



Sandy Ridge – Flora and vegetation

Detailed desktop and field investigations have been completed to establish the potential impacts on flora and vegetation within the proposed development envelope.



These studies have included Level 1 and Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Surveys undertaken by qualified, local biologists. The studies found:

- Range of different semi arid vegetation types all considered common & widespread to the area.
- There are no Priority Ecological Communities listed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW). No Threatened or Endangered Ecological Communities listed under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act) or the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) within the proposed development envelope.
- Two species of conservation significance were recorded – *Calytrix creswellii* and *Lepidosperma lyonsii* (both listed as Priority 3 by the DPAW).

Direct impacts to flora and vegetation include the removal of up to 276.05 hectares of native vegetation. The removal of this vegetation would be negligible given the expanse of similar vegetation in the general vicinity of the proposed Sandy Ridge Facility.

There would be no impact to conservation significant flora or vegetation listed under the WC Act or the EPBC Act. The locations of *Calytrix creswellii* and *Lepidosperma lyonsii* have been recorded. They could be relocated if avoiding them during construction and/or operation is not possible. Impacts to an unidentified species, *Lepidosperma* sp. would be re-assessed once the taxonomy and conservation status (if any) of the species is known. Mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to this species if it found to have conservation significance.

Other indirect impacts to flora and vegetation were identified. They include: fire; altered hydrology; dust; uptake of saline water because of dust suppression; and the introduction and spread of weeds.

Flora management plans and procedures would be implemented to minimise their likelihood, and impact, as necessary. With these procedures in place, flora and vegetation within the proposed development envelope would not be significantly impacted by the proposed Sandy Ridge Facility.

