

Buckland Iron Ore Project

Iron Ore Holdings



CLIENT:

Iron Ore Holdings Limited

LOCATION:

Hamersley Ranges, Western Pilbara

SERVICES:

- Level 1 vertebrate fauna surveys, targeted vertebrate fauna survey, regional assessment for Northern Quoll
- Short-range endemic invertebrate survey
- Impact assessment, mitigation and management strategies
- Technical review of EIA documentation

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- All surveys completed within set timelines and budgets
- Highly collaborative approach led to positive and productive working relationship with client
- Innovative approach to management of key issues led to positive outcomes for client
- Mitigation and management strategies developed to satisfaction of regulators

Phoenix completed a comprehensive suite of terrestrial fauna surveys for the project over a period 10 months to accurately define the key fauna values of the project area, assess environmental impacts and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

The survey area comprised the project's proposed mine area (~ 1,100 ha), haul road (180 km) and regional study area. Initial Level 1 vertebrate surveys identified potential habitat for several conservation significant species.

Targeted species (Northern Quoll, Pilbara Olive Python, Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat, Black-flanked Rock Wallaby, Lined Soil-crevice Skink, Ghost Bat, Western Pebble-mound Mouse) and Level 2 surveys were subsequently undertaken to more accurately define the important vertebrate fauna values present. The targeted surveys included a detailed regional-scale assessment for Northern Quoll covering an area of over 2,200 ha, providing important regional context for the environmental impact assessment.

A Level 2 short-range endemic invertebrate (SRE) survey resulted in several new species records, which was not surprising given this is a poorly surveyed part of the Pilbara.

Significant access constraints were overcome with the use of helicopters, enabling ready access to all desired sampling sites. Cost-effectiveness was maintained by running concurrent surveys and shared resources; this required excellent coordination and communication between survey teams.

Well planned impact mitigation strategies and a commitment to ongoing adaptive management have contributed to highly favourable outcomes for the client with the project avoiding assessment under the EPBC Act.

Phoenix is now developing a monitoring and adaptive management program as part of ongoing management commitments for Northern Quoll.



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