1 Title

A pilot biodiversity study aimed at enhancing Land for Wildlife member knowledge in property self assessment methods.

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1 Abstract

The Land for Wildlife scheme in Alice Springs raises awareness about threatening processes effecting biodiversity of the local environment and conservation methods on private lands. This pilot study aimed to improve self assessment techniques that Land for Wildlife property owners could use to measure the beneficial impact of their conservation activities.

Biodiversity surveys compared species richness of native fauna and flora within properties with and without buffel grass. Buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris* is one of the significant threatening processes that Land for Wildlife members work towards controlling to protect native habitats within their properties and the municipality.

The project also aimed to determine whether the biodiversity surveys undertaken on individual Land for Wildlife properties influenced member plans for continuing biodiversity conservation within their properties.

Property members involved in the survey have continued to monitor their property biodiversity changes using the techniques demonstrated during the survey period. A questionnaire, which was supplied to each of the site members, has encouraged the self-assessment of habitat changes occurring over time within properties since the members joined the Land for Wildlife scheme.

2 Introduction

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary extension program which began in Alice Springs in 2002. It encourages and assists private landholders and groups (such as local Landcare groups) to maintain and improve native habitat on their properties through education via workshops, newsletters and environmental assessments of private properties. Through these techniques Land for Wildlife in Alice Springs aims to help private landholders maintain and improve native habitats and manage key biodiversity threatening processes on their properties, thus contributing to regional biodiversity conservation.

Land for Wildlife was established in Victoria in 1981, and has been adopted by Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, and the Northern Territory with over 10,000 properties registered. Many rural blocks in Alice Springs include areas of native bushland, which provide excellent opportunities for private landholders to learn about and contribute to nature conservation by managing the remnant vegetation within their own property. This provides wildlife corridors between nature reserves and adjoining properties, which are critical for species conservation in urban environments. Wildlife corridors allow wildlife movement and genetic interchange which lower's extinction rates in the sense of the equilibrium theory and lessens demographic stochasticity (Simberloff *et al* 1992). The program encourages private landholders to preserve or rehabilitate areas of native vegetation and educates members on how this contributes to the survival of local plant and animal species that comprise, or are dependant on, remnant native vegetation. Landholders contribute to sustainable land management by protecting remnant vegetation that can assist in erosion and salinity control, as well as providing natural wildlife habitats.

There are currently 56 properties registered with Land for Wildlife in the Alice Springs municipality, covering a total land area of 1891.55 hectares. This area contains 1696.15 hectares of remnant vegetation from 17 different vegetation types as described in Albrecht and Pitts (2004). Eighty percent of Land for Wildlife property owners in Alice Springs stated in their original environmental assessment that one reason for joining Land for Wildlife was to learn methods of controlling the introduced buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris* within their properties and to protect local biodiversity. Property owners

expressed interest in understanding conservation measures needed to retain remnant native vegetation on their properties. Buffel grass is aggressive in growth and in semi-arid environments around Alice Springs; there are concerns about the impact it may have on the unique environmental values of the region (Humpheries *et al* 1991; Latz 1991; Griffin 1993).

Buffel grass is a perennial grass native to Africa, Southern Asia and the Middle East (Dixon et al 2002) and was initially introduced to Australia by pastoralists primarily for use as fodder for cattle (Grice 2004) and was planted extensively by the Land Conservation Unit in the Todd River floodplains to improve soil stability (Keetch, 1981). It has brought economic benefits to pastoral communities, particularly in Queensland savannas where tree clearing to enhance pasture production has been widespread. Buffel grass has, however, spread beyond the areas where it was initially planted and in many places is now considered to be a naturalised species. Buffel grass is now common throughout the arid landscapes in the lower lying richer flood plains, not only on pastoral land but also across reserve systems, crown land and on private properties, and modelling suggests that it has the capacity to further expand its range to cover a large proportion of northern Australia (Friedel 2006). Over the last decade there has been growing concern regarding the threats that exotic plants may pose to the biodiversity and the functioning of natural ecosystems. The absence of natural enemies enables these weeds to become strong competitors in foreign areas, where they can intercept and utilise resources, including water, nutrients, light, and space, which would otherwise be available to the native species (Grice 2004).

The effects of weed species out-competing native plant species, is likely to impact more widely upon biodiversity (Binks *et al* 2005). There is increasing concern that species substitution within natural vegetative assemblages may cause a reduction in the abundances of native taxa from communities, with the possible risk of local extinctions (Tallamy 2004). Clarke *et al* (2005) showed that the presence of buffel grass reduces the abundance of most native plant growth forms and reduces species richness of native grasses and forbs. It has been shown that buffel grass in semi-arid environments changes the floristic composition of the vegetation (Clarke, *et al* 2005).

Alice Springs is located in the MacDonnell Ranges Bioregion and is known for its diverse assemblage of relictual and many endemic plant species (Latz 1975, Morton et al 1995). Twenty two fauna species in the bioregion are listed as threatened under current national or Territory legislation (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) (1999) and Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (TPWC) (2000) respectively). The bioregion is home to a variety of endemic invertebrates, including the dragonfly Hemicordulia flava (Watson et al 1991), an "extraordinary radiation" of camaenid land-snails (Morton et al 1995), and a number of threatened vertebrates, such as the; Black-footed Rock-wallaby Petrogale lateralis (near threatened, TPWC Act (2000) and Vulnerable, EPBC Act (1999)) the endangered centralian Rock Rat Zyzomys pedunculatus, (TPWC Act (2000), EPBC Act (1999)) the vulnerable Princess Parrot Polytelis alexandrae, (TPWC Act (2000), EPBC Act (1999)) and the endangered Slater's Skink Egernia slateri slateri, (TPWC Act (2000), EPBC (1999)). Eleven highly localised plant species and a number of threatened plant species are also listed under the current national and Territory threatened species legislation (NT Parks and Conservation Draft Masterplan 2005).

Land for Wildlife members energetically contribute to natural resource management of private land by controlling threatening processes like invasive weeds, feral animals, erosion and altered fire regimes. Individual Land for Wildlife members have undertaken considerable natural resource management of the ecosystems within their properties as well as outside their property boundary. Methods by how property owners can assess the effectiveness of their efforts in land management are not currently available to property owners. A self assessment procedure for reviewing the positive changes (decrease in threatening processes, increase in native species richness and abundance) over time within Land for Wildlife properties has the potential to increase the already active participation of members in biodiversity conservation of remnant vegetation communities and their dependant wildlife. Self assessment methods will assist members in identifying the habitat changes that have occurred since they began active management of threatening processes.

The Land for Wildlife scheme, on a national scale, is currently facing the challenge of developing an appropriate self assessment method but does not yet have a formal procedure that can be distributed to members. By demonstrating different flora and

fauna survey techniques, members can increase their knowledge in self assessment methods which would potentially increase the on-ground work being conducted across Land for Wildlife properties. This can occur both locally and nationally and will raise awareness and understanding about the positive outcomes to biodiversity conservation. It is an assumption of the program that if Land for Wildlife members have an increased understanding of the positive changes occurring on their land, they will continue in their endeavours to conserve local habitats.

This research project aims to survey fauna and flora on Land for Wildlife properties with and without buffel grass in the Alice Springs area in two main land types, the outwash slopes of the Ilparpa area and the drainage floors of the Heenan Road area. The aim of the survey is to engage member interest in biodiversity within their property and to assist members in self assessing future changes on their property. The survey results will be analysed and reported to members to highlight any differences within properties with and without buffel grass.

The principle aims of this project were to:

- 1. Increase Land for Wildlife member knowledge in self assessment methods so that they can use the techniques learnt to measure the beneficial impact of their conservation activities.
- **2.** Survey species richness of native fauna and flora within Land for Wildlife properties that have no buffel grass as a result of active management compared to properties that have buffel grass present or are in the early stages of managing buffel grass.
- **3.** Determine whether the biodiversity surveys undertaken on individual Land for Wildlife properties influenced member plans for continuing biodiversity conservation within their property.

I predicted that Land for Wildlife members would demonstrate an increased interest in continuing conservation activities, as a result of the surveys being conducted on their properties and that they would continue to assess the outcomes of their management activities after the study had been completed. Members would use some of the survey

techniques learnt during the study which would lead to self assessment of their properties.

3 Material and Methods

In order to establish levels of species richness within different sites with and without buffel grass, fauna and flora surveys were conducted using standardised procedures at appropriately selected sites to allow meaningful statistical analysis of data.

3.1 Study area History

3.1.1 General biodiversity

The two areas are located within the MacDonnell Ranges Bioregion, which is one of the most important refuge areas in arid Australia, with many endemic taxa and isolated occurrences of species typically associated with higher rainfall (NT Parks and Conservation Draft Masterplan 2005). The "refuge quality" of the MacDonnell Ranges Bioregion is known to be extremely significant with a relatively high diversity of plant species and many threatened species occurring in the area. Flora and fauna occurring in the region have access to significantly increased water points due to the run off from the present topographic features compared to the surrounding landscape. Permanent water supplies are also located throughout the region and many areas are protected from threatening fires.

