

EPBC Act Compliance Report

*Operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria
(PERMIT E2023-0212)*



Prepared by:

Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd

Reporting period:

27 June 2023 to 30 June 2024

DECLARATION OF ACCURACY

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.



Signed

Full name (please print)	Justin Portelli
Position (please print)	EGM Strategy, Planning & Community
Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable)	Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne), ACN: 076 999 114
Date	26 September 2024

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Status	Author	Reviewer
V1	26/09/2024	Draft	Nathan Phillips	Rachael Young
V1.1	26/09/2024	Final	Nathan Phillips	Justin Portelli

CONTENTS

- Declaration of Accuracy.....2**
- Document Version control.....2**
- 1 Introduction.....4**
- 1.1 Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* 4
- 1.2 Purpose of this report 4
- 1.3 New Environmental Risks 4
- 2 Compliance with approval4**
- 3 Supporting Information7**

1 INTRODUCTION

Approved action	
Person to whom the permit is granted	Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd, Level 2, Terminal 4, Melbourne Airport, VIC 3043 ACN: 076 999 114
Approved action	To undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria
Permit/EPBC Number	E2023-0212 (Part 13)
Reporting period	27/06/2023 – 30/06/2024
Date of Report	26/09/2024

1.1 Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The Department of Environment issued approval for above mentioned action on 27 June 2023. This permit is valid until 30 June 2028.

1.2 Purpose of this report

This compliance report outlines the state of compliance with each approval condition over the reporting period 27/06/2023 – 30/06/2024. Statements regarding compliance with Permit E2023-0212 conditions are detailed in Table 1. Condition 1 of the permit refers to Attachment A of the permit, which describes authorised maintenance activities. Table 2 of this report details the state of compliance with these authorised activities, and includes a short summary of supporting evidence.

1.3 New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period.

2 COMPLIANCE WITH APPROVAL

Table 1: Compliance with Part 13 Permit

Condition	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition	Comment
1	The permit holder must only undertake the operational and infrastructure	Yes	Refer to Table 2 for a summary of compliance

Permit # E2023-0212
Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

	<p>maintenance activities listed in Appendix A of this decision:</p> <p>a.) Within the proposed action area (unless additional activities are authorised by another permit issued by the department or by a separate approval made under the EPBC Act),</p> <p>b.) As per the methods described in the permit application received by the department on 24 April 2023.</p>		relative to Attachment A of the permit.
2	The permit holder must implement the Growling Grass Frog Management Plan , the Grey Box Woodland Fire Management Plan , the Grey Box Woodland Environment Management Plan , the Grassland Ecological Management Specification , and the Melbourne Airport Environmental Management Plan at least until the expiry date of this permit.	Yes	Noted. Compliant.
3	If, at any time during the life of the permit, the permit holder kills or injures one or more individuals of Growling Grass Frog or Golden Sun Moth as a result of the action, the permit holder must report in writing to the department within 5 business days of becoming aware of any such death or injury. The report must state the number of individuals of the species killed or injured, the cause and the response measures and actions taken to prevent further occurrences.	Yes	No individuals of Growling Grass Frog or Golden Sun Moth were killed or injured during the reporting period.
4	The permit holder may give to another person written authority to take, for or on behalf of the permit holder , any activity authorised by this permit. When an authority is given to another person, the condition requirements continue to apply such that the permit holder remains responsible to ensure that the conditions are complied with. The giving of an authority to another person does not prevent the permit holder from undertaking the authorised activity. The permit holder who gives an authority to another person must inform the department in writing within ten business days after giving the authority. The permit holder may only give an authority to another person who has sufficient experience and competence in the activities of this permit.	Yes	Melbourne Airport maintains operational control of all activities authorised by this permit. Internal monitoring procedures allow for tracking, auditing and verification of activities to ensure the permit conditions are being met.

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

5	<p>For the life of the permit, the permit holder must maintain a compliance report, demonstrating compliance with these permit conditions, and complete or update the report within 3 months of each 12 month anniversary of the date of the permit, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The permit holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publish the compliance report on the website; b. Notify the department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website within five (5) business days of the date of its publication or update; c. Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from the compliance report published on the website; and d. Where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the department within five (5) business days of publication or update. 	Yes	Noted. This report complies with this condition.
6	<p>The permit holder must notify the department electronically, within two (2) business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The permit holder must specify in the notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached; b. A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance; and c. The location (including coordinates) date and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. 	Yes	No impacts identified outside permit approval.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Table 2: Species or ecological communities that will be affected by the operational and infrastructure maintenance activities at Melbourne Airport, Victoria

Listed species/ecological communities	Conservation status under the EPBC Act	Estimated number that will be affected. For ecological communities, estimate of the affected area	Type of effect	Work undertaken in reporting period (Yes or No)	Compliance status	Evidence/Comment
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of south-eastern Australia (Grey Box Woodlands)	Critically endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor lopping of branches of up to 180 mature Grey Box trees (<10% impact to the canopy of each tree). 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	12 trees impacted for track clearing throughout the reporting period
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of up to 500 saplings as they appear along the boundary fence as required. 	Take	Yes	Compliant	473 saplings were removed in the reporting period along the boundary fence
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving dead, dying or lopped woody debris up to 10 metres away from the existing tracks and boundary fences as required. 	Move	Yes	Compliant	10 fallen branches relocated during the reporting period from existing access tracks.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological burning of up to 5 hectares of Grey Box Woodland annually. 	Injure	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-destructive digging (NDD) and/ or ripping of soils up to 0.01 hectares to destroy rabbit warrens harbour. 	Injure	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of individual plant specimens within a larger patch of native vegetation. 	Take	No		

