetland not entered
	19/09/2025	
Westmere DUN-BCP-004	17/10/2025	
	11/11/2025	Vegetation survey
	6/12/2025	
	25/06/2025	DGJ introduction, install 2 cameras
	16/07/2025	2x adult Broilgas present, wetland not entered
	1/08/2025	Inventory depth gauges and data loggers
	15/08/2025	
	30/08/2025	

Table 20 wetland visit dates.