3.1.2 Threatening processes

The bioregion is generally in good condition, but is being threatened by continuing increases in the extent, incidence or abundance of weeds, exotic animals (especially foxes, rabbits, cats, house mice), livestock and broad-scale changes to fire regimes. The MacDonnell Ranges are listed as a conservation hotspot and management actions are in place to implement weed and feral animal management (NT Parks and Conservation Draft Masterplan 2005).

3.1.2.1 Fire

Changed fire regimes are considered by Morton *et al* (1995) to be a key threat to relict species and refugia. The NT Parks and Conservation Draft Masterplan (2005) states that buffel grass, which is associated with increased frequency and intensity of fire, is one of the main management issues facing the region and management strategies that pro-actively address this issue are required.

Big rains in the mid 1970's stimulated considerable growth, and increase in the range of buffel grass within the municipality (Albrecht and Pitts 2004) and at the eight survey sites. There have been further significant summer rainfall events since the 1970's which have encouraged the recruitment, growth and further spread of buffel grass. The invasion of extensive areas previously dominated by short-lived native grasses has resulted in a major shift in the dominant fuel type in the municipality (Albrecht and Pitts 2004).

3.1.2.2 Grazing

Before the Ilparpa Valley was subdivided for rural housing in the mid 1980's, it was used to graze cattle since the time of the Heavitree Gap Police Station's Police Paddock (now known as the Ilparpa Commonage) in the 1870's (Ilparpa Swamp Rehabilitation Plan 2003). In 1963 livestock grazing was banned from the Ilparpa Commonage to enable soil conservation works to be undertaken (Arid Lands Environment Centre 2000). The reduction in grazing has meant the buffel grass fuel loads have largely accumulated unchecked and there is now a serious fire threat throughout the Ilparpa Commonage and the rural municipality, including the Ilparpa Valley and Ross Highway area where the eight Land for Wildlife survey sites are located.

The Ross Highway area was previously part of Undoolya Station where cattle were held before transportation to the markets (Low pers.comm.). In the early 1950s it was subdivided as Emily Hills Pastoral Lease and in the 1960's the Alice Springs municipality boundary was extended. Heenan Road subdivision for small rural blocks occurred in the mid 1980s (Low pers.comm.). The area was used to ageist horses and cattle until it was subdivided in the 1980's.

3.1.2.3 Rabbits

Rabbits in Central Australia have had a significant impact on vegetation. They generally prefer forbs to grasses; however, some provenance grasses such as oat grass *Enneapogon avenaceus* are favoured. Rabbits selectively bite off a variety of seedlings and ringbark mature shrubs, particularly during dry times when herbage is scarce (Dobbie 1997). The regeneration of young trees and shrubs such as Mulga *Acacia aneura* and Witchetty Bush *Acacia kempeana* may be suppressed by rabbit grazing (Albrecht and Pitts 2004). Rabbits have been recorded within all eight Land for Wildlife survey sites.

3.2 Site Selection

Eight Land for Wildlife property sites were identified, four sites from the Ilparpa Valley area and four from the Ross Highway area within the Alice Springs municipality. Within each of the two areas, two properties had removed all buffel grass and the other two properties were in early stages of clearing or managing the spread of buffel grass but still had buffel grass present within the site. The survey included two non buffel grass sites and two buffel grass sites within each area, as shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 Location and presence/absence of buffel grass at the 8 study sites.

Treatment	Non b	uffel gra	ISS		buffel grass				
Area	Ilparpa Valley		Ross H/Way		Ilparpa Valley		Ross H/Way		
Replicate	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Site	INB1	INB2	RNB1	RNB2	IB1	IB2	RB1	RB2	

Sites were selected due to their similarities in vegetation type and landforms, with a focus on selecting sites with *Acacia estrophiolata* and *Hakea divaricata* on alluvial flats (vegetation type 17). This is the most widely distributed vegetation type within the municipality of Alice Springs covering approximately eighteen percent of the area (Paltridge and Latz 2003) and displays considerable floristic and structural variation. This variation appears to be related to factors such as disturbance history, proximity to other vegetation types and proximity to watercourses and gaps in ranges (Albrecht and

Pitts 2004). Vegetation type 17 has two or three floristic strata (ground, shrub/small tree, ± tree) and occasionally intergrades or occurs in a mosaic with several other vegetation types. Despite this variability, ensuring that all the sites chosen for the study were classified as vegetation type 17 meant that the results would be more comparable across sites.

Other criteria used to select sites included a history of invasive weed management and equal numbers of sites were selected that had buffel grass presence and absence. All eight sites were located within Land for Wildlife properties and length of membership had not been included in the site selection process. The Land for Wildlife members from the chosen sites had been actively involved in feral animal control at an even distribution across properties. Hence the presence or absence of buffel grass was the key factor used to choose properties in the two areas. As the management of buffel grass had been identified by Land for Wildlife property owners as a key concern, it was intended that the outcome of the surveys would inform members about how their current management practices might be effecting plant and animal communities on their land.

3.3 Site locations

By placing replicate sites within the same vegetation type and landform, the possibility of unknown environmental variables influencing the outcome of the analysis was minimised. **Figure 1** shows the locations of the two sample areas and eight properties where the survey sites were located.

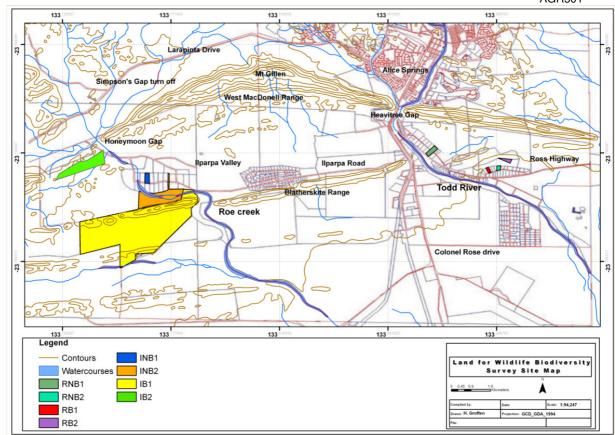


Figure 1 Map of the Alice Springs area, showing the eight survey properties. The regions two main watercourses occur within the municipality – the Todd River (Ross Highway) and Roe Creek (Ilparpa).

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Fauna and flora sampling was conducted at each site. **Figure 2** shows the general layout of the Elliott trap line, bird call and observation line, reptile active search location and vegetation survey quadrat.

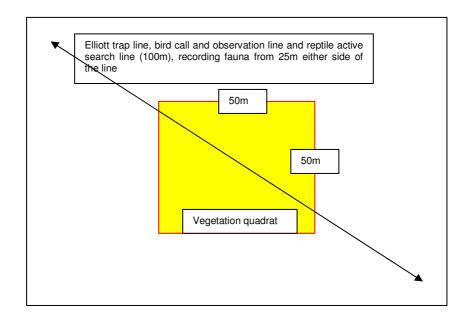


Figure 2 Generalised layout of sampling quadrat for flora/fauna/bird/reptile monitoring sites. Not to scale.

Site surveys were carried out over three and a half days per site. Refer to **Table 2** for the daily survey timetable.

Table 2Daily survey timetable.

Site	Measure	Conduct	Place &	Check	Measure 50m ²	Pack up
Survey	100m	bird survey	open	Elliott	quadrat &	site
Days	transect	& active	Elliott	traps &	conduct	(7:30am)
	(4:30pm)	reptile	traps	close	vegetation	
		search	(5:30pm)	(7:00am)	survey	
		(5-5:30pm)			(7:30am)	
Day 1						
Day 2					•	
Day 3						
Day 4						•

Vegetation surveys were conducted within a 50m² quadrat along the transect line (see **Figure 2**). All vegetation species within the quadrat were identified and recorded. Species that could not be identified on site were sampled and vouchers sent to local botanist Des Nelson for identification. Dominant vegetation species were stratified into five height categories, i.e. emergent tree layer, upper shrub layer, lower shrub layer, ground cover, mistletoe and host species. Percentage projective foliage cover was estimated for each strata and for dominant species in accordance with the techniques developed by Specht *et al.* (1974). Percentage cover for each stratum was tallied together to provide an accumulative native vegetation density for each site.

Bare ground, ground litter and aerial litter (dead standing vegetation) percentage cover were recorded. Refer to **Appendix 1** for vegetation description data sheets.

Diurnal bird call and observations were conducted at the same time each afternoon along the 100m transect line (see **Figure 2**). Bird presence was recorded by vocalisation and observations. All calls and observations beyond 25m from the transect line were recorded as incidental observations. Refer to **Appendix 2** for diurnal bird recording sheets. Two experienced volunteer ornithologists from the Alice Springs Desert Park were chosen for the bird surveys, which ensured that observations were accurate and consistent.

