

Adelaide Circuit Redevelopment Project

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Referral

Summary



The project is being delivered in accordance with relevant environmental and heritage legislation including the referral process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

EPBC Act

Under the EPBC Act, the Federal Minister (or delegate) for the Environment and Water assesses potential impacts to and management of Matters of National Environmental Significance. This includes listed threatened species, ecological communities and national heritage places.

As part of project planning, a self-assessment was completed using the process specified in the EPBC Act and Significant Impact Guidelines.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

The self-assessment looked at three Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to the eastern Adelaide Park Lands.

National Heritage – Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout

The Adelaide Park Lands are a National Heritage listed place that reflects the original 1837 city design of Adelaide, including its grid layout and surrounding ring of parklands. The project will involve construction activities such

as road widening, resurfacing, drainage upgrades, and changes to park infrastructure within parts of this heritage area.

Although these works will temporarily affect how some areas of the Adelaide Park Lands look and function during construction, and will result in some permanent localised changes, the self-assessment concludes that changes are unlikely to result in a significant impact on the National Heritage values of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.

Threatened Ecological Community – Grey Box Woodlands

A nationally listed threatened ecological community (TEC) known as the Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia is present in part of the project area. The project will result in the clearing of approximately 1.1 hectares of this vegetation type. While this represents a noticeable loss of native vegetation at the local scale, the affected area represents a very small proportion of the TEC at a State and National level. In addition, the vegetation exists within a heavily modified urban parkland setting and is already fragmented by surrounding metropolitan landscape.

The self-assessment concludes that the project is unlikely to have a significant impact on this ecological community at a regional or national level.

Threatened Species – Grey-headed Flying-fox

The Grey-headed Flying-fox, a vulnerable threatened species, is known to use the Adelaide Park Lands for habitat. Targeted surveys recorded over a thousand sightings of the species flying over the site, resting or foraging in trees in and around the project area and a Nationally important camp is located approximately 700 m to the north of the project area within Botanic Park.

The redevelopment will remove foraging habitat (approximately 0.3% loss across the entire Park Lands) and cause temporary disturbance from construction activities that generate noise, light, and dust. The species is highly mobile and relies on a wide feeding range across metropolitan Adelaide, meaning it is not dependent solely on the vegetation within the Project area.

The self-assessment concludes that the project is unlikely to affect the survival or long-term population health of this species.

Significant Impact assessment findings

The Significant Impact Self-Assessment concludes that while the project interacts with nationally significant environmental and heritage values, it is unlikely to result in impacts of a nature, magnitude or extent that would meet the significant impact criteria. The construction impact is expected to be localised and temporary, with standard mitigation measures employed to further limit the impact via construction controls (i.e. vegetation protection, noise, vibration and dust controls).

On this basis, the project is assessed as unlikely to have a significant impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance, meaning it is not considered a controlled action under the EPBC Act.

Environmental offsets are not required under legislation, as the impact is not considered significant. However, the project will still deliver

environmental benefits through landscape restoration and habitat enhancements.

Referral process

The self-assessment found the project is unlikely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance. As a result, a referral was not considered necessary.

However, the project team chose to submit a referral so the Federal Minister can determine if further assessment or approval was required.

The referral was published on the *EPBC Act public portal* for public consultation. This process was managed by the National Environmental Protection Agency.

Referral decision

The project has received an EPBC Act referral decision of 'Not Controlled Action if undertaken in a Particular Manner'.

This means the project can proceed without further assessment under the EPBC Act, provided specified environmental protection measures are implemented.

These measures are designed to minimise impacts to Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia TEC.

The decision allows the project to progress with clear requirements in place to protect important environmental values.

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Visit: www.dit.sa.gov.au/circuit-redevelopment
Email: circuitredevelopment@sa.gov.au
Phone: 1300 865 177