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**ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION - Namadgi fire affected fences - Booroomba Station (ESO 202400055)**

In accordance with section 140 (4) of the *Planning Act 2023* (the Act), I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

**APPLICANT**

City and Environment Directorate, as represented by Mr Tim Wells, Project Manager.

**APPLICATION and DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

The applicant has applied under section 140 (4) of the Act to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to the effect that the development proposal set out in the submission is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact (the application).

The development proposal is for removing and replacing approximately 3.5km of boundary fencing between Namadgi National Park and private leases, including Booroomba Station, which was damaged during the Orroral Valley Fire of January 2020, as described in the submission.

**LOCATION**

Works will be undertaken in the following locations:

- Blocks 328, 331, 332 Paddy's River district
- Blocks 135, 164 Tennent district

**MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES**

This opinion applies only to the development proposal as described in the application.

**OPINION**

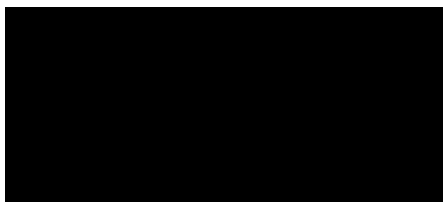
Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the following conditions in addition to the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

This opinion is granted subject to the following conditions made under s140 (4)(b) of the Act:

1. Conditions of approval including mitigation measures as stated in the submission.

2. The proposed works may be subject to random compliance inspection by Conservation Officers as requested by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
3. The works undertaken by the contractors are to be done to the satisfaction of ACT Parks and Conservation.
4. The proposed work is located on Bushfire Prone land and the ACT Bushfire Management Standards is to be adhered to, specifically all fences and gates to be made of either hardwood or non-combustible material only.
5. The final alignment should be micro-aligned to avoid damage to native fauna burrows and removal of trees with a Diameter at Breast Height greater than 20cm. Ground disturbance should be limited within the root zone of large trees, with fence posts avoiding large roots.
6. Fencing should be designed to allow movement through the fence and limit death or injury to local fauna by entanglement. The following measures should be adopted where possible:
  - a) Limit barb. Plain wire should be prioritised for the top wire, to limit fauna entanglement.
  - b) Limit strands of wire on the lower portion of fencing to allow for movement of wombats and other smaller mammals across the fence line.
  - c) Improve visibility of fencing (e.g. using spinners), focusing on the top strand and targeting creek lines which are likely to facilitate increased fauna movement.
7. The number and landscape position of gates should be designed to limit movement of livestock into the National Park, focusing on avoidance of gates near creek lines.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Bren Burkevics  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

15 September 2025

## STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 1 of the *Planning (General) Regulation 2023* – requiring environmental impact statement, being:

*Part 1.2, item 17 – proposal involving -*

- (a) the clearing of more than 0.5ha of native vegetation in a native vegetation area, other than on land in a future urban area; or*
- (b) the clearing of more than 5.0ha of native vegetation in a native vegetation area on land in a future urban area*

The proposal will involve clearing approximately 4ha of native vegetation.

*Part 1.2, item 18 - proposal for development in a reserve, unless the proposal is for minor public works to be carried out by or for the Territory in accordance with a minor public works code approved by the conservator of flora and fauna under the Nature Conservation Act 2014, section 318A;*

The proposed works are within Namadgi National Park.

The proponent is seeking an environmental significance opinion to remove the requirement for an environmental impact statement on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an opinion to that effect.

### **Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact**

An adverse environmental impact is ***significant*** if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is ***significant***, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, based on the documentation submitted, known values of the site, and provided the

works and ongoing management are carried out in accordance with the conditions attached to this ESO.

### **Project description**

The development proposal is for replacing approximately 3.5km of boundary fencing between Namadgi National Park and private leases, which was damaged during the January 2020 Orroral Valley Fire. This ESO application is a resubmission of expired ESO 202200003, the work was unable to be completed prior to expiry due to wet conditions and accessibility issues.

A boundary line realignment will also be completed, to incorporate Block 135 Tennent (approximately 15ha) into the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) estate. The boundary fence runs from east to west in the Punch Bowl Creek area and delineates the boundary between PCS estate and the private lease of Booroomba Station. Re-establishing the boundary fence will enable more effective management and protection of Namadgi and prevent stray stock from entering the Corin area.

Proposed works include:

- Clearing of approximately 4ha of native vegetation along the fence line and realignment.
- Replacement of 3.5km of fire damaged boundary fence.
- Installation of a new boundary fence along the proposed new fence line (incorporating Block 135 Tennent).

The boundary fence will be replaced like-for-like, which is a 7-strand fence consisting of five plain wires and two barbed wires for the top two strands. The fence line footprint borders agricultural land that has been highly modified and degraded by grazing and agricultural practices for over 60 years. The section of fence to be realigned is located wholly within ex-agricultural land.

Vegetation clearing will be kept to under 3m either side of the fence line and undertaken using light equipment (chainsaws etc). Where this is not feasible a dozer up to a maximum size of a D4 Dozer will be used with the blade raised to prevent soil disturbance and to remove shrubs but not grasses and forbs. Machinery will avoid landscape elements such as rocky outcrops, drainage lines and trees. Exposed mineral earth resulting from machinery operation will be kept to a minimum to prevent erosion. If required – erosion controls (coir logs or sterile hay bales) will be used to prevent erosion and sediment entering waterways.

### **Documentation Submitted**

- Explanatory note regarding supporting documentation for the application for an Environmental Significance Opinion;
- Additional information as required under Request for Information;
- Letter(s) of Authorisation
- Form 1M.

## Natural conservation values present

Namadgi National Park conserves a wide variety of ecosystems and contributes to regional ecological connectivity through its links to reserves within NSW. The ecosystems include:

- low open woodland covering much of the park with Snow Gum woodland in the high mountain areas;
- open grasslands and frost hollows on the eastern side of the park in the Orroral and Boboyan valleys;
- tall wet forests with Alpine Ash and fern gullies in sheltered locations, especially on the western side of the park;
- wetlands including sedge fens in the valleys and sphagnum moss bogs on the peaks that are important for water catchment and as habitat for the endangered Northern Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*), and
- sub-alpine peaks and alpine communities above 1600m.

Nearly 600 species have been recorded in Namadgi, with at least 23 species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*:

- Smoky Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*)
- Broad-toothed Rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*)
- Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*)
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*)
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*)
- Mountain Skink (*Liopholis montana*)
- Trout Cod (*Maccullochella macquariensis*)
- Riek's Crayfish (*Euastacus rieki*)
- Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*)
- Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*)
- Dwarf Violet (*Vioa improcera*)
- Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*)
- Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*)
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)
- Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*)
- Varied Sitella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*)
- White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*)
- Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*)
- Pilotbird (*Pycnoptilus floccosus*)
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*)
- Two-spined Blackfish (*Gadopsis bispinosus*)
- Austral Toadflax (*Thesium austral*)

The boundary fence passes through seven different vegetation classes, which is listed below in order of descending elevation (west to east):

- *Alpine ash – Mountain Gum-Snow Gum wet sclerophyll open forest.*
- *Ribbon Gum-Robertson's Peppermint very tall well open schlerophyll forest.*

- *Broad-leaved Peppermint – Candlebark tall dry sclerophyll open forest of quartz-rich ranges.*
- *Apple Box – Broad-leaved Peppermint tall shrub-grass open forest primarily on granitoids.*
- *Mealy Bundy – Broad-leaved Peppermint shrubby mid-high open forest on granite substrates.*
- *Derived native shrubland.*
- *Native grassland.*

### **Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

Approximately 4ha of native vegetation will be cleared along the fence to enable works to proceed. Most of this vegetation consists of thick post-fire regrowth and fire damaged trees which require removal to ensure a safe worksite. Works will be mostly carried out within the existing boundary footprint. No mature (>300mm DBH) or hollow bearing trees will be removed as part of the vegetation clearing, and will be flagged prior to commencement of work to prevent removal.

No threatened or sensitive species or communities were identified along the proposed fence line. Habitat for threatened species (including woodland birds and arboreal mammals) is present across the alignment, however this habitat is unlikely to be impacted by the works, provided impacts to mature native trees are avoided. Pig damage was observed throughout the alignment, however vegetation was still largely intact with low exotic cover. Several wombat burrows were identified, which should be avoided through micro-alignments.

The works will be undertaken by experienced contractors, under the supervision of ACT Parks and Conservation staff.

Conditions have been included to ensure that the fence is to be micro-aligned to avoid impacting environmental values, and designed to minimise obstruction to fauna movement and limit injury to entanglement.

This opinion is granted subject to the following conditions made under s140 (4)(b) of the Act:

8. Conditions of approval including mitigation measures as stated in the submission.
9. The proposed works may be subject to random compliance inspection by Conservation Officers as requested by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
10. The works undertaken by the contractors are to be done to the satisfaction of ACT Parks and Conservation.
11. The proposed work is located on Bushfire Prone land and the ACT Bushfire Management Standards is to be adhered to, specifically all fences and gates to be made of either hardwood or non-combustible material only.
12. The final alignment should be micro-aligned to avoid damage to native fauna burrows and removal of trees with a Diameter at Breast Height greater than 20cm. Ground disturbance should be limited within the root zone of large trees, with fence posts avoiding large roots.

13. Fencing should be designed to allow movement through the fence and limit death or injury to local fauna by entanglement. The following measures should be adopted where possible:
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  - b) Limit strands of wire on the lower portion of fencing to allow for movement of wombats and other smaller mammals across the fence line.
  - c) Improve visibility of fencing (e.g. using spinners), focusing on the top strand and targeting creek lines which are likely to facilitate increased fauna movement.
14. The number and landscape position of gates should be designed to limit movement of livestock into the National Park, focusing on avoidance of gates near creek lines.

It has been determined that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the above conditions attached to the ESO in addition to the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.