Active reptile searches were conducted each afternoon along the 100m transect. Reptile presence and abundance were recorded from 25m either side of the transect line. Reptiles were identified on site and released immediately if handled. Three experienced herpetologists from the Alice Springs Desert Park were chosen for the active reptile searches, which ensured that searches were accurate and consistent. The three volunteers assisted with two of the site surveys each and a backup herpetologist was used for the remaining two site surveys due to unforseen cancellations.

Fauna surveying using Elliott trapping (25 traps) and release were conducted along the 100m transect over three nights. Traps were placed 10 metres apart, with the trap opening facing downwards to prevent the trap from filling with water in the event of rain. Traps were baited with peanut butter and rolled oat mix. All traps were closed during the day to prevent long term capture and heat stress of animals. Mammals were identified on site and released immediately. Refer to **Appendix 3** for the mammal and reptile data sheet.

Incidental observations of all fauna observed during the survey period were recorded.

3.5 Statistical Analysis

Data was analysed using SPSS Version 12.0 for Windows. For all analyses univariate analyses of variance (ANOVA) were used. Data was considered significant when P <0.05.

3.6 Land for Wildlife member involvement

During the survey period, Land for Wildlife members from each site were given a questionnaire which gave them the opportunity to report on current activities occurring on the property and other relevant history. The questionnaire was designed to assess the conservation activities which had occurred on the property since the time of the initial environmental assessment that was conducted when new members joined the scheme. The survey was also intended to encourage members to continue working towards protecting remnant vegetation and its dependant wildlife by promoting them to think about these issues. Due to the timing of surveys and member work commitments, in most cases this questionnaire was only completed at the end of each survey period.

After the first property survey, the questionnaire was modified to include questions related to how members may work towards increasing their conservation activities in the future. Refer to **Appendix 4** for an example of the Land for Wildlife Questionnaire.

A second questionnaire was developed for completion at the end of the biodiversity survey for each property member. However due to the fact that the initial questionnaire was not always completed before the end of the survey period, this second questionnaire was therefore not used.

Property owners and other Land for Wildlife members whose properties were not involved in the surveys were encouraged to attend and assist with the biodiversity surveys, along with the property owners themselves.

A timetable was drawn up, and an email was forwarded to all Land for Wildlife members explaining the time frame and details of the biodiversity survey. Each survey volunteer was also provided with the timetable, which assisted with the organisation of logistics during the survey period.

4 Results

4.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were completed by the majority of Land for Wildlife property members. The property members, who were able to complete the questionnaire satisfactorily, indicated that they had met their Land for Wildlife goals as outlined in their original environmental assessment report. Property owners did confirm that feral animal control had continued to be of a high priority along with weed management and erosion control.

The members from sites IB1, IB2, RB1 did not attend surveys due to work commitments. The questionnaire was therefore completed from the surveyor's perspective and any unanswered sections were later completed via phone conversations and email correspondence with the property owners.

Table 3 presents the results from the questionnaire related to weed management methods used since Land for Wildlife membership. All eight sites had used the technique of digging/chipping out buffel grass.

Table 3 Weed Management Activities conducted within the survey properties

Weed Management Activities		Sites							
	RNB1	RNB2	RB1	RB2	INB1	INB2	IB1	IB2	
Herbicide		-		-					
Fire									
Slashing									
Digging/chipping out		-		-					
Grazing									

Property owners were asked how often they took time to observe the fauna and flora present within their property (see **Table 4**). Only one property observed fauna and flora daily and three properties observed fauna and flora once a quarter.

Table 4 Property owner fauna and flora observation times.

Fauna and flora observation								
times	Sites							
	RNB1	RNB2	RB1	RB2	INB1	INB2	IB1	IB2
Daily								
Weekly								
Fortnightly								
Monthly								
Quarterly								
6 Monthly								
Yearly								
Not at all								

The questionnaire provided an opportunity to ask members about the changes that had been observed on their property since joining Land for Wildlife. Members from the four non buffel grass sites stated that certain areas within the property had shown regeneration of native plant species, where as such changes were not reported on the four buffel grass sites.

The questionnaire encouraged members to think about the environmental changes that were occurring on their property and assessed the conservation activities that had been undertaken over the years since joining Land for Wildlife.

Individual members assisted with the survey by preparing the site for mammal trapping, attending bird and reptile surveys and helping with the vegetation survey.

Property owners from INB2 have since compiled a property progress DVD and submitted it to Land for Wildlife. The questionnaire and biodiversity survey enabled the property owners from INB2 to reassess the changes that had occurred within the survey site. The DVD contains ten years of changes and conservation progress and has sparked further enthusiasm to continue biodiversity conservation within the property.

The children from property INB1 assisted with the surveys both morning and night, which provided them with opportunities to view Tree Dtella *Gehyra variegata*, Bynoes Gecko *Heteronotia binoei* and Burton's Legless Lizard *Lialis burtonis* up close and to hear descriptions of the species behaviour from the reptile expert. The children also attended the survey seminar and took pride in seeing their photos displayed for all the Land for Wildlife members and guests to view.

The results of the surveys were presented at a seminar on the 16th November which was attended by four out of the eight survey property owners (INB1, INB2, IB1, RNB2). Property owners from RNB1 sent their apologies as they were interstate but have since requested further assistance, with bird identification as they have increased their interest in understanding the bird species that visit their property since the biodiversity survey.

4.2 Biodiversity surveys

4.2.1 Climatic conditions

Figure 3 shows the daily maximum and minimum temperatures recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology at the Alice Springs Airport, approximately 15-20km from the study sites, during the two month survey period. There was no rainfall during the survey period.

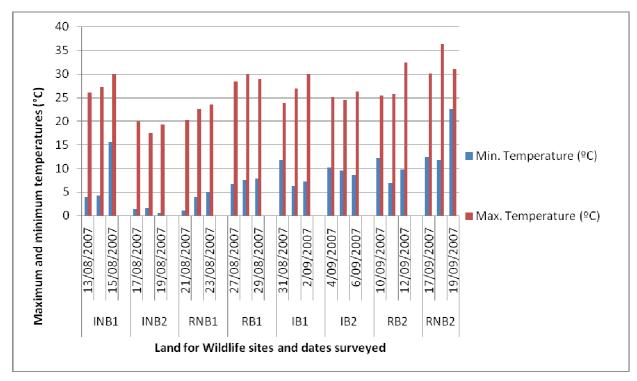


Figure 3 Daily maximum and minimum temperatures (${}^{\circ}$ C) recorded at Alice Springs Airport during the Land for Wildlife survey period (Bureau of Meteorology 2007).

4.2.2 Member self assessment

As indicated by member correspondence, individual property owners have since taken the time to conduct their own mini fauna and flora surveys along transect lines and have requested further identification of fauna and flora species so that they can continue monitoring the biodiversity within their property. The mini flora and fauna surveys have occurred as members casually walk around their properties, taking in any observable changes in plant growth and observations in fauna presence.

4.2.3 Survey site results

The number of plant species recorded at the Ilparpa sites were significantly lower $(F_{1,7}=21.353;P=0.004)$ than compared to the Ross Highway sites (**Figure 4**).

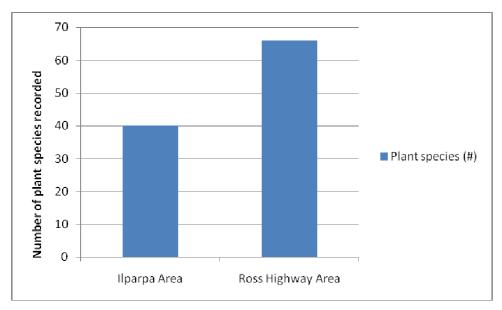


Figure 4 Plant species records from the two survey areas.

There was a significant ($F_{1,3}$ =22.154; P=0.042) difference (**Figure 5**) in the percentage cover of the upper shrub layer when comparing strata from the Ross Highway sites (RNB1 and RNB2). The lower shrub layer for the Ross Highway non buffel grass sites (RNB1 and RNB2) was analysed, however there was no significance in the vegetation cover percentage when compared to the buffel grass sites despite one non-buffel site having higher cover.

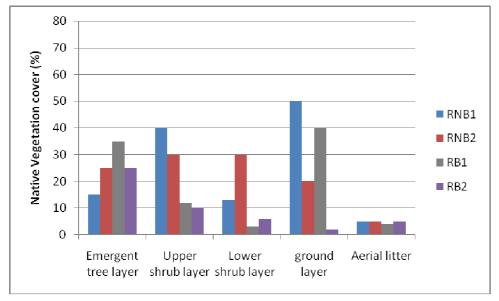


Figure 5 Native Vegetation stratum cover (%) for the Ross Highway Area.

The vegetation percentage cover of the ground layer at Ilparpa sites IB1 and IB2 (**Figure 6**) indicated that the sites had minimal to no native ground layer vegetation, where as INB1 and INB2 sites had greater native vegetation presence at the ground layer strata. There was no significance when analysed.

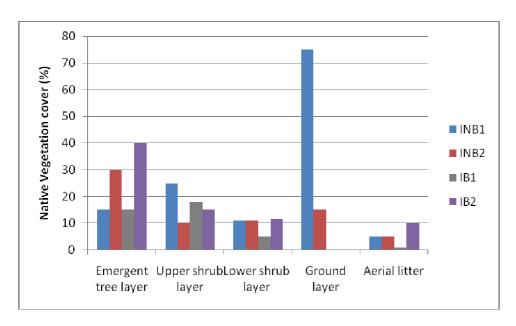


Figure 6 Native Vegetation stratum cover (%) for the Ilparpa Area

Figure 7 shows the bare ground, ground litter and buffel grass cover percentage and the accumulative native vegetation density. There was no significance between the cover percentages and the native vegetation density for the Ross Highway sites.

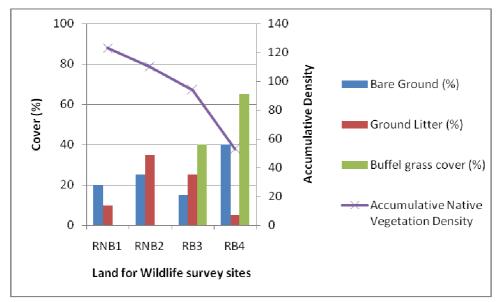


Figure 7 Cover (%) and accumulative native vegetation density for the Ross Highway area

The Ilparpa bare ground cover percentage (**Figure 8**) is lower within the non buffel grass sites when compared to the buffel grass sites. The ground litter percentages within this area indicate a greater coverage within sites IB1 and IB2 than INB1 and INB2. There was no significant difference when analysed.

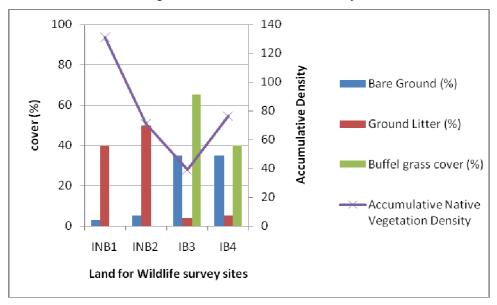


Figure 8 Cover (%) and accumulative native vegetation density for the Ilparpa area.

Diurnal bird surveys at the eight sites recorded 327 individual birds from twenty one families with a total of forty seven different bird species. **Table 5** shows the overall bird species records for each site.

 Table 5
 Bird species recorded within the eight Land for Wildlife survey sites.

Table 5 Bird species recorded within the eight Land for Wildlife survey sites. Species Sites								
эресіез	RNB1	RNB2	RB1	RB2	INB1	INB2	IB1	IB2
Australian Magpie Gymnorhina tibicen	Tille	THIVE	•			IIVDZ	151	102
Australian Ringneck Barnardius zonarius	•	_	_		_			
Black-breasted Buzzard Hamirostra melanosternon				-	•			
Black Kite Milvus migrans	•							
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Coracina novaehollandiae		-		-				
Black-faced Woodswallow Artamus cinereus	•	•		•				
Brown Falcon Falco subniger	•							
Brown Goshawk Accipiter fasciatus								
Brown Honeyeater Lichmera indistincta	•							
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza uropygialis								
Crested Pigeon Ocyphaps lophotes	•	•			•			
Diamond Dove Geopelia cuneata	•							
Fairy Martin Hirundo ariel								
Galah Cacatua roseicapilla	-	•			•	•		
Grey Honeyeater <i>Conopophila whitei</i>				•				
Grey-crowned Babbler Pomatostomus temporalis	•					•		
Grey-headed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus keartlandi</i>				•				
Grey-shrike Thrush Colluricincla harmonica								
Little Corella Cacatua sanguinea								
Magpie Lark Grallina cyanoleuca				•				
Major Mitchell Cockatoo Cacatua leadbeateri					•	•	•	
Mistletoebird Dicaeum hirundinaceum	•	-		•	•	•	•	_
Mulga Parrot <i>Psephotus varius</i>		•						
Peaceful Doves Geopelia striata	•	•						
Pied Butcherbird Cracticus nigrogularis				•	•	•	•	•
Rainbow Bee-eater Merops ornatus	•	•						

						, , , , , , ,	
Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygia</i>							
Red-browed Pardalote Pardalotus rubricatus							-
Rufous Whistler Pachycephala rufiventris	•	_			•		
,							
Singing Honeyeater Lichenostomus virescens	•				-		
Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys</i> rufogularis	•			•			•
Spinifex Pigeon Geophaps plumifera							
Splendid Fairy-wren <i>Malurus splendens</i> musgravei	•						
Striated Pardalote Pardalotus striatus							
Torresian Crow Corvus orru							
Variegated Fairy-wren <i>Malurus lamberti assimilis</i>							
Wedge-tailed Eagle Aquila audax					-		
Weebill Smicrornis brevirostris	•				•		•
Western Bowerbird Chlamydera guttata							
Western Gerygone Gerygone fusca							
Whistling Kite Haliastur sphenurus							
White-backed Swallow Cheramoeca leucosternus					•		
White-plumed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus</i> penicillatus	•			•			•
Willie Wagtail Rhipidura leucophrys							
Yellow-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza chrysorrhoa		•		•	ļ		
Yellow-throated Minor Manorina flavigula		•	•		•	•	<u> </u>
Zebra Finch <i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>		•			•		

A single Grey Honeyeater *Conopophila whitei* was recorded at site RB2. This species is rarely observed (Morocombe 2000), little is known about them and they are thought to be nomadic. However, they are observed more frequently within the Mulga belt of Alice Springs (Pizzey & Knight 2003). Fork-leaved Corkwood *Hakea divaricata* had recently come into flower within site RB2, with five honeyeater species being recorded. Refer to **Appendix 5** for species abundance details for each Land for Wildlife site.

Rainbow Bee-eaters *Merops ornatus* were recorded within three of the eight sites. Rainbow Bee-eaters are regular summer migrants from the north to central Australia were they remain for the breeding season. Mistletoebirds *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* were the only bird species recorded within all eight survey sites.

Eight reptile species were recorded during the survey period (see **Table 6**). Tree Dtella *Gehyra variagata* were recorded at seven of the eight sites. Refer to **Appendix 5** for species abundance details for each Land for Wildlife site.

 Table 6
 Reptile species recorded within the eight Land for Wildlife survey sites.

Species	Sites							
	RNB1	RNB2	RB1	RB2	INB1	INB2	IB1	IB2
Arboreal Snake-eyed Skink <i>Cryptoblepharus</i> plagiocephalus			•					•
Burton's Legless Lizard Lialis burtonis		-						
Bynoe's Gecko Heteronotia binoei						-		
Central Netted Dragon Ctenophorus nuchalis								
Fat-tailed Diplodactylus Diplodactylus conspicillatus			•					
Frost's Lerista Lerista frosti		•						
Grey's Menetia <i>Menetia greyii</i>			•					
Tree Dtella Gehyra variagata								

Six House Mouse *Mus musculus* were captured at INB1. No native species were captured at any of the sites. Euro *Macropus robustus* were recorded at three sites and Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* at two sites. Again refer to **Appendix 5** for species abundance details for each Land for Wildlife site.

Figure 9 looks at the total number of plant species and bird species recorded within each site. The Ross Highway sites show a slightly greater number of plant species and bird species richness than the Ilparpa sites, however there was no significant correlation when analysed.

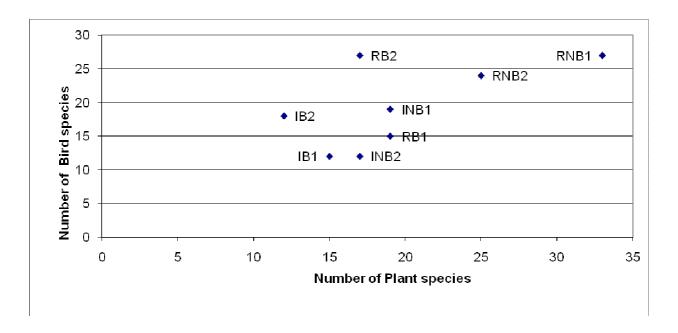


Figure 9 Comparison of the relationship between plant species and bird species for each site.

5 Discussion

5.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaire engaged the Land for Wildlife members in the biodiversity survey process by encouraging them to think about the conservation activities that they had worked on within their property since joining the scheme. Members showed increased enthusiasm in discussing the observed changes with the surveyors and continued to ask questions about specific species and their behaviours and/or growth patterns.

Property owners from INB2 have since compiled a DVD with ten years of video footage on the environmental changes that have occurred since moving to the property.

Property owners from RNB1 have since requested further assistance with bird identification techniques so that they can continue to monitor the changes in bird diversity within their property.

This study and included questionnaire has shown that the biodiversity surveys have encouraged members to self assess their properties and compare changes over time.

Members from the four non buffel grass sites stated in their questionnaire that certain areas within the property had shown significant regeneration of native plant species since the removal of weed species. The questionnaire provided a valuable opportunity for members to think about what had changed over the years since actively controlling weeds within certain areas of their property. The property owners from sites with buffel grass presence also mentioned that they plan to continue working towards removing the buffel grass from the survey site as they would like to be involved and see the results of another biodiversity survey in the future once weed management has occurred and the native seed bank has regenerated. The questionnaire also provided the property owners with an opportunity to ask questions about other land management issues related to their property. The questionnaires provided a time for the surveyor to explain

in detail the study aims before commencing the questionnaire, which increased the member's involvement in the survey process.

Overall, the questionnaire proved to be an important process in increasing knowledge about self assessment methods that can be undertaken by property owners themselves. The questionnaire encouraged members to think about the changes which had occurred since managing particular areas and enabled them to self assess the property and come to the realisation that the on-ground work conducted had been successful. Similar questionnaires will be used for future surveys and property re-assessments.

5.2 Member involvement

The property owner from RB2 assisted with the final morning of surveys and during this period asked questions about the bird and plant results. This site had sixty five percent buffel grass cover and had fourteen individual Fork-leaved Corkwood *Hakea divaricata* within the ground layer stratum. It was recommended that the buffel grass be removed from around the surrounding corkwoods to provide space for continued growth and protection from fire. The rapid build-up of buffel grass fuel has increased the fire frequency in many areas and long-lived woody species, such as river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), corkwoods (*Hakea species*) and beefwoods (*Grevillea striata*), have suffered from frequent fires (Friedel *et al* 2006). It was also suggested that the property owner place guards around the trees to assist with monitoring the growth as well as to further protect the plants from rabbit grazing and disturbance.

Property owners from RNB2 assisted with the vegetation survey and placed the Elliott traps along the transect line. They were very interested in the techniques used and their knowledge of particular plant species made a valuable contribution to the survey. We learnt some new rabbit control techniques from the property owners, which will prove valuable for property profile stories in the Land for Wildlife newsletters. Providing examples of techniques used to manage threatening process from Land for Wildlife member's themselves rather than the coordinators experiences is preferable as it indicates the techniques are useable at the ground-roots level. Members are interested in viewing and hearing stories about threats and control techniques that have proven successful.

The property owners from INB1 and their children gained further knowledge and experience from attending the survey sessions. The children were involved with the survey daily and have increased their understanding of the local biodiversity, which has contributed to their increased interest in the Junior Rangers program.

Feedback from individual property owners has indicated that they have been conducting fauna and flora surveys along the transect lines and some have requested further identification of fauna and flora species so that they can continue monitoring the biodiversity within their property.

The biodiversity surveys and questionnaires enabled Land for Wildlife members to reassess the environmental changes within their property since joining the Land for Wildlife scheme. This has been a valuable process and has enabled the scheme to produce a detailed timetable of milestones to be achieved in the coming years related to re-assessment of properties and training of volunteer extension officers. Similar self assessment/biodiversity surveys have been planned for the next three years and National Heritage Trust funding has been granted to conduct surveys and self assessment activities due to this pilot study. The future self assessment surveys will include properties that have and have not been involved in the current survey. Properties that have been recently surveyed will be re-surveyed in the future to detect changes over time and between seasons. Five percent of Land for Wildlife properties are to be surveyed in 2008 and ten percent in both 2009 and 2010. Land for Wildlife coordinators will assist members in surveying property biodiversity to increase member skills in recording change over time. This process hopes to continue increasing enthusiasm in biodiversity conservation and will allow the Land for Wildlife coordinators to audit properties to ensure they meet the schemes registration guidelines. The main registration guideline states that property members should:

"Make a reasonable effort to pursue the maintenance and enhancement of native flora and fauna and/or to integrate nature conservation with other land management objectives on the land specified."

5.3 Biodiversity Surveys

The Land for Wildlife biodiversity survey was developed as a pilot study to teach members skills for self assessing the biodiversity changes over time within their properties. Surveys were conducted within eight Land for Wildlife properties and future surveys may be increased to 16 properties which will increase the pool of data for analysis and may provide sufficient data to show significant differences between properties with and without buffel grass.

The number of plant species recorded within the Ilparpa sites were significantly lower $(F_{1,7}=21.353;P=0.004)$ than compared to the Ross Highway sites. This is most likely due to the differences in drainage feature land units. Land unit 5.09 Relic Drainage Depressions as described by Lennartz (2000) was present within the Ross Highway area. Land unit 5.09 provides appropriate conditions for healthy vegetation growth (Paltridge and Latz 2003) due to better soil type based on the limestone, clayey soils mixed with heavitree quartzite sands and better soil moisture retention properties (Low pers. comm.). This land unit has depressions which form part of the floodout system of drainage channels that flow only during infrequent large flooding episodes and allow water to be retained in the system for longer periods. They also retain a healthy vegetation cover due to the underlying palaeodrainage system.

However, the Ilparpa sites lie within the plains land units and all sites contain land unit 4.04 Floodout and 4.05 Remnant Flood Deposit Flats, which are sourced from the heavitree quartzite, sandstones and are inherently less able to retain water. Land unit 4.04 has lower nutrient content and land unit 4.05 has a higher salt content (Low, pers.comm). These differences are the most likely explanation for the lower plant species richness found within the Ilparpa survey sites compared to the Ross Highway sites.

There was a significant ($F_{1,3}$ =22.154; P=0.042) difference in the percentage cover of the upper shrub layer when comparing strata from the Ross Highway sites. Sites RNB1 and RNB2 also supported a greater number of bird species when compared to INB1 and INB2. This could be due to the vegetation maturity and good health status, providing an increased amount of available food source and habitat for bird species, especially in the upper shrub layer. The Ross Highway sites have retained healthy vegetation cover due

to the present land units and better soils types. The control of buffel grass within the sites may have influenced the growth of native plant species and this may have increased food resource and habitat for bird species. This is an interesting result which is worth forwarding onto Land for Wildlife members, as it may encourage continued onground work to remove weeds from the properties.

The sites INB1 and INB2 had a greater number of native vegetation species at the ground layer (**Figure 6**) but this trend was not significant due to high variation and small sample size.

Forty seven bird species were identified across the eight Land for Wildlife survey sites. The large number of bird species highlights the diversity of birds in the region and has been a positive result that has enabled members to increase their understanding of the local fauna. Members now have increased knowledge of the bird species present within

their property and an increased knowledge of the regions bird diversity.

5.4 Buffel Grass Cenchrus ciliaris

Research has shown that buffel grass adversely effects available soil nitrogen (Humphreys 1967) by rapidly using and exhausting the mineral pool (Cavaye 1991). It is important for Land for Wildlife members to understand the consequences of buffel grass invasion within their property and the soil damage that will occur over time. Soil damage will effect the successful regeneration of the native seed bank especially if buffel grass has been present for many years and has resulted in decreased soil nutrient. A decline in growth of buffel grass has been reported on central Australian red soils where both nitrogen and phosphorus are limiting (Bohning 1997). In the absence of disturbance or nutrient input, Latz (1997) surmised that some buffel grass stands appeared to exhaust available soil nutrients and died back as individual plants reached their maximum age (approximately 15-20 years) at Simpson's Gap National Park, Alice Springs. This is relevant to property owners (especially properties with buffel grass presence) as it describes the impact that buffel grass has on the health of the soil and the detrimental effects buffel grass can have on regeneration of the native seed bank due to lack of soil nutrients.

Sites INB1 and INB2 had less bare ground than the other sites; this may be a result of increased native vegetation growth due to buffel grass removal. Light and space availability are normally plentiful in the sparse vegetation of central Australia (Best 1998), and the concurrent germination of native species may not significantly limit buffel establishment following substantial rainfall. Conversely, subsequent establishment of dense buffel grass swards may inhibit the future establishment capacity of other plants (Miller 2003). When buffel grass is dense it can dominate light and space, reducing opportunities for native vegetation establishment (Miller 2003). Invasive grasses can significantly alter both ecosystem structure (including composition and relative abundance, physical structures of both vegetation assemblages and animal trophic interactions) and function (including the processes of ecosystem maintenance and disturbance such as mineral cycling, decomposition, hydrological cycling and fire regime) (Humpheries 1993).

Buffel grass cover from sites (RB1, RB2, IB1 and IB2) was observably reduced beneath the native plants especially Fork-leaved Corkwood *Hakea divaricata* trees and Ironwood *Acacia estrophiolata*. Previous studies by Butler and Fairfax (in press) in Queensland gidgee and brigalow woodland and Franks (2002) in popular box (*Eucalyptus populnea*) woodland showed a significant reduction in buffel grass growth beneath tree and shrub canopies. Shading and competition for water and nutrients from dense sub-canopy species may be important determinants of buffel grass's invasive ability (Franks 2002). However, canopy cover of desert trees can be less dense, which may result in buffel grass growth up to the trunk of tree species. This could lead to thicker buffel grass cover that can create high intensity fires leading to the death of many native trees.

No differences in native vegetation density between sites with and without buffel grass were detected in this study. However, pronounced reductions in floral species richness and changes in the structure of vegetation assemblage have been demonstrated in other areas (Latz 1997). The fact that differences were not significant in this study may be because of the small number of sites selected but also due to the short time since Buffel control began. For future Land for Wildlife biodiversity surveys, the number of sites surveyed will be increased.

6 Conclusion

The Land for Wildlife pilot biodiversity survey aimed to increase Land for Wildlife member knowledge in self assessment methods so that they could use the techniques learnt to measure the beneficial impact of their conservation activities. Individual property owners have since taken the time to conduct their own fauna and flora surveys along transect lines and have requested further identification of fauna and flora species so that they can continue monitoring the biodiversity within their property.

The study aimed to survey species richness of native fauna and flora within Land for Wildlife properties that have no buffel grass as a result of active management compared to properties that have buffel grass present or are in the early stages of managing buffel grass. The biodiversity survey did not find any significant differences between species richness of native fauna or flora on Land for Wildlife properties with and without buffel grass. This may be because it was a small pilot study and the small number of replicate properties made it difficult to detect any differences. It could also be due to relatively short time for the country to recover after buffel grass removal. Future biodiversity surveys are planned for 2008 through to 2010 and will include up to sixteen properties. This pilot study has enabled the Land for Wildlife scheme to initiate monitoring plans to assess conservation success of the program and has been an important step in securing and meeting funding requirements which will enable Land for Wildlife to increase the number of sites for future surveys.

The study also aimed to determine whether the biodiversity surveys undertaken on individual Land for Wildlife properties influenced member plans for continuing biodiversity conservation within their property. The process of engaging the members in the survey has been a valuable experience, enabling them to increase their understanding of the importance for protecting and enhancing their properties habitats. This has encouraged property owners to continue their on-ground activities for conservation of their local environment.

Land for Wildlife members whose properties were not included in the pilot study have inquired about future biodiversity surveys and have offered their land for inclusion. Members who were involved in the surveys provided feedback at the seminar and via emails and phone conversations since the completion of the study. The feedback has indicated that they have increased their enthusiasm toward biodiversity conservation and they are using the techniques learnt during the survey to conduct their own monitoring surveys.

Buffel grass has been associated with decreased native grass and forbs species richness in Australia (McIvor 1998; Fairfax and Fensham 2000; Franks 2002) and overseas (Daehler and Carino 1998). Central Australian studies also show that buffel grass does have a long term impact on plant species richness (Clarke et al 2005). The Land for Wildlife scheme in Alice Springs is continually working towards raising awareness about the impacts of threatening processes to the environment and ways of controlling these threats. This study has reminded members of why they joined Land for Wildlife and that their aim was to be part of a voluntary conservation group which makes a reasonable effort to pursue the maintenance and enhancement of native flora and fauna and/or to integrate nature conservation with other land management objectives within their property. This survey has encouraged members to continue controlling threatening processes like buffel grass and it is hoped that in the future, Land for Wildlife properties will be buffel grass free, providing habitats for local flora and its dependant wildlife.

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9 Appendices

Appendix 1 Vegetation Description Data Sheet

LFW	Observers:		Quad. size: 50x50m		
	Site:		Date:		
Species List					
Strata	Dominant species (record in order of dominance)	Ave (m)	erage ht. of strata	Cover (%) of strata (% cover classes) <10 10-30 30-70 >70	
Emergent tree layer:					
Upper shrub layer:					
Lower shrub layer:					
Ground layer:					
Mistletoes -	Species	S	Host Species	Cover (%)	
		_			
% Ground litter_					
% Aerial Litter (d	ead standing veg.)	_			

Appendix 2 Alice Springs Land for Wildlife Avian Survey Data Sheet 100m Line Transect

Day
Date
Start Time
Finish Time
Observers
Site
Weather Conditions:
Sunlight
Wind
Rain
Temperature

Species	No. Seen	No. Heard (not seen)	Notes
Babblers			
White-browed			
Babbler			
Grey-crowned			
Babbler			
Bee-eater			
Rainbow Bee eater			
Bellbird			
Crested Bellbird			
Bowerbird			
Western Bowerbird			
Butcherbird			
Grey Butcherbird			
Pied Butcherbird			
Button-quail			
Little Button Quail			
Chats			
Crimson Chat			

Orange Chat	AGnoul
Crow	
Little Crow	
Torresian Crow	
Cuckoos	
Pallid Cuckoo	
Black-eared Cuckoo	
Horsfields Bronze	
Cuckoo	
Cuckoo-shrike	
B. F. Cuckoo-shrike	
Ground Cuckoo-	
shrike	
Emu-wren	
Rufous-crowned	
Emu-Wren	
Fairy-wrens	
Splendid Fairy-wren	
Variegated Fairy-	
wren White-winged Fairy-	
wren	
Finch	
Painted Firetail	
Zebra Finch	
Gerygone	
Western Gerygone	
Grasswren	
Dusky Grasswren	
Honeyeaters	
Spiny-cheeked	
Honeyeater	
Singing Honeyeater	
Grey-headed	
Honeyeater	
Grey-fronted	
Honeyeater	
•	

140.0		AGROUT
White-plumed		
Honeyeater		
Black-chinned		
Honeyeater		
Brown Honeyeater		
White-fronted		
Honeyeater		
Grey Honeyeater		
Black Honeyeater		
Pied Honeyeater		
Yellow-throated		
Miner		
Kingfishers		
Red Backed		
Kingfisher Sacred Kingfisher		
Magpie		
Australian Magpie		
Magpielark		
Magpielark		
Mistletoebird		
Mistletoebird		
Nightjars		
Tawny Frogmouth		
Owlet Nightjar		
Spotted Nightjar		
Owls		
Boobook Owl		
Barn Owl		
Pardalote		
Red-browed Pardalote	 	
Striated Pardalote		
Parrots		
		<u> </u>

_	1	,	AGNOUT
Red Tailed Black Cockatoo			
Galah			
Little Corella			
Major Mitchel			
Cockatoo Cockatiel			
Budgerigar			
Ringneck Parrot			
Mulga Parrot			
Bourke Parrot			
Pigeons			
Peaceful Dove			
Diamond Dove			
Common Bronzewing			
Crested Pigeon			
Spinifex Pigeon			
Spotted Turtle-dove			
Quail			
Stubble Quail			
Brown Quail			
Raptors			
Black Shouldered			
Kite			
Black Kite			
Whistling Kite			
Brown Goshawk			
Collared			
Sparrowhawk			
Black Falcon			
Brown Falcon			
Peregrine Falcon			
Australian Kestrel			
Black Breasted			
Buzzard			

14/ L T " E L	71011301
Wedge Tail Eagle	
Australian Hobby	
Redthroat	
Redthroat	
Reed-warbler	
Clamorous Reed-	
warbler Robins	
Hooded Robin	
Red Capped Robin	
Jacky Winter	
Shrike-thrush	
Grey Shrike-thrush	
Sitella	
Varied Sittella	
Songlark	
Brown Songlark	
Rufous Songlark	
Stone-curlew	
Bush Stone-Curlew	
Swallow/Martin	
White-backed	
Swallow Welcome Swallow	
Tree Martin	
Fairy Martin	
Thornbill	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	
Inland Thornbill	
Chestnut-rumped	
Thornbill	
Slaty-backed Thornbill	
Triller	
White-winged Triller	
Wagtail/Fantail	
Grey Fantail	

Willie Wagtail	Action
Weebill	
Weebill	
Whistler	
Rufous Whistler	
Whiteface	
Southern Whiteface	
Banded Whiteface	
Woodswallow	
Little Woodswallow	
Masked Woodswallow	
White-breasted Woodswallow	
White-browed Woodswallow	
Black-faced Woodswallow	

Observer	(s)	na Rep	otile Da	ta Sneet		Site		
	Surnames			 Given				
	Sumames							
	-			Names	-			
				2 0 0 7		LfW biodiv	ersity surve	ey .
	Date				Survey			
		Day	Мо	nth Year	_			
Land Lo	cation							
MAMMA	LS				REPTILE	ES/AMPHIB	IANS	
Date	Species Name				Date S	Species		
		Sex	Age	Comment	1	Name à	Age	Comment
				+				
				+				
				+				

Appendix 4 Land for Wildlife Member Questionnaire

Alice Springs Land for Wildlife

Property Biodiversity Assessment Questionnaire August 2007

Site:

Contact details (if different from previous report)?



Do Landholders consent to the use of photographs being taken during the survey period being used for talks and promotion of the program? Yes or No

LAND USE

Commercial / Industrial Conservation

Tourism Education

Grazing Hobby Farm

Horticulture Rural Living

Other / Description

Area under conservation priority (hectares)

- a. Total area under conservation priority:
- b. Area already restored & actively managed:
- c. Area under restoration / works in progress:
- d. Area with no management:
- e. Area with fuel reduction activities:

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (refer to the original report)

Did you meet or are you on your way to meeting the objectives described in the original report? If NO please describe goals still to be reached.

Yes or No

Landholders' Goals for the Property

	Landholders'	Goals	Regarding	Land for	Wildlife
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Property Plans

Neighbouring Impacts/Connecting Properties

Do any of the following issues impact upon your property from the neighbouring properties?

Problematic pets Yes or No

Development Yes or No

Drainage/erosion issues Yes or No

Weeds Yes or No

Fire risks Yes or No

Feral animals Yes or No

Noise Yes or No

Other - Yes or No

Describe -

NATIVE VEGETATION

New species observed Yes or No

Improved Habitat Quality - Fallen timber Yes or No

mulch/leaf litter Yes or No

Comments -

Do you take photographs at regular times of the year to compare vegetation changes?

Yes or No

If YES, can I collect copies of the photographs for our records? Yes or No

Weed Management Activities (within your property)

Herbicide Yes or No
Fire Yes or No
Slashing Yes or No
Digging/chipping out Yes or No
Grazing Yes or No

Describe -

Have the numbers of weeds present changed over time?

Yes or No

Describe -

Weed Management Activities (along the survey line if different from above)

Herbicide Yes or No
Fire Yes or No
Slashing Yes or No
Digging/chipping out Yes or No
Grazing Yes or No

Describe -

How long ago did you treat the transect/survey line for weeds? (please circle)

3 months 6 months 9 months 12 months 2 years or more

Other -

REVEGETATION OR REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

What have you done to either revegetate or rehabilitate areas within your property that no longer represent native remnant vegetation?

Has there been any revegetation or rehabilitation along the survey line?

Yes or No

Describe -

Do you require assistance with developing a revegetation or rehabilitation plan? Yes or No

Describe the changes you have observed since revegetating or rehabilitating certain areas?

Increase in particular species (Spiney-cheeked Honeyeaters or Button Grass)

Yes or No

Increase in different types of species Yes or No

Increase in Growth of Native vegetation Yes or No

Soil stabilisation (erosion)

Decrease or Increase

Is there erosion problems?

Along vehicle/pathway tracks

Yes or No

Drainage lines

Yes or No

Water gullies Yes or No

Other

NATIVE FAUNA AND FLORA OBSERVATIONS

On average, how often do you take time to observe fauna and flora on your property? (birds, mammals,

reptiles, invertebrates, vegetation) Please circle.

Daily Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Quarterly 6 monthly

Yearly Not at all

Do you do this by - (you can circle more than one answer)

Foot Bike Car

Other -

Do you document observations on a data sheet Yes or No

If Yes can I obtain a copy? Yes or No

Do you carry out your own surveys at regular times of the year?

Bird walks Yes or No
Reptile searches Yes or No

Vegetation recordings Yes or No

Other – AGR501
If Yes, please describe -
Do you feel that your fauna/flora identification skills have improved over the years?
Yes or No
Would you like to increase your skills in - (you can circle more than one answer)
Bird identification Reptile identification Vegetation identification
Mammal identification Invertebrate Identification
Revegetation or rehabilitation techniques
Other -
Are you aware of any native fauna or flora that was once on the property but doesn't seem to be anymore? Yes or No
Describe -
Have you observed rich habitats within your property that support more wildlife?
Yes or No
Describe -
Feral Animals / Domestic Animals & Control Activities
Has the number of feral and pest animals on your property changed over time?
Yes or No
Describe -

Do you have any of the below variables close to the survey line or other variables that might alter the biodiversity levels around the survey line?

Dam or permanent water source	Yes or No	Approx. Distance
Road	Yes or No	Approx. Distance
Driveway or walkway	Yes or No	Approx. Distance
Fire break	Yes or No	Approx. Distance
High numbers of Euro Kangaroos	Yes or No	
Grazing stock	Yes or No	Numbers
Rabbit proof fencing	Yes or No	
Buildings (yours or neighbouring)	Yes or No	Approx. Distance
Pets	Yes or No	Other -

Do you require **further assistance** and information to help you continue to reach your property Land for Wildlife goals?

Thankyou for completing this survey questionnaire and for allowing me to conduct the biodiversity surveys within your property. I look forward to discussing the final results with you at the end of the research period.

Appendix 5 Land for Wildlife Biodiversity Survey - Species List Results

INB1 NT Portion 1963 Ilparpa Road table of biodiversity survey results						
Bird spe	ecies recorded	No.	Vegetation :	species recorded	No.	
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	2	Button Grass	Dactyloctenium radulans		
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	6	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans		
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	4	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	3	
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	1	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	11	
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	3	Ironwood Mistletoe	Amyema hilliana		
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Cacatua leadbeateri	12	Leafy Nine-awn/ Oat Grass	Enneapogon polyphyllus		
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	4	Native Oat-grass	Enneapogon avenaceus		
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	9	Prickly Acacia	Acacia victoriae	43	
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	5	Purple plumegrass	Triraphis mollis		
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	21	Rolly Polly	Salsola tragus		
Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	2	Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa		
Fairy martin	Hirundo ariel	1	saltbush spp	Maireana scleroptera		
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	2	saltbush spp	Atriplex elachophylla		
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris	1	Spiney Saltbush	Rhagodia spinescens		
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	2	Tall Copper-burr	Sclerolaena convexula		
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosternus	2	Whitewood	Atalaya hemiglauca	1	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	5	Wire-leaf Mistletoe	Amyema preissii		
Yellow-throated Minor	Manorina flavigula	5		Urochloa piligera		
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	1		Sida cunninghamii		
Reptile species recorded		No.	Mammal species recorded		No.	
Bynoe's Gecko	Heteronotia binoei	6	House Mouse	Mus musculus	6	
Burton's Legless Lizard	Lialis burtonis	5				
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variegata	2				

	INB2 NT Portion 3733	B Ilparpa Road	d Table of biodiversity survey results		
Bird species recorded		No.	Vegetation	species recorded	No.
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	2	Beefwood	Grevillea striata	3
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	8	Desert Cassia	Senna art. ssp. filifolia	
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	14	Desert Lantern-bush	Abutilon leucopetalum	
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	24	Fire Sida	Sida filiformis	
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Cacatua leadbeateri	1	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	3	Ghost Gum	Corymbia aparreringe	
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	17	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	18
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	2	Ironwood Misteltoe	Amyema hilliana	
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	2	Long-leafed Corkwood	Hakea lorea ssp. lorea	1
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru	13	River Red Gum	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	2
Yellow-throated Minor	Manorina flavigula	19	Rolly Polly	Salsola tragus	
			Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa	
			Silky Glycine	Glycine canescens	
			Spiked Malvastrum (weed)	Malvastrum americanum	
			Wild Tomato	Solanum quadriloculatum	
			Witchetty Bush	Acacia kempeana	
				Sida	
Reptile species recorded		No.	Mammal species recorded		No.
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variegata	3	Euro	Macropus robustus	8

RNB1 LOT 8204 Ragonesi Road Table of biodiversity survey results						
Bird sp	pecies recorded	No.	Ve	getation species recorded	No.	
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	7	Annual Saltbush	Atriplex humifusa		
Black faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	6	Annual Saltbush	Atriplex elachophylla		
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	2	Buffel Grass*	Cenchrus ciliaris		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	2	Cartwheel Burr	Sclerolaena cornishiana		
Brown Falcon	Falco subniger	1	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans		
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	3	Cotton bush	Maireana aphylla		
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	22	Couch Grass*	Cynodon dactylon		
Diamond Dove	Geopelia cuneata	6	Crimson Foxtail	Ptilotus sessilifolius		
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	7	Dogwood	Acacia coriacea		
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	16	Flannel Weed	Corchorus sidoides		
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	3	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	7	
Peaceful Doves	Geopelia striata	8	Fruit Salad/Apple Bush	Pterocaulon sphacelatum		
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	1	Golden Everlasting	Xerochrysum bracteatum		
Rainbow Bee-eater	merops ornatus	2	Grey Wrinklewort	Rutidosis helichrysoides		
Red-backed Kingfisher	Todiramphus pyrrhopygia	1	Harlequin Misteltoe	Lysiana exocarpi		
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	2	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	13	
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	5	Mueller's Peppercress	Lepidium muelleri-ferdinandi		
Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	20	Munyeroo, Pigweed	Portulaca oleracea		
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens musgravei	17	Prickly Acacia	acacia victoriae	28	
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru	1	Queensland Blue Grass	Dichanthium sericeum		
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris	10	Ruby Dock*	Acetosa vesicaria		
Western Bowerbird	Chlamydera guttata	1	Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa		
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	6	Saltbush spp	Maireana scleroptera		
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	7	Satiny Blubush	maireana georgia		
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	3	Shiny-leaved Mallee	Eucalyptus lucens		

Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	3	Silver Cassia	Senna artemisioides subsp. artemisioides	
Reptile species recorded N		No.	Tall Yellow Top	Senecio magnificus	
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variegata	6	Variable Daisy	Brachycome ciliaris	
Bynoes Gecko	Heteronotia binoei	1	Western Australian Flowering gum	Eucalyptus spathulata	
Mammal	Mammal species recorded No.		Wire-leaf Mistletoe	Amyema preissii	
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	1	Woolly Copper Burr	Sclerolaena lanicuspis	
			Yellow Twin Stem	Flaveria australasica	
				Pluchea dunlopii	

RB1 LOT 4995 Heenan Road Table of biodiversity survey results						
Bi	rd species recorded	No.	Veg	getation species recorded	No.	
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	2	Annual Saltbush spp	Atriplex humifusa		
Australian Rigneck	Barnardius zonarius	8	Bloodwood	Corymbia opaca	6	
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	14	Buffel Grass*	Cenchrus ciliaris		
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	32	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans		
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	4	Colony Wattle	Acacia murrayana		
Magpie Lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	3	Creek Windmill Grass	Enteropogon ramosus		
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	4	Dead Finish	Acacia tetragonophylla		
Mulga Parrot	Psephotus varius	3	Fire Sida	Sida filiformis		
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia striata	1	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata		
Pied Butcher Bird	Cracticus nigrogularis	3	Hill Umbrella Bush	Acacia bivenosa		
Red-browed Pardalote	Pardalotus rubricatus	2	Himalayan Raintree*	Dalbergia sisso		
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	1	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	80	
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru	1	saltbush spp	Maireana scleroptera		
Yellow-throated Miner	Manorina flavigula	17	saltbush spp	Sclerolaena costata		
Rep	otile species recorded	No.	Spiked Malvastrum	Spiked Malvastrum		
Arboreal Snake-eyed Skink	Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus	1	Tall Copper-burr	Sclerolaena convexula		
Fat-tailed Diplodactylus	Diplodactylus conspicillatus	1	Variable Daisy	Brachycome ciliaris		

Grey's Menetia	Menetia greyii	1	Yellow Buttons	Chrysocephalum apiculatum	
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variagata	4		Senna art. ssp. sturtii	
Mammal species recorded		No.	NONE		
none		0			

					1	
IB1 LOT 4451 Ilparpa Road Table of biodiversity survey results						
Bird	species recorded	No.	Vege	tation species recorded	No.	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	1	Bloodwood	Corymbia opaca		
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	3	Buffel Grass	Cenchrus ciliaris		
Grey-headed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus keartlandi	1	Cattle bush	Senecio magnificus		
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Cacatua leadbeateri	1	Dead Finish	Acacia tetragonophylla	5	
Misteltoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	7	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	21	
Pied Butcher Bird	Cracticus nigrogularis	2	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata		
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	10	Long-leaved Corkwood	Hakea Lorea		
Spiney-checked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	2	Mimosa Bush	Acacia farnesiana		
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	2	Native Passionfruit	Cappairs spinosa		
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris	8	Old Man Saltbush	Atriplex nummularia		
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	1	Prickle Acacia	Acacia victoria	6	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	2	Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa		
Reptilo	e species recorded	No.	saltbush spp	Maireana scleroptera		
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variagata	1	Spiked Malvastrum	Malvastrum americanum		
Bynoes	Heteronotia binoei	3	Tall Saltbush	Rhagodia eremaea		
Mamm	al species recorded	No.	Whitewood	'Atalaya hemiglauca	9	
Euro	Macropus robustus	2				

	IB2 LOT 4463 Bul	len Road Ta	able of biodiversity survey results		
Bird species recorded		No.	Veg	etation species recorded	No.
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	5	Beefwood	Grevillea striata	5
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	2	Buffel Grass	Cenchrus ciliaris	
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	1	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans	
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus	1	Dead Finish	Acacia tetragonophylla	
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	12	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	23
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza uropygialis	5	Ironwood	Acacia Estrophiolata	8
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	2	Ironwood Mistletoe	Amyama Hilliana	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	8	Passionfruit Vine	Cappairs spinosa	
Pied Butcher Bird	Cracticus nigrogularis	2	Prickle acacia	Acacia Victorae	13
Rainbow Bee-eater	merops ornatus	4	Ruby Slatbush	Enchylaena tomentosa	
Red-backed Kingfisher	Todiramphus pyrrhopygia	2	Saltbush sp?	Maireana scleroptera	
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	6	Weeping Emu Bush	Eremophila longifolia	
Spiney-checked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	4	Re	eptile species recorded	No.
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	1	Arboreal Snake-eyed Skink	Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus	1
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris	7	Frost's Lerista	Lerista frosti	1
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	4	Tree Dtella	Gehyra variagata	17
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	1	Ma	ammal species recorded	No.
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	2	Euro	Macropus robustus	1

	RB2 LOT 9274 Baldisser	a Road Table	e of biodiversity survey results		
Bird s	species recorded	No	Vege	etation species recorded	No
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	3	Buffel grass	Cenchrus ciliaris	
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	2	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	29
Black Breasted Buzzard	Hamirostra melanosternon	1	Dead Finish	Acacia tetragonophylla	7
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	1	Witchetty	acacia kempeana	
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	3	Goatshead Burr	Sclerolaena bicornis	
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	14	Mulga	Acacia aneura	5
Diamond Dove	Geopelia cuneata	4	Tall Copper Burr	Sclerolaena convexula	
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	36	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	2
Grey Honeyeater	Conopophila whitei	1	Button Grass	Dactyloctenium radulans	
Grey-headed honeyeater	Lichenostomus keartlandi	1	Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa	
Grey-shrike Thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	1	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans	
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	15	Coolabah	Corymbia opaca	
Magpie Lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	3	Caltrop	Tribulus spp	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	3	Annual Saltbush	Atriplex elachophylla	
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	1	Munyeroo	Portulaca oleracea	
Red-backed Kingfisher	Todiramphus pyrrhopygia	1	Tar Vine	Boerhavia coccinea	
Red-browed Pardalote	Pardalotus rubricatus	1	Pale Leaf Mistletoe	Amyema maidenii	
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	8	Re	eptile species recorded	No
Spiney-checked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	4	Central Netted dragon	Ctenophorus nuchalis	1
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	1	Tree Dtella	Gehyra variagata	1
Variegated Fairy-wren	Malurus lamberti assimilis	3	Mar	immal species recorded	No
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	3	Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	1
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	8			
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	4			
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	6			
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	34			

	RNB2 LOT 4999 Heer	nan Road Ta	able of biodiversity survey resu	ults	
Bird species recorded		No.	\	Vegetation species recorded	No.
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	3	Ironwood	Acacia estrophiolata	55
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	1	Tall Copper Burr	Sclerolaena convexula	
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	5	Coolabah	Eucalyptus coolabah	5
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	5	Buckbush		
Fairy Martin	Hirundo ariel	1	Satin Bluebush	Marieana georgei	
Galah	Cacatua roseicapilla	6	Paperbark Melaluca	Melaluca spp	
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	2	Ruby Saltbush	Enchylaena tomentosa	
Magpie Lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	6	Fork-leaved Corkwood	Hakea divaricata	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	2	Terpentine Bush	Eremophila sturtii	
Mulga Parrot	Psephotus varius	3	Climbing Saltbush	Einadia nutans	
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia striata	1	Silver Cassia	Senna artemisioides artemisioides	6
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus	2	Desert Cassia	Senna artemisioides filifolia	
Red-browed Paradalote	Pardalotus rubricatus	2	Goathead Burr	Sclerolaena bicornis	
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	2	Annual Saltbush	Atriplex elachophylla	
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	3	Mulga	Acacia aneura	6
Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis	2	Kerosene Grass	Aristida contorta	
Spinifex Pigeon	Geophaps plumifera	1	Dead Finish	Acacia tetragonophylla	
Western Bowerbird	Chlamydera guttata	1	Leafy Nine-awn	Enneapogon polyphyllus	
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	2	Silver Witchetty	Acacia cuthbertsonii	
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	14	Queensland Bluegrass	Dichanthium sericeum	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	4	Eight Day Grass	Fimbristylis dichotoma	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	2		Iseilema vaginiflorum	
Yellow-throated miner	Manorina flavigula	1	Ironwood Mistletoe	Amyema hilliana	
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	42	Five Minute Grass	Tripogon Ioliiformis	
Reptile s	species recorded	No.		Mammal species recorded	

Burton's legless Lizard	Lialis burtonis	1	none	
Frost's Lerista	Lerista frosti	4		
unk skink	unk	1		
Tree Dtella	Gehyra variagata	15		