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of species from a threatened ecological community - up to 400 specimens. 	Take	Yes	Compliant	<p>A total of 152 specimens were taken during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 x <i>Acacia pycnantha</i> 15 x <i>Acacia paradoxa</i> 20 x <i>Acacia acinacea</i> 20 x <i>Acacia implexa</i> 12 x <i>Cassinia aculeata</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term disturbance to 0.03 hectares of Grey Box Woodland community for ongoing monitoring and baseline data collection of environmental data. 	Take/Injure	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term disturbance of 0.005 hectares of Grey Box Woodland for utilities (drainage / sewer / electricity) installation, maintenance and replacement 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	A total of 0.004591ha was impacted under this category during the reporting period.
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)	Critically endangered	<p>Burning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological burning of up to 3 hectares within the Annandale Grassland Reserve. Ecological burning of up to 5 hectares within the Arundel Road Grassland Reserve. 	Injure	No		
		<p>Mowing/slashing regime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/slashing of up to 260 hectares of NTGVVP (Minimum monthly in runway 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	<p>The following activities were conducted in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 complete cuts of the runway strips were conducted in the reporting period. No more than the

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

		<p>strips, bimonthly outside of strips on average depending on weather).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mowing/ slashing of all areas of NTGVVP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) of up to 70 hectares. 				<p>permitted NTGVVP area has been impacted by the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 complete cuts of areas outside of runway strips were conducted in the reporting period. No more than the permitted NTGVVP area has been impacted by the activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mowing and slashing was conducted in November 2023, within five different paddocks which contain a total of less than 30ha of NTGVVP.
		Rabbit Management	Injure	No		
		Airside and Landside - Non-destructive digging (NDD) and/or ripping of soils up to 0.02 hectares				
		<p>Cattle grazing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landside - Cattle grazing in up to 50 hectares of NTGVVP. 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	Cattle grazing was conducted in ten paddocks which contain NTGVVP over the reporting period. The total area of NTGVVP contained within these paddocks is approximately 40ha .
		<p>Herbicide and Pesticide application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insecticide spraying is undertaken every six weeks on average within 50 metres either side of the runways within up to 13 hectares of NTGVVP. • Landside/ Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boundary fence line spraying of herbicide is 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	<p>The following activities were conducted in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spraying of the runway strips was conducted twice throughout the reporting period. No more than the permitted area has been impacted by the activity. - • Landside/Airside

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

		<p>undertaken across approximately 142 hectares along the airside perimeter fence. This has the potential to disturb up to 10 hectares of NTGVVP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fence line spraying around the paddocks dispersed throughout Melbourne Airport. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boundary fence line spraying of herbicide was conducted 3 times in the reporting period. No more than the permitted area has been impacted by the activity. No landside spraying was conducted. • Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fence line spraying of paddocks was not undertaken in the reporting period. - Weed control was conducted in five paddocks which contain NTGVVP from September 2023 to December 2023. Treated weeds included Artichoke thistle, Serrated Tussock, Patterson's Curse.
		<p>Fence installation, maintenance and post replacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of up to 0.03 hectares. 	Take/Injure	No		
		<p>Utilities (drainage / sewer / electricity) installation, maintenance and replacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of up to 0.027 hectares. 	Take/Injure	Yes	Compliant	Approximately 0.004ha of NTGVVP was impacted during swale regrading works on the airfield during the reporting period.
		<p>Ongoing monitoring and baseline data collection of environmental data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of up to 0.11 hectares. 	Take/Injure	No		
		<p>Groundwater bore installation, maintenance and replacement, Geotechnical investigations including bores and test pits Injure</p>	Take/Injure	No		

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance of up to 0.008 hectares. 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of species from a threatened ecological community Up to 200 specimens (combined). 	Take	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track maintenance Removal of regrowth NTGVVP within existing access track areas of up to 0.40 hectares annually 	Take	No		
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands)	Critically endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/slashing Airside - All areas of SHWTLP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) (0.15ha). Landside - All areas of SHWTLP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) (0.20ha). 	Injure	Yes	Compliant	<p>The following activities were conducted in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 complete cuts of areas outside of runway strips were conducted in the reporting period. No more than the permitted SHWTLP area has been impacted. Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work was not undertaken in the reporting period.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking of species from a threatened ecological community Airside and Landside - Up to 200 specimens (combined). 	Take	No		
Growling Grass Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning Ash accumulating in waterways affecting water quality. 	Move	No		
		Rabbit Management	Injure/kill	No		

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential injury or death to Growling Grass Frogs in areas adjacent to waterways. 				
		Mowing/Slashing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential injury or death to Growling Grass Frogs in areas adjacent to waterways. 	Injure/kill	No		
		Herbicide and pesticide application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination of waterways. 	Injure	No		
Golden Sun Moth <i>Synemon plana</i>	Vulnerable	Rabbit Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential injury or death to Golden Sun Moths in habitat. 	Injure/kill	No		
		Mowing/Slashing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential injury or death to Golden Sun Moths in habitat. 	Injure/kill	No		

Permit # E2023-0212

Permit to undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria