

# EPBC Act Compliance Report

*Operational and infrastructure maintenance activities  
necessary for the safe and effective management of  
Melbourne Airport, Victoria  
(PERMIT E2018-0144)*

Prepared by:

Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd

Reporting period:

25 June 2022 to 20 June 2023

## 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)	<b>Nick Walker</b>
Position (please print)	<b>Head of Environment and Sustainability</b>
Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable)	<b>Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne), ACN: 076 999 114</b>
Date	<b>6 October 2023</b>

## DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Status	Author	Reviewer
<b>V1</b>	5/10/2023	Draft	Nathan Phillips	Rachael Young
<b>V1.1</b>	5/10/2023	Final	Nathan Phillips	Nick Walker

# CONTENTS

Declaration of Accuracy .....	2
Document Version control .....	2
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .....	4
1.2 Purpose of this report .....	5
1.3 New Environmental Risks .....	5
<b>2 Compliance with approval .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3 Supporting Information .....</b>	<b>9</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

<b>Approved action</b>	
Person to whom the permit is granted	<b>Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd, Level 2, Terminal 4, Melbourne Airport, VIC 3043</b> <b>ACN: 076 999 114</b>
Approved action	<b>To undertake operational and infrastructure maintenance activities necessary for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport, Victoria</b>
Permit/EPBC Number	<b>E2018-0144 (Part 13)</b>
Reporting period	<b>25/06/2022 – 20/06/2023</b>
Date of Report	<b>6/10/2023</b>

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

The Department of Environment issued approval for above mentioned action on 26 June 2018. The permit conditions were subject to two variations made under section 202(2) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The first variation was made on 6 August 2018 and the second on 30 June 2019. The permit is valid until 20 June 2023.

### 1.1.1 First variation

Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) (APAM) applied for an amendment to Permit E2018-0144 to allow for the take of up to 0.40 hectares of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) annually. This was to include the maintenance of existing access tracks (seven in total) in adjacent areas of known NTGVVP within the permit.

### 1.1.2 Second variation

A review of the operational and infrastructure maintenance activities required for the safe and effective management of Melbourne Airport identified that there are additional actions that should be captured within the existing operational and infrastructure maintenance activities Part 13 Permit. The identified additional actions and area impacts were included in the existing permit.

The variations included:

- Herbicide spraying within the Airside boundary
- Fencing works within the Grey Box Woodland
- Utilities installation and maintenance in the Grey Box Woodland
- Addition of all site environmental investigations
- Additional impact areas.

## 1.2 Purpose of this report

This compliance report outlines the state of compliance with each approval condition over the reporting period 25/06/2022 – 20/06/2023. Statements regarding compliance with Permit E2018-0144 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.

Note: this permit expired on 20 June 2023.

## 1.3 New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period apart from those subsequently incorporated into the amended Part 13 approved variations.

## 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 is authorised to undertake the operational and infrastructure maintenance activities listed in the Table at Attachment A of this permit, within the project area.	Yes	Refer to Table 2 for a summary of compliance relative to Attachment A of the permit.
2	The permit holder must only carry out the operational and infrastructure maintenance activities in accordance with the methods described in the permit application.	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/Southern Bell Frog ( <i>Litoria raniformis</i> ) as a result of the action, the permit holder must report in writing to the Department within five (5) business days of becoming aware of any death or injury. The report must state the number of individuals of the species killed or injured, the cause, the response measures and actions taken to prevent further occurrences.	Yes	No individuals of Growling Grass Frog/Southern Bell Frog were killed or injured during the reporting period.
4	The permit holder is authorised to give an authority to another person to take for, or on behalf of the permit holder, the action authorised by this permit. If the permit holder gives an authority to another person, the permit holder must give the Minister written notice within ten (10) business days after giving the authority detailing the name/s and relevant qualifications and experience of whom the authority has been given to.	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.
5	To manage the impacts of the action on the Growling Grass Frog/Southern Bell Frog ( <i>Litoria raniformis</i> ), in taking the action, the permit holder must implement the Management Plan until the expiry date of the permit.	Yes	The <i>Melbourne Airport operational and infrastructure maintenance Growling Grass Frog habitat management plan</i> (GGFHMP) was finalised in May 2018 and updated in May 2019. The plan was in force and implemented as required for the full duration of the reporting period.

Condition	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition	Comment
6	The permit holder must inform the Department in writing within ten (10) business days if, whilst the action that is authorised by this permit is being carried out, any EPBC Act listed threatened, migratory or marine species, other than that specified in this permit and identified in the permit application, is found to be impacted by the action. In the event that this occurs, the action must cease immediately and must not recommence unless authorised in writing by the Department.	Yes	No impacts identified outside permit approval.
7	The permit holder must hold and comply with any permit required and granted under State, Territory, or other Commonwealth legislation in relation to specimens affected within any area to which that legislation applies.	Yes	Noted.
8	The permit holder must prepare or update a compliance report annually, within three (3) months of the anniversary of the action, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The permit holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. publish the compliance report on their website within thirty (30) business days after the anniversary of the action;</li> <li>b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on their website within five (5) business days of the date of publication;</li> <li>c. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from the compliance report published on the website; and</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Yes	Noted. Acknowledging a minor delay, this report addresses this condition.

Condition	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition	Comment
9	<p>The permit holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in the permit application. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two (2) business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the condition which is or may be in breach; and</li> <li>b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance.</li> </ul>	Yes	Noted. No incidents or non-compliances identified in the reporting period.
10	<p>The permit holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in the permit application as soon as practicable and no later than ten (10) business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any corrective action or investigation which the permit holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;</li> <li>b. the potential or actual impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and</li> <li>c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the permit holder.</li> </ul>	Yes	Noted. No incidents or non-compliances identified in the reporting period.



### 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 ( <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> ) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of south-eastern Australia (Grey Box Woodlands)	Endangered	Vegetation management for fire management and other maintenance works would potentially result in the following impacts annually:				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor lopping of branches of up to 180 mature Grey Box trees (&lt;10% impact to the canopy of each tree).</li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 trees impacted for track clearing.</li> <li>2 trees pruned as part of Runway Overlay project</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of up to 500 saplings as they appear along the boundary fence as required.</li> </ul>	Take	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	473 saplings were removed in the reporting period.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moving dead, dying or lopped woody debris up to 10 metres away from the existing tracks and boundary fences as required.</li> </ul>	Move	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological burning of up to 5 hectares of Grey Box Woodland annually.</li> </ul>	Injure	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-destructive digging (NOD) and/ or ripping of soils up to 0.01 hectares to</li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	Approximately 0.005ha of Grey Box Woodland community impacted by NDD

Permit # E2018-0144

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

6 October 2023

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		destroy rabbit warrens harbour.				service proving works for future maintenance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term disturbance to 0.03 hectares of Grey Box Woodland community for ongoing monitoring and baseline data collection of environmental data.</li> </ul>	Take/Injure	No		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking of species from a threatened ecological community - up to 200 specimens.</li> </ul>	Take	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>The following specimens were taken from the Grey Box Woodland in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 <i>Acacia pycnantha</i></li> <li>54 <i>Accacia paradoxa</i></li> <li>32 <i>Acacia acinacea</i></li> <li>70 <i>Cassinia aculeata</i></li> </ul>
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)	Critically endangered	Vegetation Management and other works would result in the following impacts annually:				
		Burning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological burning of up to 3 hectares within the Annandale Grassland Reserve.</li> </ul>	Injure	No		
		Mowing/slashing regime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mowing/slashing in runway strips (minimum</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>The following activities were conducted in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.5 complete cuts of the runway strips were conducted in the reporting period. No more than the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Permit # E2018-0144

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

6 October 2023

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		<p>monthly) up to 80 hectares of NTGVVP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mowing/slashing outside of runway strips (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) of up to 180 hectares of NTGVVP.</li> <li>• Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mowing/slashing of all areas of NTGVVP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) of up to 50 hectares.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				<p>permitted NTGVVP area has been impacted by the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 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.</li> <li>• Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mowing and slashing was conducted in December 2022, within five different paddocks which contain a total of less than 30 hectares of NTGVVP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		<p>Herbicide and Pesticide application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insecticide spraying is undertaken every six weeks on average within 50 metres either side of the runways within up to 13 hectares of NTGVVP.</li> <li>- Herbicide spraying within patches of NTGVVP targeting weeds and Berry Saltbush.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>The following activities were conducted in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spraying of the runway strips was conducted twice throughout the reporting period. No more than the permitted area has been impacted by the activity.</li> <li>- Targeted herbicide spraying of weeds was conducted in airside areas as required throughout the reporting period.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Landside/Airside</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landside/ Airside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundary fence line spraying of herbicide is undertaken across approximately 142 hectares along the airside perimeter fence. This has the potential to disturb up to 10 hectares of NTGVVP.</li> <li>Weed control and Berry Saltbush control within NTGVVP patches airside.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence line spraying around the paddocks dispersed throughout Melbourne Airport.</li> <li>Weed control within paddocks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundary fence line spraying of herbicide was conducted 3.5 times in the reporting period. No more than the permitted area has been impacted by the activity. No landside spraying was conducted.</li> <li>Targeted herbicide spraying of weeds was conducted in airside areas as required throughout the reporting period.</li> <li>Landside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence line spraying of paddocks was not undertaken in the reporting period.</li> <li>Weed control was conducted in five paddocks which contain NTGVVP from September 2022 to November 2022. Treated weeds included Artichoke thistle, Serrated Tussock, Patterson's Curse.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		<p>Cattle grazing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landside - Cattle grazing in up to 50 hectares of NTGVVP.</li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	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 40 hectares.
		Fence installation, maintenance and post replacement	Take/Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	Approximately 1400m of farm fence was installed, impacting 0.15m2 of NTGVVP in the

Permit # E2018-0144

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

6 October 2023

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside - Disturbance of up to 0.001 hectares.</li> <li>Landside - Disturbance of up to 0.022 hectares.</li> </ul>				north-east section of the estate near Sunbury Road (landside).
		Utilities (drainage / sewer / electricity) installation, maintenance and replacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside - Disturbance of up to 0.025 hectares.</li> <li>Landside - Disturbance of up to 0.002 hectares.</li> </ul>	Take/Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	Approximately 0.0155ha of NTGVVP was impacted by service proving works on the airfield throughout the reporting period. This was primarily associated with NDD works.
		Ongoing monitoring and baseline data collection of environmental data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside - Disturbance of up to 0.005 hectares.</li> <li>Landside - Disturbance of up to 0.095 hectares.</li> </ul>	Take/Injure	No		
		Groundwater bore installation, maintenance and replacement, Geotechnical investigations including bores and test pits Injure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside - Disturbance of up to 0.005 hectares.</li> <li>Landside - Disturbance of up to 0.003 hectares.</li> </ul>	Take/Injure	No		
		Taking of species from a threatened ecological community	Take	No		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside and Landside - Up to 200 specimens (combined).</li> </ul>				
		Rabbit Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside and Landside - Non-destructive digging (NOD) and/or ripping of soils up to 0.02 hectares</li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	0.01ha of soils ripped landside for rabbit warren destruction in June 2023.
		Track maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of regrowth NTGVVP within existing access track areas of up to 0.40 hectares annually</li> </ul>	Take	No		
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands)	Critically endangered	Vegetation management and other maintenance works would result in the following impacts annually:				
		Mowing/slashing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside - All areas of SHWTLP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) (0.15ha).</li> <li>Landside - All areas of SHWTLP (average monthly, depending on weather and growth rates) (0.20ha).</li> </ul>	Injure	Yes	<b>Compliant</b>	The following activities were conducted in the reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Landside               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work was not undertaken in the reporting period.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Permit # E2018-0144

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

6 October 2023

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		<p>Taking of species from a threatened ecological community Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airside and Landside - Up to 200 specimens (combined).</li> </ul>	Take	No		
<p>Growling Grass Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i> (Known habitat is found within waterways and adjacent land of the Monee Ponds Creek, Deep Creek and the Maribyrnong River.)</p>	Vulnerable	<p>Maintenance and operational activities are not expected to impact Growling Grass Frogs when the following actions are undertaken.</p> <p>Where invasive/ ground-breaking works occurs within a 50 metre buffer of known, likely or potential Growling Grass Frog habitat, all works must comply with the GGFHMP.</p> <p>In the unlikely event that accidental injury or death occurs this will be documented and reported to the Department within 7 days.</p>	Move	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tubestock planting was conducted along Moonee Ponds Creek and Deep Creek. Works were completed in July 2022.</li> <li>0.02ha impacted during rabbit warren destruction. Works were conducted using a mini excavator and hand tools in June 2022.</li> <li>Approximately 54m2 of GGF habitat was potentially affected during upgrade works to an existing track (Elm St Track) and culvert. Works followed the GGFHMP and no impact to a GGF was recorded.</li> </ul>